

CABINET

At a meeting of Cabinet held on
24 August 2016

- (Present)** Councillors Bell, Bowden, Fulham, Gomez-Aspron, L Preston and Quinn
- (Not Present)** Councillors Burns, Grunewald, A Johnson and McCauley
- (Also Present)** Councillor Ireland (Overview and Scrutiny Commission)
Susan Richardson (Chairman, Local Safeguarding Children Board)
Tom Wolstencroft (Chairman, Safeguarding Adults Board)

28 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

- * Resolved that Councillor Bowden be appointed Chairman of the meeting.

Councillor Bowden here took the Chair.

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burns, Grunewald, A Johnson and McCauley.

30 MINUTES

- * Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20 July 2016 be approved and signed.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations of interest were made.

32 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

a) Review of Older People's Needs and Loneliness

A report was presented which set out the findings of a Scrutiny Review of Older People's Needs and Loneliness which had been undertaken by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

- * Resolved that:

- (1) the report be noted; and

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- (2) a report and action plan in response to the recommendations be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet

b) Cabinet Response to the Scrutiny Review – ‘Is St Helens a Dementia Friendly Borough?’

A report was presented in response to a Scrutiny Review - ‘Is St Helens a Dementia Friendly Borough?’ which had been undertaken by Scrutiny.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the action plan attached at Appendix 1 be approved and presented by the Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

33 **BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT JUNE 2016**

A report was submitted which informed Cabinet of Budget and Performance Monitoring for June 2016. Regular monitoring of both Council budgetary and performance information was provided in order to ensure the delivery of efficient, effective and value for money services that meet the needs and expectations of the customers and communities that it serves.

The report also provided an analysis of budget and performance for each of the Council’s Portfolios. The purpose of the report was to provide Cabinet with an overview of the budgetary position covering revenue and capital budgets along with key action being taken to ensure Portfolios remained within allocated cash limits. The performance section commented on significant issues around the delivery of services, the position of the Council’s performance measures, and action required to address any identified concerns in relation to performance or service delivery.

- * **Resolved that the financial and performance positions of the respective Portfolios be noted.**

34 **ST HELENS SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

A report was submitted and outlined by Tom Wolstencroft, Chairman of the Safeguarding Adults Board which informed Cabinet of the St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16.

The Care Act 2014 put adult safeguarding on a legal footing for the first time although St Helens Safeguarding Board (SAB) was an already established partnership body which brought together key agencies involved in safeguarding adults activity in the Borough.

The Board had been publishing an Annual Report for ten years as the St Helens Safeguarding Board had believed it was best practice and was now a requirement.

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The Care Act 2014 and associated guidance had created a new framework directing how agencies, more specifically Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Police should work together to protect adults at risk of abuse and neglect.

The safeguarding duties applied to an adult who had needs for care and support and as a result of those needs was unable to protect themselves from the risk or experience of abuse and neglect.

The report covered the financial year 2015/16 and provided an overview of Board progress in terms of implementing the Strategic Plan and providing board performance measures, including some comments from adults who had used safeguarding.

The Cabinet thanked Mr Wolstencroft for his presentation and expressed appreciation of the work carried out by the staff and other stakeholders in this crucial area of social care practice.

* **Resolved that the Annual Report of St Helens Safeguarding Adults Board (2015/16) be noted.**

35 ST HELENS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

A report was submitted and outlined by Susan Richardson, Independent Chairman of the Local Safeguarding Children Board which informed Cabinet of the St Helens Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16.

The St. Helens Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was a statutory partnership body which brought together key agencies involved in safeguarding children activity in the Borough. The overarching objective of the LSCB, as set out in Section 14 of the Children Act 2014 was to co-ordinate what was done by each person or body represented on the Board.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 required the Independent Chairman of the LSCB to publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The St. Helens Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report for 2015/16 had been produced by the LSCB Business Manager and comprised of contributions drawn from the range of statutory partners working through LSCB. The report covered the financial year 2015/2016 and provided an overview of Board achievements, key developments in partnership working and broad performance measures.

The LSCB also had an ongoing cycle of business planning and the 2016/2017 plan recently approved by the LSCB was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Cabinet thanked the Ms Richardson for her presentation and expressed appreciation of the work carried out by the Members of the Board, stakeholders and staff.

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- * **Resolved that the St Helens Local Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2015/16 be noted.**

36 ST HELENS PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

A report was submitted which informed Cabinet that a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Action Plan had been prepared by consultants KKP on behalf of the Council and its partners in order to meet the Council's corporate priority to 'encourage participation in sport, physical activity and the arts, to promote physical and mental wellbeing'. A copy of the PPS was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The PPS provided a strategic framework for the maintenance, improvement and provision of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2016 and 2026 with identification of potential development partners and sources of external funding opportunities to achieve its delivery.

The Strategy had been informed by a comprehensive Playing Pitch Assessment Report prepared in consultation with local sports clubs and leagues to establish the supply and demand for playing pitch facilities across the Borough in terms of usage and provision. This assessment had been translated into a Strategy providing the Council with:

- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches;
- A series of strategic recommendations which provide a framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock;
- A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision; and
- A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Playing Pitch Assessment was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Cabinet was informed that the decision was a Key Decision and details had been published in accordance with the provisions within the Constitution.

- * **Resolved that Council be recommended to:**

- (1) **approve the adoption of the 2016 Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan; and**
- (2) **endorse the Playing Pitch Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy as supporting evidence for the preparation of the Local Plan.**

37 LOCAL TEST OF ASSURANCE – CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OPINION

A report was submitted which set out the Chief Executive's view that the local assurance test, necessary when undertaking a change of structure in Children's Services, was currently being met.

At its meeting held on 19 November 2015, the Chief Executive presented a report to Council to restructure the Corporate Structure of Council. This included the

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creation of a People's Services Department bringing the functions of Children and Young People's Services and Adult Social Care and Health together. The report outlined the requirement on the new Strategic Director to subsequently review and restructure their department appropriately.

A local test of assurance requirement exists in the Statutory Guidance on roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member Children's Services'. The purpose for the test is to check that the focus on outcomes for children is not diluted by any changes made.

It was the Chief Executive's view that the Test should be a 'live' process fully completed over the months following the change to the Council's structure rather than at a fixed point as it would be necessary for the incoming Strategic Director to assess, form a view, and determine ways forward the Department.

It was also the Chief Executive's view that it was impractical to undertake an assurance test to be carried out at the point of the change as it was the revised structure and approach when implemented that would need testing.

At its meeting held on 30 March 2016, Cabinet considered a report titled 'People's Services Department – Demonstrating Assurance and Effectiveness.' The report outlined the statutory requirements of the Council in Children and Adult Services and the actions being taken by the Strategic Director of People's Services to deliver assurance including the creation of a new structure for the combined Department.

At its meeting held on 25 May 2016, Cabinet considered a further report titled 'Revised Approach to Children's Services and Departmental Priorities'. This report responded to the issues identified in the previous Cabinet report and addressed a number of issues expressed by the Strategic Director to the Chief Executive.

The report specifically identified some of the culture change required within the Department and how the five divisions of the new Department would contribute to the Department's priorities.

Cabinet also received a report at its meeting held on 20 July 2016 with regard the restructuring of the Children's Safeguarding Unit and also, the Council response to a Serious Case Review.

- * **Resolved that Cabinet agreed with the Chief Executive's view that the local assurance test, necessary when undertaking a change of structure in Children's Services, was currently being met.**