

## Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

| <u>Corporate Priorities</u>                                    |
|--|
| Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life |

| <u>Next Three Meetings</u>                                       |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Date: 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021<br>Time: 10am<br>Venue: Room 10 | Date: 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021<br>Time: 10am<br>Venue: Room 10 | Date: 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2022<br>Time: 10am<br>Venue: Room 10 |

| <u>Title</u>                 | <u>Description</u>   | <u>Aims/Purpose</u>   | <u>Portfolio</u>  | <u>Lead Officer</u> | <u>Corporate Priority</u>                                      | <u>Method</u>         | <u>Date</u>  |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Recruitment of Foster Carers | St Helens Council recruits foster carers to care for children who need foster care. When there are not enough foster carers to meet demand agency carers can be used however they can cost more so ensuring there are sufficient “in-house” foster carers can reduce pressure on budget. | To review current practice and practice in other local authorities to ensure most effective approach is taken to recruit foster carers. To ensure there are sufficient foster carers in St Helens to meet demand and provide good placements for children looked after. | Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)   | Linda Evans         | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Task and Finish Group | Next Meeting<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Oct  |
| Performance Reports          | Scrutiny Committees are responsible for reviewing the performance reports for priorities relevant to their remit.  | To use performance reports to monitor the performance of services within portfolios and hold Cabinet Members to account.  | Children and Young People / Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Groucutt) | Jim Leivers         | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Report to Committee   | 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021<br><br>Agenda deadline<br>10 <sup>th</sup> Sept |

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|--|---|---|--|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Children's Services Improvement Plan   | Ofsted ILACS Inspection took place 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept -4 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019. Ofsted gave Inadequate rating requiring Council to produce Action Plan for improvement. Committee will monitor improvement process on ongoing basis. Most recent Ofsted restart focussed visit 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2021. | To continue monitoring the Council's progress with improvements to Children's Services including Ofsted's feedback on their most recent focussed visit.   | Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)        | Jim Leivers                | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Standing Item on Committee Agenda | 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021<br><br>Agenda deadline 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept |
| Inclusion (Alternative Education)<br><br>Including update on impact of COVID-19 on Schools | When mainstream education is not appropriate for a pupil at any particular time alternative provision can be put in place. This can take many different forms depending on need. "Inclusion" refers to need to make sure pupil still feels included in education system when not in mainstream.               | To ensure provision of alternative education is appropriate, inclusive and is meeting the needs of the pupils to ensure they have good outcomes.<br><br>To receive an update on situation with schools in relation to COVID-19 since report to Committee on 12 <sup>th</sup> July | Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Groucutt)   | Jo Davies                  | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Presentation to Committee         | 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021<br><br>Agenda deadline 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept |
| Cabinet Response to County Lines Task Group  | Report with recommendations was submitted to Cabinet for consideration on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept   | To receive an update on progress in relation to actions that were   | Safer, Stronger Communities / Children and Young | Sam Murray / Linda Evans   | Create safe and strong communities for our residents           | Email to Members                  | 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021  |

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|  | 2020 with initial response provided at Cttee on 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2020. Several actions were due to be completed during 2021.   | planned to be completed by March 2021.  | People (Cllr Bell/ Cllr Charlton)   |                             | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life |                        |                                |
| Cabinet Response to Apprenticeships for Looked After Children Cabinet Response | Report with recommendations was submitted to Cabinet for consideration on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 2020 with response provided at Cttee on 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2020. Several actions were due to be completed during 2021. | To receive an update on progress in relation to actions that were planned to be completed by March 2021.  | Children and Young People / Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Groucutt) | Linda Evans/Jo Davies       | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Email to Members       | 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021       |
| Children's Centres   | Council is planning to review Children's Centres and services provided from them during 2021/22   | To enable members of the committee to contribute to the transformation strategy for Children's Centres. To ensure children's support services are targeted in locations of greatest need. | Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)   | Linda Evans                 | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Spotlight Review       | October 2021 (Date TBC)        |
| Children's Mental Wellbeing  | The pandemic has impacted on children's education and personal lives and in some cases impacted negatively on   | To review initiatives that Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and other partners are putting in place in  | Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)   | John Heritage (Mersey Care) | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Spotlight Review<br>Or | November 2021 (Date TBC)<br>Or |

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|  | their mental health.<br>Councillors are concerned to know what the level of impact has been and what services are doing to tackle this.  | schools and communities across St Helens to support children and young people with their mental resilience and care needs.        |   |                     |  | Report to Committee   | 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2021<br><br>Agenda deadline 11 <sup>th</sup> March  |
| Improving Work Opportunities for Care Experienced Young People Task Group Cabinet Response | In its Interim Report the previous Task Group made recommendation regarding what a further Task Group should be established to do to complete the review   | To respond to the recommendations of the previous Task Group and continue its review  | Children and Young People / Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Groucutt) | Linda Evans         | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Task and Finish Group | Deferred from 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2021<br><br>6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021<br><br>Agenda deadline 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov |
| Support for Young Carers   | Councillors have expressed concerns about the needs of young carers. In 2013 a task group conducted a review of support for young carers. Members of the Committee wish to revisit this piece of work to see what has changed since. | To ensure young carers are supported and receive equality of support in relation looked after children to fulfil their potential. | Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)   | Linda Evans         | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Report to Committee   | 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021<br><br>Agenda deadline 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov   |

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| Schools' use of Catchup Funding | Government has provided additional funding to schools to support initiatives to help pupils where their academic progress has been negatively impacted by school/bubble closures during the pandemic.  | To scrutinise the use of catchup funding to ensure plans are in place to support those children most affected by the pandemic to make up for lost learning.                                | Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Groucutt)  | Jo Davies                                     | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Spotlight Review     | Dec 2021 (TBC)  |
| School Readiness Strategy       | A new strategy is being developed to ensure every child gets the best possible first 1001 days from birth. Strategy will include how parents are supported with their child's development and the provision of high-quality early learning.  | To review the new strategy to assess its aims and objectives and implementation plan which the Committee can subsequently monitor the achievement of.                                      | Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Groucutt)  | Jo Davies                                     | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Spotlight Review     | February 2022 (TBC)   |
| Good Childhood Enquiry          | Good Childhood Enquiry was commissioned by the Council to find out from young people what aspects of life children in St Helens are doing well in and where they are not doing so well. The findings were published in Oct 2020 with recommendations for the Council and its Partners on | To receive a overview of the findings of the Enquiry and assess the response of the Council and its Partners to the recommendations of the Children's Society who carried out the Enquiry. | Children and Young People / Education, Business and Skills / Wellbeing, Culture and Heritage (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Groucutt/ Cllr Burns) | Rob Huntington / Julie Dunning / Sharon Fryer | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life | Report to Committee  | 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2022<br><br>Agenda deadline 11 <sup>th</sup> March |

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|  | how to address issues identified.  |  |  |                          |  |                     |   |
| Council's School Improvement Offer             | The Council provides a school improvement service aimed at improving school performance including improving pupil/student attendance, emotional well-being, and inclusivity support. | To review progress of plans  | Education, Skills and Business (Cllr Groucutt)                                     | Jo Davies                | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life   | Report to Committee | 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2022<br><br>Agenda deadline 11 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Edge of Care Services                          | A range of services for children who could potential become in need of social care and their families have recently been introduced.   | To scrutinise the impact of these services in reducing numbers of children becoming looked after.  | Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)  | Linda Evans              | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life   | Report to Committee | July 2022 (TBC)   |
| St Giles Trust                                 | The County Lines Task Group recommended that the Safer Communities OSP invite the St Giles Trust to a future meeting to discuss initiatives to reduce CCE.                           | To understand the effectiveness of various initiatives to tackle CCE to make suggestions about the possible implementation of any initiatives in St Helens | Children and Young People / Safer, Stronger Communities (Cllr Charlton/ Cllr Bell) | Linda Evans / Sam Murray | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life<br><br>Create safe and strong communities for our residents | Report to Committee | TBC   |
| NHS Response to Mental Health Services for CYP | Committee received a response from NHS bodies to spotlight review report on 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2021. There is   | To monitor the implementation of the response to the   | Children and Young People (Cllr Charlton)  | Suzanne Rimmer (CCG)     | Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life   | Report to Committee | TBC   |

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| with SEND<br>Spotlight Review | potential for this to be<br>followed up at a later date. | recommendations from<br>the spotlight review. |                  |                     |                           |               |             |