

Lancashire County Council

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th January, 2021 at 10.30 am in Skype Virtual Meeting - Skype

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item
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1.	Apologies
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2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests
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Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.

3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2020	(Pages 1 - 6)
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4.	Shaping the future of multi-agency Early Help in Lancashire	(Pages 7 - 8)
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5.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/2021	(Pages 9 - 14)
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6.	Urgent Business
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An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

7.	Date of Next Meeting
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The next meeting of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will be held on Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 10.30am.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Lancashire County Council

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 16th December, 2020 at 10.30 am in Skype Virtual Meeting

Present:

County Councillor Andrea Kay (Chair)

County Councillors

M Dad	J Mein
Mrs S Charles	E Nash
A Cheetham	E Pope
J Eaton BEM	J Potter
A Gardiner	J Purcell
N Hennessy	P Steen
S Malik	

Co-opted members

Dr Sam Johnson, Representing CE Schools

County Councillors Stuart Morris and Eddie Pope replaced County Councillors Matthew Salter and Stephen Clarke respectively for this meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor David Smith and co-opted members Mrs Janet Hamid and Simon Smith.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2020

Resolved: The minutes from the meeting held on 10 November 2020 were confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children and Young People

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Dave Carr, Head of Service: Policy, Information & Commissioning (Start Well), Lancashire County Council; Sally Nightingale, NHS Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit; and Barbara Edwards, CAMHS Transformation Manager, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Also welcomed to the meeting were K Murray (Deputy Member of the Youth Parliament for Lancaster/Fylde/Wyre) and M Graham (Member of the Youth Parliament for Hyndburn/Ribble Valley/Rossendale).

The report presented provided the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee with information on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people in Lancashire and the response of partners and future plans.

During the pandemic mental health issues for children and young people such as anxiety and depression had increased. Disruption to young people's sense of control and meaning had contributed to this. There were also concerns about returning to schools. It was pointed out however, that for some, the pandemic had had positive mental health impacts due to a sense of support and potentially reduced stressors, such as social pressures at school.

Lancashire County Council commissioned a service called Child Action North West Partnership Early Help Service which had provided a focus on younger children for emotional health and wellbeing. Half the requests that came to this service were primary age children. Much of the partnership's work had moved online.

There were pressures on the workforce due to the pandemic, particularly in schools. Schools in Lancashire had stayed open in Lancashire during the pandemic, providing support to vulnerable and valuable young people and also key workers.

In terms of NHS services, Lancashire and South Cumbria Care Foundation Trust had found that for its Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), there had been a 46% rise in demand for their services in September and October compared to last year.

Many services had gone online as children and young people were now turning to online support. Lancashire and South Cumbria Healthy Young Minds website had been expanded to include Covid-19 specific resources. There was also Kooth which was an online service providing free access to online support and counselling for young people.

Members were informed of the CAMHS THRIVE redesign journey. It was a framework that provided practical strategy and integrated pathways to support children when they started to struggle. THRIVE provided wrap around support to children and young people when they needed it. Before THRIVE there were too many confusing routes to get into CAMHS. What was needed was a single point of access with one phone number. Due to Covid, services which could be accelerated were looked at. The Care Partnership had now a fully signed off THRIVE model and now needed resources to implement it. The partnership needed to invest in children's mental health at a greater rate and make things better for young people.

Comments and questions raised by the committee were as follows:

- On evaluating the redesign and evidence of outcomes it was reported that the Child Action North West Partnership was looking at the evaluation of families to see if things had improved for the family and the young person. There were no evaluations for this year but in previous years they were positive. There were case studies of families to see if the support they had received had made a difference and these had been positive too. Feedback from families had helped the redesign of the service and helped measure the impact of the services going forward.
- The committee requested evidence on why the service was being redesigned the way it was. Whilst officers could not provide the evidence at the meeting, it was acknowledged that evidence should be presented at future meetings. Officers could also come back and demonstrate the impact of the redesign as elements were being implemented.
- The redesign would provide a single point of access phone number which would help children and young people to get to a local service. Discussions were taking place to determine whether referrals for both adult mental health systems and children's systems should be directed to the single point of access number. The team had managed to establish this with a single Covid response 24/7 helpline that would translate into the single point of access number for CAMHS. There was more work to do before the single point of contact phone number could be implemented, though it was hoped the number would be live during Quarter 1 of 2021. In the meantime all points of contact were listed on the Healthy Young Minds website: <https://www.healthyyoungmindslsc.co.uk/home>.
- Members were informed that there were not many self-referrals that had come to CAMHS from children and young people. Referrals tended to come from family members or GPs. Self-referrals were only implemented in August 2020. At the end of December 2020 data could be provided on how many self-referrals had come through.
- There were concerns about the amount of suicide cases with children and young people. This could be down to a number of things such as stresses in households, financial problems, domestic abuse or pressures at school. There was no data on specific reasons.
- The committee was informed that the THRIVE service was not just for children, it was also for parents and carers. A lot of work had been done with parent groups concerning the THRIVE redesign. There needed to be a robust communication plan in place around THRIVE.
- The purpose of the THRIVE redesign was to make children's mental health everybody's issue. The redesign was about working more effectively with schools, youth groups and voluntary sector partners.
- There had been lots of information from young people to help with the THRIVE redesign.
- There were Early Help services available that people could access. The committee was informed that 88% of access to the services in 2019/20 had made a difference. If children and young people accessed the services earlier there was a better chance for positive outcomes.

- Members were informed that CAMHS was a specialist mental health service. The purpose of the THRIVE redesign was to move away from all mental health issues being solved by CAMHS. There were many other interfaces for children and young people to access regarding mental health.
- Regarding digital services and children accessing them, the committee enquired if these services were effective. These services were evaluated and information on these evaluations would be brought to a future meeting. There were concerns about the amount of services to access. It was felt that one point of access would be better.
- The question of relationships with other agencies was raised. The team was working with partners across the whole system and was working with partners around children who had gone missing. The team worked closely with local CAMHS providers and children's homes. There was also close work with the British Transport Police.
- It was noted that technology had moved on so quickly and there were concerns over safety issues. Schools were taking a huge responsibility in making sure children and young people were digitally safe.
- It was pointed out to the committee that CAMHS had currently got a negative reputation amongst young people.
- There was concern over the self-referral scheme and would it be actively used by young people.
- The social aspect for children and young people was the biggest problem during the pandemic. Returning to school had helped with this.
- There was a lot of anxiety during the pandemic and young people were more aware of mental health issues.
- It was stated that schools were a good point of contact for young people. Teachers should be aware of the single point of access number if they identified issues with young people.
- The NHS needed to be conscious of giving schools the skills to deal with mental health issues. The NHS was investing in Primary Mental Health workers for schools.
- There were concerns about vulnerable families who had no online access.

In addition to the request for evidence to be presented at future meetings of the committee on the redesign of CAMHS, officers acknowledged that more detail about outcomes evaluation should also be included. It was also acknowledged that the local NHS needed to expand on how the service offer is communicated going forward.

Resolved: That the;

1. Presentation be noted.
2. Progress on delivering the THRIVE redesign be noted.
3. An update report on progress with establishing the single point of access phone number, and the work on engagement with children and young people and schools be presented to the committee in three months' time.

5. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/2021

The report presented provided information on the single combined work programme drafted for all of the Lancashire County Council scrutiny committees.

The next meeting would focus on the Early Help offer. The item originally scheduled for January on the Early Years sector would now be presented at the meeting in February with the school attainment report being deferred until further notice.

In addition West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust were hoping to commence early engagement with the committee on their Shaping Care Together programme and the transformation of hospital and community services provided to children in West Lancashire and Sefton. They would also be presenting to the Health Scrutiny Committee.

There was a request for West Lancashire councillors to be informed of this and possibly have an invite to the meeting.

Resolved: That the work plan presented be noted.

6. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next virtual meeting of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee would take place on Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 10.30am.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 13 January 2021

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Shaping the future of multi-agency Early Help in Lancashire

Contact for further information:

Gary Halsall, Tel: (01772) 536989, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny), gary.halsall@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Debbie Duffel, Head of Service Children and Family Wellbeing will attend the meeting to present an update on the Early Help offer for Lancashire.

Recommendation

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the update report.

Background and Advice

Debbie Duffel, Head of Service Children and Family Wellbeing will attend the meeting to present an update on the Early Help offer for Lancashire.

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the update report.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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N/A		
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Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 13 January 2021

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Samantha Parker, 01772 538221, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny), sam.parker@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report provides information on the single combined work programme drafted for all of the Lancashire County Council scrutiny committees. A copy of this work programme is set out at Appendix A.

Recommendation

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to review and agree the work programme items for the committee (as at Appendix A).

Background and Advice

The Covid 19 pandemic has required members and officers to work differently and the wider context has also meant that priorities have changed or shifted in emphasis.

The work programme for this year has been combined with the other scrutiny committees given that the primary focus of the scrutiny work programme as a whole is dedicated to the response to the Covid 19 pandemic. For the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, the emphasis is on the impact to services supporting children and young people and the lessons learnt as the county council moves forward.

To enable the committee to have the time to review and scrutinise the key areas highlighted in the work programme, it is recommended where possible that one substantive item is tabled per meeting. However, it is important to note that the work programme needs to be flexible in order to accommodate any urgent items that may arise. In addition, the work programme will form a standing item on the committee meeting agenda for regular review and to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

To further enhance the work programme, members are asked to reflect on key discussion areas or questions they would like to consider for each of the topic areas.

This will ensure that the senior officers have a clear focus in order to provide the relevant information.

Further to this, members are asked to consider who they would like to invite to future meetings to help provide a more holistic picture for scrutiny to understand the challenges and produce meaningful but achievable recommendations.

Members are asked to review and agree the work programme items for the committee (as at Appendix A).

Consultations

NA

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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NA		
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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020-2021

Scrutiny Committee					
Month		Education and Children's Services	External	Health	Internal
	June			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from the ICS on NHS Cells for Lancashire and digital and engagement with local people. Temporary changes to clinical services across the ICS during the COVID-19 pandemic 	
	July	Response to the COVID 19 pandemic in Lancashire - perceptions of the experiences of children and young people, and headlines from the operation of service during the COVID-19 emergency period.	Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness		1. RIPA annual report 2. The impact of Covid 19 on county council services Highways – challenges faced following pandemic and resuming 'normal' work programmes
	September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What powers do we have as a county council/what can we do to support schools and parents. - Position update on the wider reopening of schools Schools Causing Concern Task Group report – response to recommendations SEND Ofsted inspection report Review of work programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult social care – winter preparations (Supporting the social care sector including domiciliary care workers) NHS 111 First 	Covid 19 – what comes next? Including building pan-Lancashire working and Democratic involvement in resilience forums and maintaining democratic leadership during a crisis

Appendix 'A'

	October	Children's Social Care - protecting vulnerable/valuable children – plans in place to manage spikes in referrals. Child poverty increase and the impact on the demand on social care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal credit – Citizens Advice Decarbonisation pathway – Lancashire, Electricity North West and Cadent Gas 		
Month	November	Education – digital poverty and lesson learned. Digital aspirational views – turning challenge into opportunity.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suicide prevention in Lancashire LCC Adult Social Care Winter Plan 	Speeding Traffic and the lack of enforcement
	December	Impact of the pandemic on children and young people's mental health – plans in place to support and an update on CAMHS including managing increase in contacts, anxiety of YP on return to school and availability of more online support		NHS Test & Trace and Community Testing	
	January	Early Help – Update on the Lancashire offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness – update on implementing recommendations. 		Covid 19 – Further update following the update provided at the September 2020 meeting
	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years sector – impact on private providers supporting vulnerable children and families (including update on the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWAS Hub and Spoke model (Fylde and Wyre) Shaping Care Together briefing on the transformation of community and hospital services for adults in West 	

Appendix 'A'

		EY Strategy and School Improvement Model) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools causing concern task group - update on recommendations 		Lancashire and Sefton areas (tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS 111 First – update (tbc) Commissioning Reform (tbc) Update on The Future of Hospital Services in Central Lancashire Task and Finish Group activity 	
	March	**Family Safeguarding Model – update on implementation of model in Oct/Nov 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAMHS Redesign in Lancashire and South Cumbria – progress report (tbc) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWAS Hub and Spoke model (Fylde and Wyre) Shaping Care Together briefing on the transformation of community and hospital services for adults in West Lancashire and Sefton areas (tbc) NHS 111 First – update (tbc) Commissioning Reform (tbc) Update on The Future of Hospital Services in Central Lancashire Task and Finish Group activity 	Youth Employment and Skills – impact on youth as one of the hardest hit groups during the pandemic (consideration to be given to which scrutiny committee will be most relevant to consider this topic)
	April	**SEND: Lancashire Breaktime update SEND Accelerated Progress Plan update Progress update on Pupils in special schools with medical conditions task group recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Credit – Welfare Rights Service update (tbc) Review of Community Safety Partnerships Governance arrangements 	-	Scrutiny of the Council's response to the Government's call for local councils to invest in street safety

Appendix 'A'

Other Topics					
	Topics from work programmes 2019/20 not scheduled	Participation strategy update Road safety Independent children's homes Getting to Good plan update NEET SEN equipment in schools School transport Maintained nurseries update Parking at schools Childhood immunisation programme 0-19 Healthy Child programme Lancashire schools attainment report (standing item)	Lancashire energy strategy Review of Community Safety Partnerships and governance arrangements (2021 tbc) Greater Lancashire plan LCC Carbon Plan/Internal Energy and Water Management Policy Canal & Rivers Trust (tbc) LEP – response to the pandemic – economic recovery plan incorporating 'green' principles Impact of pandemic on road safety and lessons learnt	Urgent Mental Health Pathway Transforming Care (Calderstones) Social Prescribing Tackling period poverty Delayed transfers of care Stroke Programme Vascular, head and neck Review of Primary Care Networks and Neighbourhoods Transforming hospital services and care for people in Southport, Formby & West Lancs Disabled Facilities Grants Housing with Care and Support Strategy 2018-2025 – tbc 2021	Local Government Funding and Income Generation Task Group Update on Reducing Single Use Plastics in Lancashire