

WORK PROGRAMME

Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee 2020/21

This document sets out the work programme for the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee for 2020/21.

The Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee is responsible for scrutinising: children and adults' safeguarding; community safety and Localism. The Council has three priority outcomes. This Committee is aligned to the outcome: The people of Staffordshire will feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

We review our work programme at every meeting. Sometimes we change it - if something comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for the County Council and other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

Councillor John Francis

Chairman of the Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee

Membership – County Councillors 2020-21

John Francis (Chairman)
Bob Spencer (Vice Chairman)
Ann Beech
Ron Clarke
Ann Edgeller
Trevor Johnson
Bryan Jones
Jason Jones
Paul Snape
Mike Worthington

Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2020-2021

28 May 2020 at 10.00 am cancelled due to Covid 19
7 July 2020 at 10.00 am virtual meeting held on Teams
1 September 2020 at 10.00 am virtual meeting held on Teams
13 October 2020 at 10.00 am – Extra meeting virtual meeting held on Teams
5 November 2020 at 10.00 am – virtual meeting held on Teams
6 January 2021 at 10.00 am (moved from 11 January 2021) - virtual meeting held on Teams
1 March 2021 at 10.00 am - virtual meeting held on Teams
22 April 2021 at 10.00 am

Meetings usually take place in the Oak Room in County Buildings.

Work Programme 2020-21

Date of meeting	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
28 May 2020 10.00 am	Progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	Requested at their 28 May meeting – Members wish to see progress made with the Plan following their consideration at the May meeting.	<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting cancelled due to Covid 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Briefing notes were requested after the 7 July meeting to update members on these items and help prioritise future work programme planning.</i></p>
	Domestic Abuse Cabinet Member: Gill Heath Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	At their meeting of 1 October 2019 Members requested a six-monthly update on progress made with the newly commissioned New Era services Note that following the 7 November Triangulation meeting the Cabinet Member requested that this be considered in light of the new DA Act. The report needs to focus on the effectiveness of the new contract and the current shortfall in funding	
	Catch 22 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer:	Having met with members of the Catch 22 team the Vice Chairman and Members updated the select Committee on their work at their 1 October meeting. Members requested an update from Catch 22 in six month time	
7 July 2020 10.00 am Virtual Teams Meeting	Children's & Family Services response to Covid 19	The Select Committee to receive an update on Children's Transformation in light of the impact of Covid 19 and the County Council's response to this.	The Children and Families Services approach and response to Covid-19 was endorsed and Members congratulated officers on their understanding of the impact and risks associated with the Covid-19 and responding to these. Members also asked for a letter of thanks be sent to Catch22 for their continued professionalism and commitment throughout the crisis.
1 Sept 2020 10.00am Virtual Teams Meeting	Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children's Board – response to Covid-19 Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	Following the 7 July Select Committee Members requested another opportunity to consider the response to Covid-19 by the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children's Board in more detail.	Officers were commended on the work undertaken and on their risk and recovery planning. The refreshed risk and recovery plan will be shared with the Select Committee once it has been updated to include demand following the return to school.
13 Oct 2020 10.00 am	Children & Families Transformation –	An extra meeting requested for pre-decision scrutiny to look at progress with the Children and	An update on the 50% increase in EHE numbers and the impact of Covid 19 on these be include on the work programme.

<p>Extra meeting Virtual Teams Meeting Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee Members invited to attend</p>	<p>update Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley</p>	<p>Families Transformation prior to the October Cabinet.</p>	<p>Members noted the progress made and recognised the impact of delays on both outcomes and the MTFS. Members comments on the update will be fed back to the October Cabinet meeting.</p>
<p>5 Nov 2020 10.00am</p>	<p>Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Adults Social Care Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Officer: Kate Bullivant</p>	<p>Reports brought annually.</p>	<p>They heard that the number of complaints received during the year was as follows:- (i) 187 Stage 1 – Local Investigation complaints and; (ii) 35 Stage 2 - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman complaints. However, there had been no complaints requiring independent investigation. Members noted the main areas for complaint and were satisfied that the Authority had taken appropriate steps to improve service delivery where necessary. Also, they were encouraged that the volume of complaints had been relatively small having regard to the extent of Adult Social Services provided by the Authority during 2019/20.</p>
	<p>Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019-20 – Children’s Social Care Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant</p>	<p>Reports brought annually.</p>	<p>They gave preliminary consideration to a report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on Customer Feedback and Complaints Service – Children’s Social Services Annual report 2019/20 and requested that the matter be brought back to their next meeting in January 2021 for proper scrutiny.</p>
	<p>Court Backlogs: Impact on Children’s Social Care Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Deborah Ramsdale</p>	<p>Requested by Members following concerns around the backlog that has resulted from Covid 19 restrictions</p>	<p>They heard that the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic had exacerbated a pre-existing backlog in the family and criminal justice systems which, unfortunately, had significant implications for those families and individuals concerned. In addition, there were considerable financial pressures on the County Council from delays in cases being heard. However, they were satisfied that appropriate action had been taken by the Authority to highlight the difficulties caused by delays, with Central Government, the judiciary, independent sectors and other stakeholders, as appropriate and looked forward to an improvement in the current situation, as soon as possible.</p>
	<p>Impact of Covid on Children appearing in Criminal courts Cabinet Member: Mark</p>	<p>Requested by Members following concerns around the backlog that has resulted from Covid 19 restrictions</p>	<p><i>See above</i></p>

	Sutton Officer: Hazel Williamson		
6 January 2021, 2.00 pm (moved from 11 January 2021, 10.00 am)	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) – Annual Report Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Officer: John Wood (Independent Chair)	Consideration requested by the SSASPB to give assurance and an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on adult safeguarding and seek answers to any questions. Inclusion in Work Programme agreed by Chairman 22 October 2020.	Members highlighted the need for more consistency in methods of data capture between Authorities to enable benchmarking. They were encouraged by the lessons which had been learnt and commended all Officers and the Independent Chair on their excellent work and commitment to safeguarding.
	Customer Feedback and Complaints Annual Report 2019- 20 – Children’s Social Care (including learning from Complaints) Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Kate Bullivant	Reports brought annually. First considered at meeting on 5 November but further report to include additional information.	Members noted the main areas for complaint and were satisfied that the Authority had taken appropriate steps to learn from the criticisms made and improve service delivery where necessary. Also, they were encouraged that the volume of complaints had been relatively small having regard to the extent of Children’s Social Services provided by the Authority during 2019/20. However, they expressed their wish to receive more real-time data relating to complaints in order to assist them in their overview and scrutiny role.
	Elective Home Schooling Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officers: Jenny Dodd, Karl Hobson		Members were updated on progress with regard to the outcomes of a review of EHE support undertaken in Staffordshire during 2018 relating to:- (i) off rolling pupils from school to EHE; (ii) an annual event to celebrate achievements of EHE students and; (iii) Staffing levels within the EHE service. They agreed to continue their efforts to achieve legislative changes for the establishment of a register of children not attending mainstream schools and associated duties on parents/proprietors of certain educational settings.
1 March 2021 10.00 am	Children & Families Transformation and learning from the Serious Case Review Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Helen Riley	Requested by the Committee on 1 January 2021 to review progress on remedial measures following publication of the Serious Case Review final report.	Members discussed in detail the presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families & Communities, considering learning from the Serious Case Review and how this had influenced the Children & Families Transformation programme in the development of services.
22 April 2021 10.00 am	Commissioning of Child Exploitation & Children & Young people Missing from Home or Care (‘Catch 22’)	Originally requested by the Committee on 1 January 2021 following Briefing Notes circulated in July 2020. Recommissioning this service is due in April and therefore the report will focus on the Commissioning of Child Exploitation & of Children	Members welcomed the performance of the Pan-Staffordshire CSE and Missing Children & Young People’s Service provided by Catch22 and the emerging future commissioning intentions in relation to the this Service. Members were pleased to note the proposed changes to performance data recording which would help scrutiny of future performance delivery.

	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Natasha Moody & Joe Sullivan	& Young People Missing from Home or Care	
	Contextual Safeguarding Review Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Officer: Chris Heeley & Hazel Williamson	Requested by the Committee on 1 January 2021. Following the introduction of the Contextual Safeguarding approach a review at the end of its first year will consider progress made and the Select Committee will consider the results of this review.	The Select Committee were pleased with the considerable progress made on Contextual safeguarding and welcomed details of how the County Council is meeting the statutory requirements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who were being exploited or at risk of being exploited.
tbc	Domestic Abuse: Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	Requested by the Committee on 1 January following Briefing Notes circulated in October 2020.	<i>Suggested for inclusion on the 2021-2022 work programme</i>
tbc	Safeguarding Adults on the cusp of care Cabinet Member: Johnny McMahon Lead Officer: Jo Sutherland	At the 7 November Triangulation meeting it was proposed to look at any gaps in provision between what is happening in the community for adults on the cusp of care, the neighbourhood coaches/provisions and any safeguarding issues this may present.	<i>Suggested for inclusion on the 2021-2022 work programme</i>
tbc 6 monthly update from 7 November meeting (May/June 2020)	Regional Permanency Partnership Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale & Jo Sullivan	Following consideration of the arrangements at their 7 November Select Committee Members had requested an up-date on progress with the arrangements in six months' time.	<i>Suggested for inclusion on the 2021-2022 work programme</i>

Standing Items 2020-21

Item	Details	Action/Outcome
Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer:	Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Select Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review	Some areas picked up by the DHR review process

Briefing Notes/Updates/Visits 2020-21

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
------	------	---------	----------------

	Progress with the Children's Services Improvement Plan	Requested at their 28 May meeting – Members wish to see progress made with the Plan following their consideration at the May meeting. <i>One of the items from the cancelled meeting due to the pandemic</i>	Special Meeting 13 October 2020
	Domestic Abuse	At their meeting of 1 October 2019 Members requested a six-monthly update on progress made with the newly commissioned New Era services Note that following the 7 November Triangulation meeting the Cabinet Member requested that this be considered in light of the new DA Act. The report needs to focus on the effectiveness of the new contract and the current shortfall in funding. <i>One of the items from the cancelled meeting due to the pandemic</i>	Circulated to Members 14 October 2020
	Catch 22	Having met with members of the Catch 22 team the Vice Chairman and Members updated the select Committee on their work at their 1 October meeting. Members requested an update from Catch 22 in six month time. <i>One of the items from the cancelled meeting due to the pandemic</i>	Circulated 21 September 2020

Working Group and/or Inquiry Days 2020-21

Date	Item	Details	Action/Outcome
January 2021	Transition & Preparation for Adulthood Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Deborah Ramsdale	At their 22 January 2019 meeting Members requested this issue be included on their work programme – with consideration to be given to whether this should be considered by a working group. In particular they wanted to look at the transition between children's and adult services, the gaps, those that remained vulnerable but under the Care Act did not meet the criteria to receive adult services and how to prepare individual's to be resilient and prepare for as independent an adulthood as possible.	Deborah Ramsdale is working on adults' transition, including transition clinics. TSU have undertaken a piece of work in this area. A Peer Review on Adults is due in October 2019. Proposed to stall working on this until post the Peer Review. A protocol has now been agreed and will be implemented in November 2019. Following their meeting of 13 January, the Select Committee agreed to postpone a decision on establishing this working group to allow the protocol, which went live in November 2019, to bed in. A report will be brought to the Select Committee in 12 months' time (January 2021) to evaluate progress made and Members can consider whether there remains a need for a working group at that point.

ongoing	Children & Families Transformation System progress Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Janene Cox/Helen Riley	To scrutinise progress made with the Transformation programme on a monthly (or as appropriate) basis.	At their 13 January 2020 meeting Members agreed that the Chairman (and/or Vice Chairman or Shadow Vice Chairman) will attend the monthly Children's Improvement Board and report back to the Select Committee rather than duplicating work already underway by establishing a separate working group. Consequently, an oral report will be given by the Chairman (and/or Vice Chairman or Shadow Vice Chairman) to the Select Committee reporting on progress.
March 2019 -	SEND Working Group Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Tim Moss	Following the joint Ofsted and Written Statement of Action (WSOA) a joint working group was established with Members from the Prosperous Staffordshire, Healthy Staffordshire and Safe and Strong Communities Select Committees to look at progress in implementing the WSoA.	
	Children's Improvement Board informal briefing Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Riley	At the 7 July Select Committee the Chairman requested an informal briefing for all Members to update them on the work of the Children's Improvement Board.	

Children's Improvement Board – monitoring of the Children & Families Transformation System progress			
Date	Who attended from the Select Committee	Items discussed	Information
30 January, 25 February, 29 June 2020	Cllr Francis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus area for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribunals and the cost implications of SCC conceding/losing at tribunal • Progress overview 2. Performance – EHCP data 3. Emergent risks 4. Forward plan 	To be reported at the meeting. At the 7 July Committee meeting members asked for an informal workshop to discuss the improvement plan in detail.