

CABINET

At a meeting of Cabinet held on
2 December 2020

(Present) **Councillor Baines (Chair)**
Councillors Bell, Bond, Bowden, Burns, Charlton,
Gomez-Aspron, Groucutt, McCauley and Quinn

(Also Present) **Councillors T Long and Sweeney**

(Present as an **Councillor Maloney MBE**
Observer)

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

19 MINUTES

* **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11
November 2020 be approved and signed.**

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations of interest from Members were made.

21 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

(a) Cabinet Response to Spotlight Review of County Lines Issues in St Helens

A report was submitted which presented Cabinet with a proposed action plan in response to the recommendations made by the former Community Safety Scrutiny Panel following their spotlight review of the County Lines Issues in St Helens.

The Spotlight Review into the issue of County Lines in St Helens provided an insight into the existing partnership activity in the borough to protect young people, tackle the exploitation of young people and raise awareness of this issue.

The recommendations of the Review had prioritised the areas of communication, training and engagement.

The recommendations of regular and detailed monitoring to the Scrutiny Committee and sharing the recommendations with the Children's Improvement Board would promote further awareness across governance structures in St Helens and ensure that this issue remained central to the activity of protecting young people and building safer communities for children and families in the Borough.

The Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 set out the response to each recommendation and the timescales for completion of the actions identified.

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- * **Resolved that the Action Plan be approved.**

22 LGA RECOVERY AND RENEWAL PANEL – KEY REFLECTIONS AND ACTION PLAN

A report was submitted which provided an update on the reflections of the Recovery and Renewal Panel session held in September 2020, which incorporated a draft action plan for discussion and agreement.

The LGA Recovery and Renewal Panel Sessions provided an opportunity for the Leader, Chief Executive, senior members, and officers to come together, virtually, with peers to:

- reflect on what the Council had achieved and learnt in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- discuss with peers the challenges and opportunities COVID-19 had presented for the Council and local area; and
- consider the steps the Council wished to take towards recovery/renewal.

The sessions helped identify a series of steps the Council may wish to take as well as the further support and good practice available from across the sector.

On 28 September 2020, St Helens Borough Council undertook an LGA Recovery & Renewal Panel. Within the overarching theme of recovery and renewal, at the request of the Council the panel gave particular attention to how the Council intended to 'reset' existing ways of working.

Attached at Appendix 1 was the LGA Recovery and Renewal Panel's Key Reflections and an Action Plan was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

- * **Resolved that:**

- (1) **the reflections and themes for consideration as outlined in Appendix 1 be noted; and**
- (2) **the Action Plan be implemented.**

23 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

A report was submitted which provided the Annual Report of the newly established Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The Safeguarding Children Partnership was established in May 2019 in accordance with the statutory guidance resulting from the Wood Review. There was no requirement for an Independent Chair but there was a requirement for Independent Scrutiny. The arrangements within the Borough complied with national guidance and were ratified by the Department for Education.

The current Chair of the Partnership Board was the Executive Director – Integrated Health & Social Care/Clinical Accountable Officer St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group.

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The Report provided an overview of the safeguarding activity within the Borough and contained information and challenge from the Independent Scrutiny Lead.

The report had been ratified by the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board on the 26 October 2020.

* **Resolved that the Annual Report be noted.**

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