

Lancashire County Council

Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th March, 2024 at 10.30 am in Committee Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No. Item

1. Apologies

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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 31 January 2024 (Pages 1 - 8)

To be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4. Contextual Safeguarding Re-Model and Implementation of the EmPower Contextual Safeguarding Multi Disciplinary Team (Pages 9 - 30)

5. Family Safeguarding Update (Pages 31 - 42)

6. Education Strategy Update (Pages 43 - 50)

7. Work Programme 2023/24 (Pages 51 - 60)

8. Urgent Business

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.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee will be an informal Deep Dive Session held on Tuesday 23 April 2024 at 2.00pm in Committee Room C – The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston.

H MacAndrew
Director of Law and Governance

County Hall
Preston



Lancashire County Council

Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 31st January, 2024 at 10.30 am in
Committee Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

Present:

County Councillor Sue Hind (Chair)

County Councillors

M Clifford	N Khan
S Barnes	P Rigby
A Cheetham	S Clarke
L Cox	M Salter
A Hindle	J R Singleton JP
T Hurn	A Schofield
R Woollam	

Co-opted members

David Ballard

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor John Potter.

County Councillor John Singleton replaced County Councillor Peter Britcliffe and County Councillor Alan Schofield replaced County Councillor Stuart Jones for this meeting only.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 13 December 2023

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record.

4. School and Post 16 Transport

The Chair welcomed County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Oliver Starkey, Head of Service Public and Integrated Transport, Debbie Ormerod, Access to Education Lead Officer, Nanette Hog, Admissions and Transport Co-Ordinator, Sarah Hirst, 16-19 Education and Skills Lead and Andrew Glover, Principal Transport Officer for School Transport to the meeting.

The report circulated with the agenda pack provided an update on the County Council's Home to School Transport Policy. It provided information on the 'Think Transport' publicity campaign which provided parents with information when making their primary and secondary school applications. The report also included information on the Post-16 Transport Policy.

Members were invited to ask questions and a summary is outlined below:

- Regarding the Communications Action Plan, it was queried if the actions listed had been completed or if not when they would be completed. It was explained to the committee the Communications Action Plan was undertaken in the Autumn 2023 term, specifically between 1 September 2023 to 15 January 2024 in line with the period parents had to apply for primary and secondary school places.
- A query was raised regarding the School Transport Review, Operational review – Season tickets, specifically when the review would be completed by, and the date actions would be effective from. It was highlighted to members that there were short, medium and long-term actions with differing time frames which had started over the summer 2023 and would continue until September 2026 as was detailed under Appendix 'B' of the report.
- Regarding Q Routes, it was explained that two licences were required as there were two officers that provided the service, covering the North and the South and this ensured that routes could be optimised.
- Members raised concern about students standing on school bus services, specifically if this practice was safe. It was explained to the committee that introducing standing on buses was a short-term action that was introduced to increase capacity quickly. It was noted that the legalities were set by the DVSA, and the school bus vehicles were fitted with appropriate holding equipment to meet the legal requirement to carry standing passengers. Members were informed that allowing students to stand meant opportunity was given to travel on these services to children who did not have a statutory entitlement to transport. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the concerns raised by the committee regarding the safety of standees on buses. It was requested that further information on how risks were mitigated in relation to children standing on school bus services be provided to the committee.



- Concerning the viability of the £2 bus fare and the cost to parents for school transport, it was noted that the council had been successful in securing funding for its bus service improvement plan however the Department for Transport guidance stated that this funding was for public services and not for school services. The committee were informed further monies were available for the bus service improvement plan and enquires had been made with the Department of Transport whether this potential award could be used for closed door school bus services. Regarding the £2 bus fare, its popularity was recognised however no guidance had been provided by the Department for Transport on its life span.
- Members queried how a route was confirmed as safe. It was explained the current policy on unsuitable routes was being revised to be modelled around information from the Road Safety Governing Body, it was also confirmed there was National guidance to how routes should be assessed. Mapping software was used for home to school routes, and unsafe routes were marked on this software. Members were assured if a parent were to challenge the safety of a route, officers were sent to assess the route.
- It was confirmed transport would always be provided to a child with statutory entitlement.
- The committee requested further detail on information gathering and queried the type of information being captured in relation to smart tickets. Members heard how the system needed for school transport had to facilitate several types of routes including rural and central routes, and creating a sophisticated ticket system such as those used by major providers would incur high back-office costs and feed into contract costs.
- It was highlighted there was no KPI data on passenger usage of services and volume of use. Members were informed that this type of software was ideal to manage and monitor services. It was recommended that consideration be given to investigating in software that could provide this data.
- It was questioned if there was data regarding the increased number of queries that arose due to the publicity campaign. It was confirmed whilst there were no overall statistics, officers were able to see levels of engagement on the Facebook campaigns on resulting queries.
- Members queried the annual review undertaken by officers in relation to school buses where there is no statutory entitlement for free travel, and hence all users pay to use the service. It was noted that sometimes this resulted in a financial loss to the county council and because of this the route is terminated. It was explained that potentially more could be done in terms of timescales provided for the notice to terminated services. A full 12 month notice period was provided to parents following a two year period of the service not providing any statutory entitled service, hence effectively after delivering a three year period of loss making service, it was identified in the second year where at this stage local service providers and the school were consulted to



see if there was any option for the service to be provided commercially or via the school.

- Regarding siblings, it was noted that it was not necessary that younger siblings automatically received free transport if an older sibling was at the same school due to the pattern of allocations being different during a particular year. Secondary school allocations, and the priority a pupil would have for a place at the school, regarding eligibility for free transport, was considered based on the nearest school where a place could have been secured. If the nearest school was over three miles, then the child was automatically entitled to school transport.
- A question was raised over disputes between parents and LCC over mileage from home to school measurements, the committee heard that the measurement provided by LCC was a definitive answer and undertaken on a bespoke mapping system which included the forementioned safe routes.
- Members were informed that it was not a statutory requirement to provide transport to the nearest faith school.
- It was queried if there was any extra supported provided to students when travelling to school in extreme weather. Members heard that there were no extra provisions taken to support children in their commute during extreme weather.
- Concerning changes in road systems, for example the removal of a footpath, members questioned if safe routes were appropriately updated. It was explained new mapping software was fed into through the Ordinance Survey, it was also noted that parents often brought hazards to attention.
- It was confirmed there was provision in the Home to School Transport Policy for children with medical difficulties.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport:

- i. Consideration be given to investing in software that can provide tracking data on passenger routes, use of passes and how often routes are used to better manage, monitor, and rationalise the services provided in relation to school transport.
- ii. Further information to be provided on how risks are mitigated in relation to standees on buses.



5. Education Attainment Data

The Chair welcomed County Councillor Jayne Rear, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Julie Bell, Interim Director of Education, Skills and Culture and Aby Hardy, Head of Education Improvement to the meeting.

The report circulated with the agenda pack provided a summary of the attainment of children and young people in Lancashire in the 2023 Summer exam season.

Members were invited to ask questions and a summary is outlined below:

- A query was raised into what support was being offered to pupils with communication difficulties which could possibly result in behavioural issues resulting in an increase in suspensions and exclusions. It was explained that there was an Inclusion Engagement Support Service that could go into schools to support pupils with EHCP and Send support for immediate support, this service had been in place since September 2023. Behaviour consultants who developed a comprehensive training programme for schools but could also attend schools to deliver Twilights and work with staff and pupils. There was also a lot of speech and language support being provided in primary schools.
- It was confirmed for students entering mid-year, they were supported by the Equality and Diversity Team for ELA tutoring as well as support for families new to the country. It was also noted that advancements in technology had aided non-English-speaking children.
- The committee raised a query as to whether Lancashire as a county received any extra funding after Covid to help bridge the attainment gap, as it was noted that Lancashire was a region that spent a longer time in Covid restrictions and therefore children were absent from school for longer. It was explained to the committee that the county had received Covid catchup tuition which had been available to all local authorities, but no other extra funding had been received.
- The committee questioned what was being done to raise the attainment of districts such as Burnley and Pendle where levels of deprivation were lower so ultimately the attainment of Lancashire overall would increase. It was noted that any school not achieving what they needed to and was considered vulnerable came under schools requiring additional support. These schools were supported by the Monitoring and Intervention Team who go into the school and work with the school to deliver everything the school needed to improve for example in areas such as a SEND audit, disadvantage, quality of teaching, relationships with social care etc. Regarding the quality of teaching, it was noted that many schools were now receiving Good and Outstanding OFSTED judgements, and it was also an issue between the crossover of other services, it was noted that the Family Hubs service had really helped to bridge some of the gaps. It was suggested that the relationship between



parents and school had deteriorated following Covid, and a report would come back the committee later in the year surrounding the new attendance strategy.

- It was confirmed the report contained data for all 628 Lancashire schools, excluding independent schools. It was further queried by the committee if figures were available on how many pupils with educational and healthcare needs stayed an extra year in school. It was explained that the majority of EHCP pupils were taught in their own year group, and any pupil attending a special needs school would have their own specific curriculum and many of those schools taught pupils up to 19 years of age before they moved onto further education or work.

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. When available, the 2024 Attainment Data Tables to be made available to members of the committee.
- ii. Outcomes of the Disadvantaged Conference with schools to be shared with the committee once available.

6. Work Programme 2023/24

The committee received a report which provided an update on the work programme of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee and a response to recent recommendations of the committee.

Resolved: That the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee work programme be noted.

7. Urgent Business

None.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee will be held on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 10.30 am in Committee Room 'C' – The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston.

H MacAndrew
Director of Law and Governance

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Preston





Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Wednesday 13th March 2024

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;
Caring for the vulnerable;
Protecting our environment;
Supporting economic growth

**Contextual Safeguarding Re-Model and Implementation of the EmPower
Contextual Safeguarding Multi Disciplinary Team**
(Appendix 'A' – 'B' refers)

Contact for further information:
Louise Anderson, Director of Children's Social Care, Tel: 01772 530815,
louise.anderson@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report provides an update regarding the development and progress of the Contextual Safeguarding Re-Model and the implementation of the EmPower Contextual Safeguarding Multi Disciplinary Team. A supporting presentation is also provided at (Appendix 'A').

Recommendation

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the evidenced based work that has been undertaken to re-design the Contextual Safeguarding Service and consider ways to further support this area of work.

Detail

Background:

The Contextual Safeguarding Re-Model has been delivered as part of the 'Where Our Children Live' Programme, to better support our most vulnerable children and young people in a way that is multi agency, cost effective and improves outcomes for young people and their families.

The Exploitation Team, alongside the Extra Familial Harm and Missing from Home Teams aim to keep children and young people safe from risks and abuse outside of

the home. The model meant that social workers, alongside partner organisations, were working in silos and as a result were unable to keep pace with assessment, support demands and quality processes. They were spending a considerable amount of time responding to crises leading to drift and delay in support, a lack of time to properly support children and families to change the root causes, and ultimately an increased number of children entering the care system. We believed that by targeting the support and driving a multi-agency approach to this cohort of young people and their families, and intervening before the situation reaches a crisis point, it would reduce the need for those young people to become looked after.

Aims of the model/staffing structure:

The aim of the model has been to strengthen practices utilising, learning from other authorities and multi-disciplinary approaches implemented successfully by other teams in Lancashire. By working with multi-agency partners, we are looking to develop multi-disciplinary teams involving, the mentoring service, targeted youth service, mental health practitioners, substance misuse, specialist and exploitation nurses, a psychologist and speech and language therapists. We are strengthening links with partners such as Education, Inclusion and the virtual school, Child and Family Youth Justice service, VRN, we are with you and the mentoring service to provide packages of support to help families build relationships, better support the needs of vulnerable children and stay together where possible. We have developed a specialised learning and development programme and we use the strength-based approaches such as trauma informed, relationship based and family safeguarding whilst enhancing practitioners understanding of adolescent development and how to address harm outside the home.

Research and outcomes

As part of the preparation and development of the model we spoke to several Local Authorities who have already developed their contextual safeguarding services. Whilst the makeup of the teams varied, the common theme was that they were all multi disciplinary.

Some of the outcomes from the Achieving Change together model in Greater Manchester were:

- **Edge of care** - The evaluation report (2017) showed that none of the young people living at home and considered to be 'on the edge of care' came into care, and no young people in care have moved to out of area, high cost or secure homes during the period prior to the evaluation.
- **Children, Young people and family feedback** - Young people reported improvements in things that matter to them, like relationships, how they feel, and the attainment of personal goals and improved relationships with caregivers.
- **Psychologists** - Embedding clinical psychotherapists in multi-agency Teams enabled all practitioners (Police, Social Workers, support workers, nurses, and wider partners) to receive timely support and expertise, to be more child centred and trauma informed in how they work with young people, their



families and with other professionals in and outside of the teams. They developed their skills, knowledge, understanding, competence and resilience - ultimately enabling the standard of support and safeguarding for young people and their parents to be bespoke, meaningful and enriched.

- **Financial** - Across Greater Manchester authorities they were spending £8.9 million on out of borough homes for 130 young people, many with poor outcomes. The evaluation found that for every £1 spent, £5 was saved on accommodation costs alone.
- **Financial contd** – Across Greater Manchester authorities children's records were audited, and it was felt that there was substantial evidence that, without the intervention, the young people would have been very likely to have gone into residential care or, in 2 cases, into a secure placement. Based on these assumptions, and assuming the project would support 30 clients a year on running costs of £305k, it was estimated that there could be annual benefits of over £1.6m through reduced and avoided accommodation costs.

The Power2 Service is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency partnership between Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health and the Voluntary Sector. It supports vulnerable young people aged 11-25 at risk of exploitation and family breakdown. The service provides a trauma informed approach enabling vulnerable young people and adults to develop a consistent, non-judgemental, one to one relationship with a case/key worker with the relationship being built on trust and stability. As a result of the model, Wolverhampton have seen:

- Reduction in homelessness
- Reduction in reoffending
- Reduction in substance misuse
- Reduction in missing episodes
- Reduction in risks of exploitation
- Reduction in NEET
- Reduction in spend on commissioned Placements and step down in social care status
- Reduction in permanent and fixed term Exclusions and improved attendance
- Reduction in A&E attendance and hospital admissions

Benefits of Multi Disciplinary Teams:

A key element of Lancashire's family safeguarding model across Lancashire's Children's Services is the multi-disciplinary approach – MASH, Family Safeguarding, Children and Youth Justice Services.

- Enhanced and improved outcomes for children and young people, through a range of joined-up services, advice and support being readily available and easily accessible.
- Helps to build consensus, strengthen partnership voice, break down professional boundaries and parochial attitudes.



- Can help to build a more cohesive community approach through united multi-agency practitioners taking greater ownership and responsibility for addressing local needs jointly, thus avoiding duplication or overlap of provision.
- Improved co-ordination of services resulting in better relationships, improved referrals and the addressing of joint targets.
- Offers a broader perspective or focus to working practice.
- Helps to improve understanding and raise awareness of issues and agencies, and other professional's practice.
- Increased level of trust existing between partners/providers in relation to everyone knowing each can and will deliver.
- Increased staff morale knowing that they do not work in isolation and that issues and problems can be resolved collaboratively.
- More enthusiastic and committed staff who have high expectations of themselves and others.

Implementation of EmPower

We implemented a 'soft launch' of the EmPower service on the 8 January 2024 which entailed the exploitation, missing and extra familial harm teams merging into 7 Multi Disciplinary Teams with roles including case holding social workers, exploitation social workers, child and family practitioners, parenting support workers, engagement mentors, targeted youth support workers, exploitation nurses and specialist nurses. We have started the recruitment process of the vacant posts – social workers, engagement mentors, targeted youth support workers and parenting workers.

Conversations are ongoing with health regarding the mental health practitioners and speech and language therapists and with public health regarding the substance misuse workers.

Strengthened links with Child and Youth Justice Service and Empower

Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Service have been provided with an additional £95,000 through the Government's Turnaround programme to support anti-social behaviour. This is in response to an article that was published in May 2023 where Lancashire was highlighted as a hot spot for anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Preston and South Ribble is our greatest hot spot for ASB in young people and we have been working with the violence reduction unit, ED navigators, the police and community safety develop, a project to respond in a positive and strength based way, the gang culture and knife crime which often then leads to ASB and attempt to work with the police at a more trauma informed and early interventionist way to prevent a significant increase in the arrests of the young people involved.

Serious Violence Duty / Serious Youth Violence

EmPower and the Child and Youth Justice Service have been working with the Violence Reduction Network and the Community Safety Partnership as well as other partners to develop Lancashire's response to the serious violence duty. See



Appendix 'B' for our service's response and commitment to serious youth violence as part of the serious violence duty.

Appendices

Appendix 'A' – 'B' are attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Presentation on Contextual Safeguarding Service Update
Appendix 'B'	Contextual Safeguarding / Child and Youth Justice Service commitment to Serious Youth Violence

Consultations

A consultation took with the workforce of the contextual safeguarding service in November 2023 prior to the implementation of the re-model.

Implications:

Legal

There are no significant legal implications detailed in the report and appendices.

Finance

There are no significant financial implications detailed in the report and appendices.

Risk management

N/A

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A





EmPower Contextual Safeguarding model and Multi Agency working update

Georgine Lee, Head of Service, Front Door, Assessment and Adolescent Services

March 24



Appendix A

The why.....

The model has been developed to strengthen our multi agency and multi-disciplinary working and plans with some of our most vulnerable children who are at risk of exploitation, extra familial harm and/or who are at risk of experiencing breakdowns in their family relationships and to reduce the number of children who become looked after as a result.

We will ensure that we have the right practitioners within the teams and links with the right professionals to ensure the right needs of children and families are being met. We will ensure that our workforce is sufficiently trained in trauma informed, relationship based, family safeguarding practice and that they will have good understanding of adolescent development and how to address abuse outside of the home.



A Case for Change

An [Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England](#) commenced on 1st March 2021. It sought to review the whole children's social care system and asked the question: *"How do we ensure children grow up in loving, stable and safe families and, where that is not possible, care provides the same foundation"*

As part of this review, on 17 June 2021, a [Case for Change](#) was published which calls for system wide reform and a change in practice and culture of child protection and social work. Key findings of the Case for Change include:

- We need to do more to help families
- We need a child protection system that keeps children safe through more effective support and decisive action
- The care system must build not break relationships
- Change will not happen without addressing the system causes – *in particular, multi-agency arrangements needing to take a multidisciplinary approach to working with children and families and the need for more cohesion between school, health, housing and children's social care.*

Most relevant for our justification to rethink how we support our young people is that the case for change findings indicate that the system particularly fails teenagers who face harm outside of the home. Teenagers are the fastest growing group in both child protection and care (Department for Education, 2021) and many experience serious harm or die. There was a 60% increase in the number of 10-19 year olds being treated for knife wounds between 2012/13 and 2017/18 (Campbell & The Guardian, 2019). It suggests that government departments and safeguarding partners have failed to have an effective response to the risks that teenagers face. Different parts of the children's social care, police, education, justice and health systems are responding differently to the same teenagers and accountability for keeping these teenagers safe is lacking and is compounded by a confused multi agency- response.

The former child's commissioner explained how teenagers are trapped in criminal exploitation often desperate to escape, and that parents are "shocked and then exasperated" by the daily calls to one service or another, told repeatedly that nothing can be done to protect their children (Children's commissioner, 2019b)

The findings also refer to the lack of effectiveness of the system and how multi agency partnerships have grown in this vacuum where too much resource is directed to discussing the same children at different meetings. When children have met the threshold of child protection and are at risk of serious harm, we need to be more decisive in providing effective and intensive support to tackle often complex, entrenched and sometimes intergenerational issues

Key Principles and Priorities

Children are at the centre of all we do and every decision we make. Their engagement, participation and views are paramount.

Our Practice is strength-based, trauma informed and relationship based

Responses to exploitation and relationship breakdowns are complex and require robust multi agency support

Communities are valuable assets and families are the experts and may also need support.

Collaboration with families and partners is key to success

Knowledge of exploitation and adolescent development is essential by all supporting the families



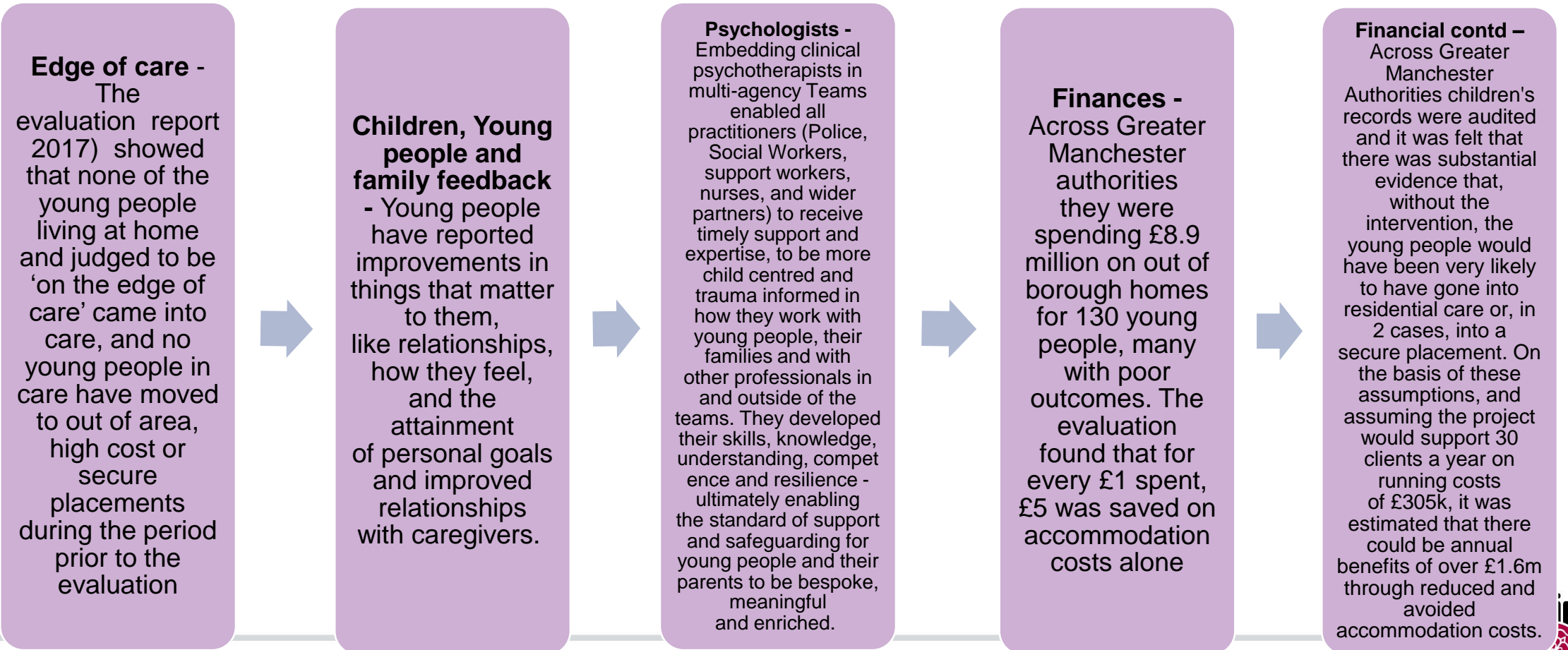
Research

- Hertfordshire CIOC
- Bristol
- ACT Rochdale
- Kent
- Ealing
- Wolverhampton

The key commonality was the multi disciplinary aspect of the team

Outcomes and findings from multi disciplinary models

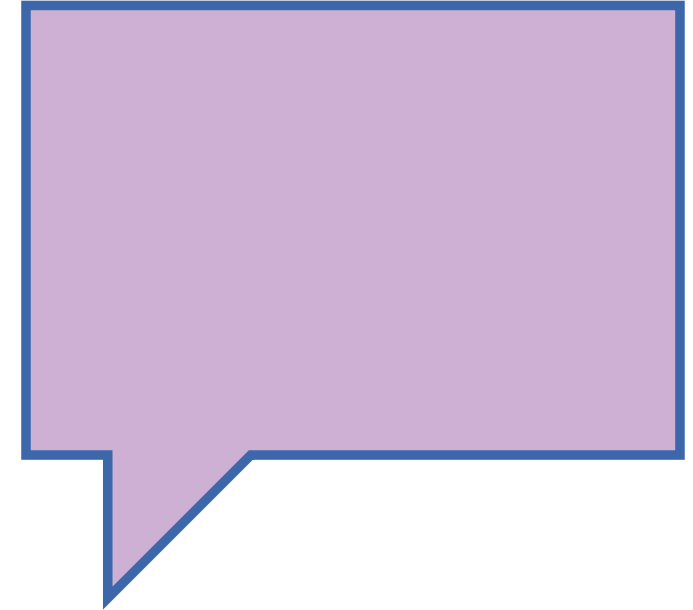
Wigan, Rochdale and Greater Manchester



Power 2 Evaluation Wolverhampton

The Power2 Service is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency partnership between Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health and the Voluntary Sector. It supports vulnerable young people aged 11-25 at risk of exploitation and family breakdown. The service provides a trauma informed approach enabling vulnerable young people and adults to develop a consistent, non-judgemental, one to one relationship with a case/key worker with the relationship being built on trust and stability. As a result of the model, Wolverhampton have seen:

- Reduction in homelessness
- Reduction in reoffending
- Reduction in substance misuse
- Reduction in missing episodes
- Reduction in risks of exploitation
- Reduction in NEET
- Reduction in spend on commissioned Placements and step down in social care status
- Reduction in permanent and fixed term Exclusions and improved attendance
- Reduction in A&E attendance and hospital admissions



Improvement in attending
Health appointments

Benefits of the multi-disciplinary approach



Some benefits:

Enhanced and improved outcomes for children and young people, through a range of joined-up services, advice and support being readily available and easily accessible

- Helps to build consensus, strengthen partnership voice, break down professional boundaries and parochial attitudes
- Can help to build a more cohesive community approach through united multi-agency practitioners taking greater ownership and responsibility for addressing local needs jointly, thus avoiding duplication or overlap of provision
- Improved co-ordination of services resulting in better relationships, improved referrals and the addressing of joint targets
- Increased level of trust existing between partners/providers in relation to everyone knowing each can and will deliver
- Increased staff morale knowing that they do not work in isolation and that issues and problems can be resolved collaboratively
- More enthusiastic and committed staff who have high expectations of themselves and others.

Staffing structure

EAST TEAM 1		EAST TEAM 2	
1 x Exploitation Social Worker		1 x Exploitation Social Worker	
3 x Social Worker		3 x Social Worker	
1 x Family Support Worker		2 x Family Support Worker	
1 x Missing From Home Worker		1 x Missing From Home Worker	
1 x Targeted Youth Worker		1 x Targeted Youth Worker	
CENTRAL TEAM 1	CENTRAL TEAM 2	CENTRAL TEAM 3	
1 x Exploitation Social Worker	1x Exploitation Social Worker	1 x Exploitation Social Worker	
3 x Social Worker	3 x Social Worker	3 x Social Worker	
1 x Family Support Worker	1 x Family Support Worker	1 x Family Support Worker	
1 x Missing From Home Worker	1 x Missing From Home Worker	1 x Missing From Home Worker	
1 x Targeted Youth Worker	1 x Targeted Youth Worker	1 x Targeted Youth Worker	
NORTH TEAM 1		NORTH TEAM 2	
1 x Exploitation Social Worker		1 x Exploitation Social Worker	
3 x Social Worker		3 x Social Worker	
1 x Family Support Worker		1 x Family Support Worker	
1 x Missing From Home Worker		1 x Missing From Home Worker	
1 x Targeted Youth Worker		1 x Targeted Youth Worker	

1 x Parenting Support Worker, 1x mentor, 1 exploitation nurse, 1 specialist nurse and 1 PACE worker to assist both Teams

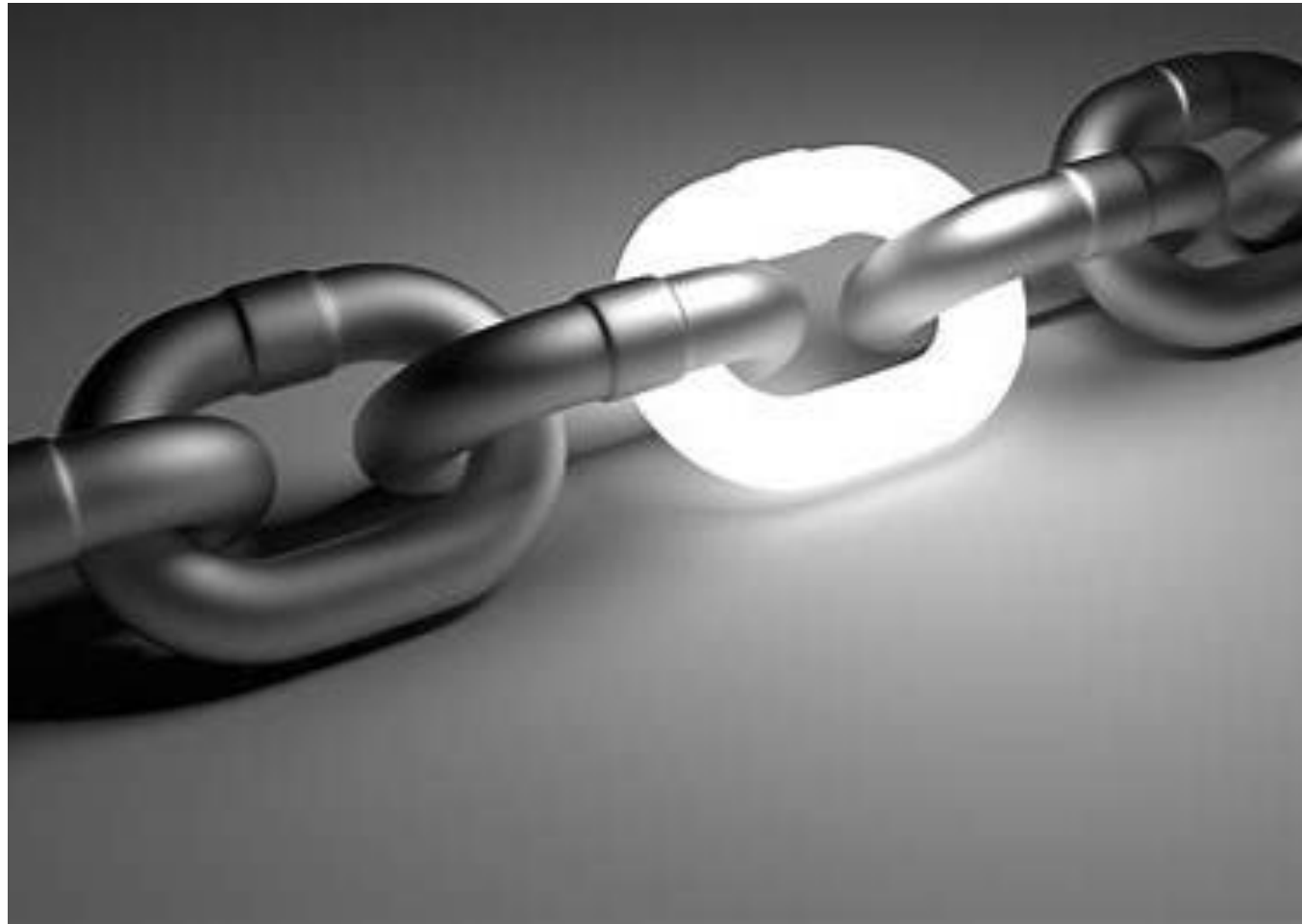
1 x Parenting Support Worker, 1x mentor, 1 exploitation nurse, 1 specialist nurse and 1 PACE worker to assist both Teams

1 x Parenting Support Worker, 1x mentor, 1 exploitation nurse, 1 specialist nurse and 1 PACE (Lancaster children only) worker to assist both Teams

Multi disciplinary roles - update

- Social Workers – allocated and exploitation
- Child and Family Practitioners
- Parenting Workers
- Targeted Youth Workers
- Mentors
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Substance Misuse Workers
- Clinical Psychologist
- Mental Health Practitioners
- Specialist and exploitation nurses
- PACE workers





Strengthened links

- VRN
- CYJS
- Inclusion and the virtual school
- Adoption support team
- Scayt
- Police



CYJS/CS – Turnaround programme – Contextual mentoring pilot

National Prevention & Diversion funding from the MoJ until March 2025. Total grant value of £1,023,397.83 (including an additional £98,579.62 committed May 2023 to ASB hotspot areas.)

Now, three P&D teams based in each locality (North, South/Central, East) designed to build more localised partnerships internally and externally which will last beyond the lift of the funding

Commissioning a third sector provider to deliver a “Contextual Mentoring Pilot”

Utilising a whole-family, strengths-based, trusted relationships approach to reduce contextual risk associated with ASB and Exploitation

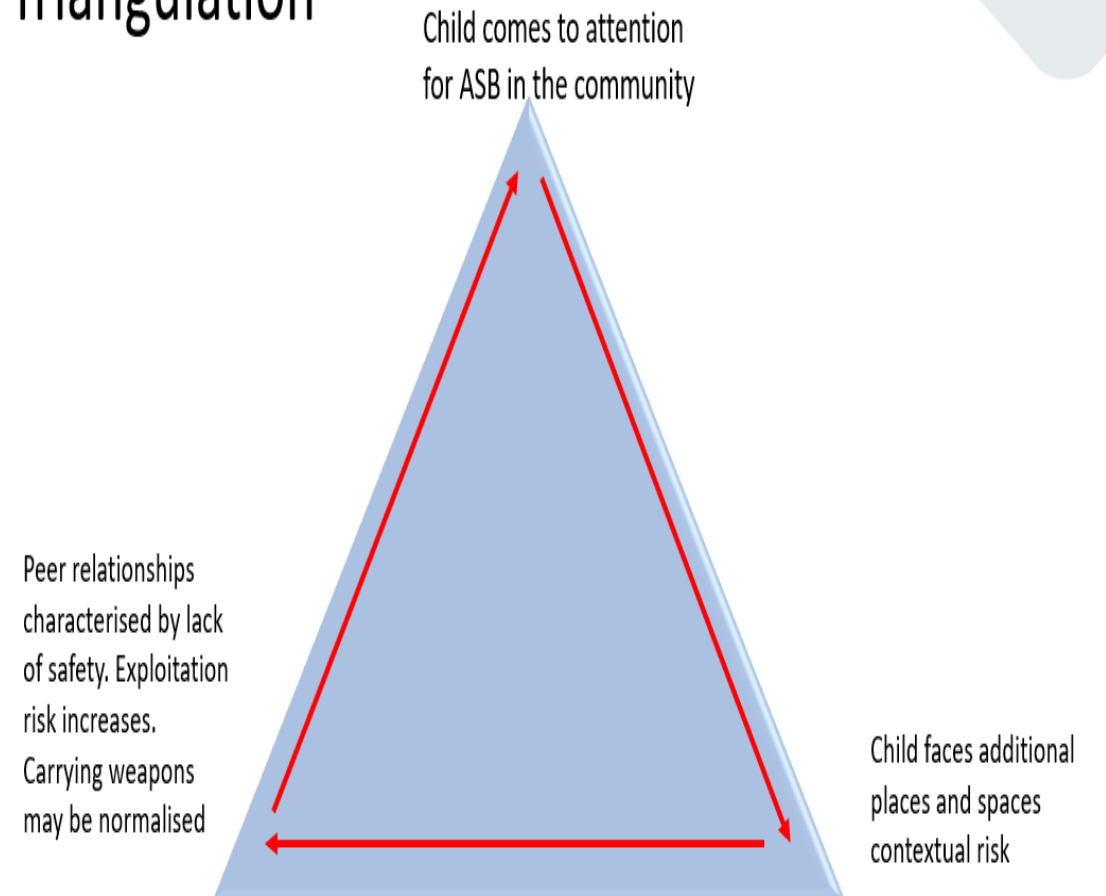
Linking in with ED Navigators to ensure a public health approach to supporting children at risk of violence

Enhancing relationships in communities, families and education settings

Support children to adopt pro-social relationships and activities thereby reducing the potential exploitative nature of gang and anti-social peer relationships

Pathways being developed with Lancashire Constabulary and children open to CSC can also access where they meet Turnaround criteria

Triangulation



Development of Knife Crime Strategy

- CYJS AND CST ARE DEVELOPING A KNIFE CRIME STRATEGY
- THE STRATEGY WILL DRAW ON THE BEST AVAILABLE EVIDENCE TO PREVENT KNIFE CRIME
- FROM THERE, CYJS AND CST WILL BUILD STAFF SKILLS AND INTERVENTIONS TO STRENGTHEN CHILDREN'S RESILIENCE TO CARRYING KNIVES

Voice of the Child and Family

- CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ARE AT THE HEART OF THE RESPONSE TO SYV
- THEY ARE EXPERTS OF THEIR EXPERIENCES AND THEIR VIEWS SHOULD FORM THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR INTERVENTIONS
- CYJS WILL UPDATE THEIR PARTICIPATION STRATEGY TO REFLECT THIS

Making Best use of Evidence

- CYJS AND CST WILL MAKE REGULAR USE OF THE YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND'S TOOLKIT IN DEVELOPING APPROACHES
- WE WILL ADOPT A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO REDUCING THE RISK OF SYV
- WE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESEARCH TO DRIVE BEST PRACTICE



Serious Violence Duty
Preventing and reducing serious violence
Statutory Guidance for responsible
authorities

England and Wales

Input to the Development of MASPs

- CYJS AND CST TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI AGENCY SUPPORT PANELS AROUND THE COUNTY
- ENSURE PANELS WHICH DISCUSS CHILDREN ACROSS THE COUNTY ARE APPROPRIATELY MAPPED AND ALIGNED
- CST AND CYJS WILL ATTEND THE COUNTY-WIDE MASPs TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE OFFERED THE CORRECT SUPPORT FROM THE CORRECT SERVICE

Reducing Disproportionality

- CYJS AND CST WILL SHARE DATA ABOUT WHETHER SOME CHILDREN ARE DISPROPORTIONALLY AFFECTED BY SYV
- A WORKING GROUP WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO ANALYSE THE DATA AND PLAN A RESPONSE
- BOTH SERVICES WILL STRIVE TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO SERVICES AND AN EQUAL RESPONSE FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Serious violence duty

CHILD AND YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE (CYJS) & EMPOWER CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING TEAM (ECST) RESPONSE TO SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY – A PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHILD FIRST APPROACH



A s children	Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.
B uilding pro-social identity	Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.
C ollaborating with children	Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.
D iverting from stigma	Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

Voice of the Child and Family

- Children and families are at the heart of the response to serious youth violence
- They are experts of their experiences and their views should form the cornerstone of our interventions
- CYJS will update their participation strategy to reflect this

Input to the Development of Multi Agency Support Panels

- CYJS and ECST to contribute to the development of multi agency support panels (masp) around the county
- Ensure panels which discuss children across the county are appropriately mapped and aligned
- CYJS and ECST will attend the county-wide map to ensure children are offered the correct support from the correct service

Making Best use of Evidence

- CYJS and ECST will make regular use of the youth endowment fund's toolkit in developing approaches
- We will adopt a public health approach to reducing the risk of SYV
- We will contribute to local and national research to drive best practice

Reducing Disproportionality

- CYJS and ECST will share data about whether some children are disproportionately affected by serious youth violence
- A working group will be established to analyse the data and plan a response
- Both services will strive to ensure equal access to services and an equal response from the criminal justice system

Community Engagement

- CYJS and ECST will ensure the views of the community are incorporated into their response to the serious violence duty
- They will seek to inform, involve and collaborate
- CYJS's participation strategy will be updated to reflect this

Collaboration Across the Partnership

- CYJS and ECST will meet regularly in localities to share information and plan joint responses to serious youth violence
- They will align assessments, plans and interventions to ensure a collaborative approach to support
- They will share resources, utilising evidence-based practice

Engagement with Community Safety Partnerships

- CYJS and ECST will ensure attendance at csp meetings across the LCC footprint, providing updates, data and planning
- CYJS and ECST attend the internal community safety officers meeting to share information and take back emerging themes
- CYJS and ECST will provide a co-ordinated response to all serious violence duty plans across the CSP footprint.

Development of Knife Crime Strategy

- CYJS and ECST are developing a knife crime strategy
- The strategy will draw on the best available evidence to prevent knife crime
- From there, CYJS and ECST will build staff skills and interventions to strengthen children's resilience to carrying knives

Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 13 March 2024

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;
Caring for the vulnerable;
Protecting our environment;
Supporting economic growth

Family Safeguarding Update
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:
Brendan Lee, Tel: 01772 538323, Head of Service Family Safeguarding and
Children with Disabilities, Brendan.lee@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report provides an update on the Family Safeguarding Service to the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee. The report is supported by a presentation which is attached at **(Appendix 'A')**.

Recommendation

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Consider the update provided on the work of the Family Safeguarding Service and progress made against meeting the aims set out at its conception in Lancashire.
- Support the service priorities identified for 2024-25.

Detail

The Lancashire Family Safeguarding was launched in January 2021 and since this time we have achieved an Ofsted grading of good, safely reduced the number of children entering care proceedings and the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans.

A strengths-based approach is used, informed by the cycle of change, working with families to identify their individual strengths and areas of support. All our staff are

trained in motivational interview which underpins our aspiration to consistently provide good practice and intervention resulting in the right service at the right time. This is woven throughout the work we do. We record in the Workbook, which is a parenting assessment and intervention programme allowing us to complete a thorough assessment, while undertaking direct work with children and families.

Lancashire has 21 Family Safeguarding Teams who work to support children to be safely cared for within their families. Each team comprises of a Team Manager, a Consultant Social Worker, 5 or 6 Social Workers, a Child & Family Practitioner, and a Team Co-Ordinator. Each team will also have either a Domestic Abuse Officer (Probation), Domestic Abuse Practitioner, Mental Health Practitioner or a Recovery worker, and all teams have access to services from all specialisms. We also have a lead Psychologist who is able to undertake assessments and direct work with parents requiring mental health support. Furthermore, we support children under Child in Need and Child Protection and through pre-proceedings and care proceedings where this is necessary to keep children safe.

Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Family Safeguarding Update Presentation

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

The service has worked hard to develop and embed our multi-agency teams and recognise the importance of shared decision making and intervention when working with children and families. The team around each child will have regular, multi-agency supervision where all practitioners are able to share information, discuss risk and contribute to the ongoing plan of support for a family.

Legal

There are no significant legal implications detailed in the report and appendix.

Finance

There are no significant financial implications detailed in the report and appendix.



Risk management

We need to keep our faith across the council spectrum and our partnerships strong. Councillors, senior executives, and the partnership must remain on board for continued success.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A





Lancashire Family Safeguarding



Appendix A

The Case for Change

In 2019 demand levels in Lancashire were unprecedented

we wanted to ensure the right support for children and families was being provided at the right time, and that children could safely remain at home with their parents

Audit activity highlighted the need to strengthen our application of thresholds

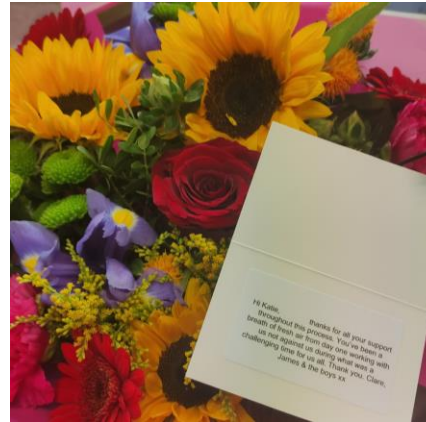
We recognised the need to strengthen our partner relationships



What impact does this way of working have?

Reduction of Children subject to a CP Plan. Rate from 54.9 to 27

Staff love Family Safeguarding – good morale



To Lily
Thank you for being you, you have kept us together through the darkest of times you have helped me more in a couple of months than any one has in my full life

Having Social Services has saved my life without I don't think I would be here today Thank you for everything you have done for us words can not describe how grateful I am.

I have to say this in a text message because I'll probably start crying if I say it to your face 😭 but thank you so much for everything you have done for me and Harvey we both truly appreciate every last thing you have done and sticking your neck on the line for us and trusting and believing in us ❤️ You are an amazing social worker and I'm sure you're an amazing mum and friend ❤️ people are very lucky to have you as their social worker and to have someone like you help them and understand. Thank you so so much ❤️

Rate of CLA from 86 to 71.4, 2128 to 1736

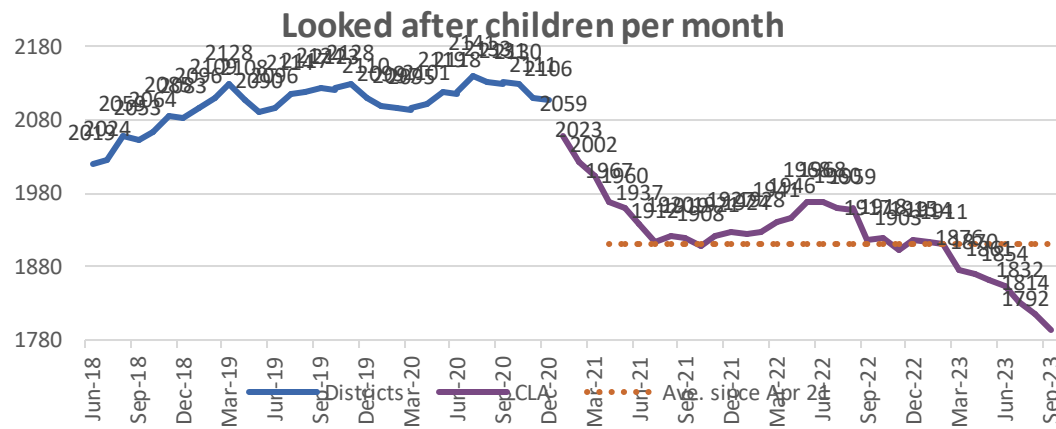
449 fewer children aged 12 & under entered care

*At the start of the child protection plan I was really worried, I thought I might lose the kids, I really did think that. I didn't want social workers and that but actually I needed it. It's changed my life, it's been really good, I have learned loads, everyone has been really great. I have really enjoyed it. The triple P stuff with Jan was great, Jan's really nice. I got loads out of working with Ben, I feel I have learned loads, from him I have grown as a person. I can see people for who they are. It's been really great. Thank you Ali, thank you for the book, I've read it, I can recognise myself, it given me a reason why I might choose people like ***. You have all been great, the kids have liked you coming. Everyone has been kind and nice'. I have lots to look forward to - Christmas, getting my licence back. I'm enjoying spending time just me and the kids Thank you so much*



Feedback from Families –it's making a difference

Reduction in Complaints
increase in compliments



Impact and benefits

Improved outcomes for children, young people and their families

Better and earlier early help

TAF– low levels of step up

Positive impact of TASS – Low absence

Strong community offer

Better, shared decision-making

Right support, right time - Referral rate low

CSSH in MASH - Referral rate low

Right support - Re-referral rate low

Better care planning

Committed and creative practitioners

Low rates of children in our care

Low rates of CiN and CP

Children in Care & Care Leavers

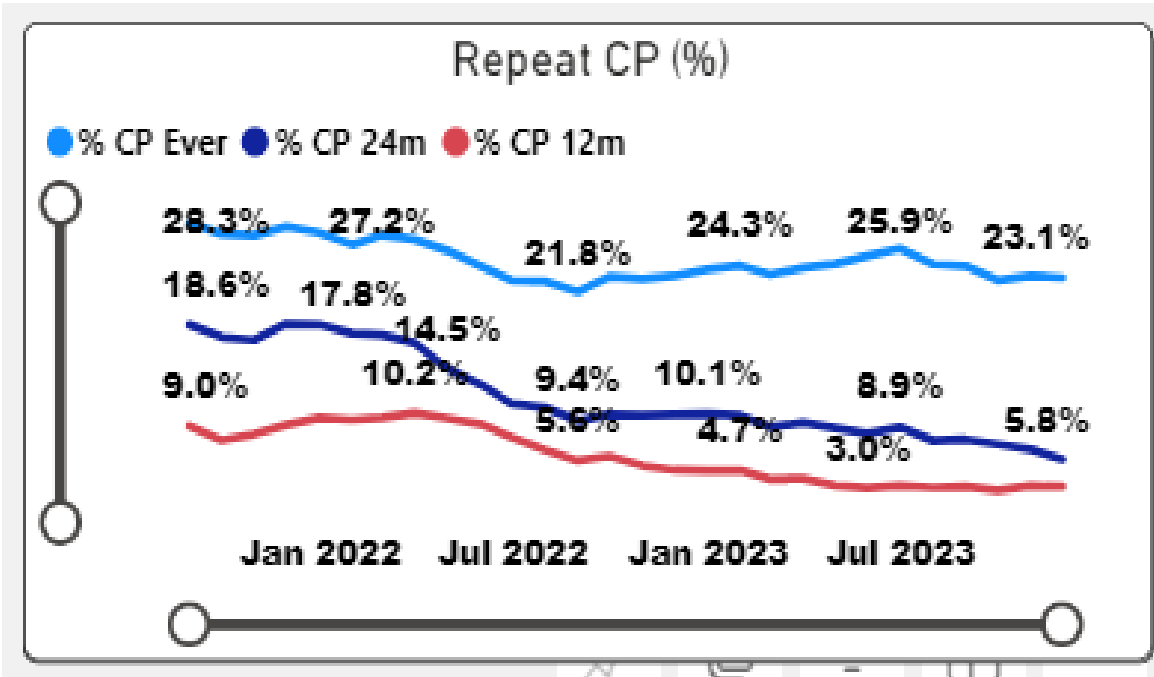
Improved permanence planning

Improved relationship with children in our care

In touch with young people leaving care



Repeat CP



There is clear evidence from the repeat CP data around the impact of Family Safeguarding on supporting families to make and sustain change.

This is significantly more evident in the 24-month period.

But is also consistently evident in the repeat CP plans within 12 months which remains low at 3.0%

Next Steps

Practice Development

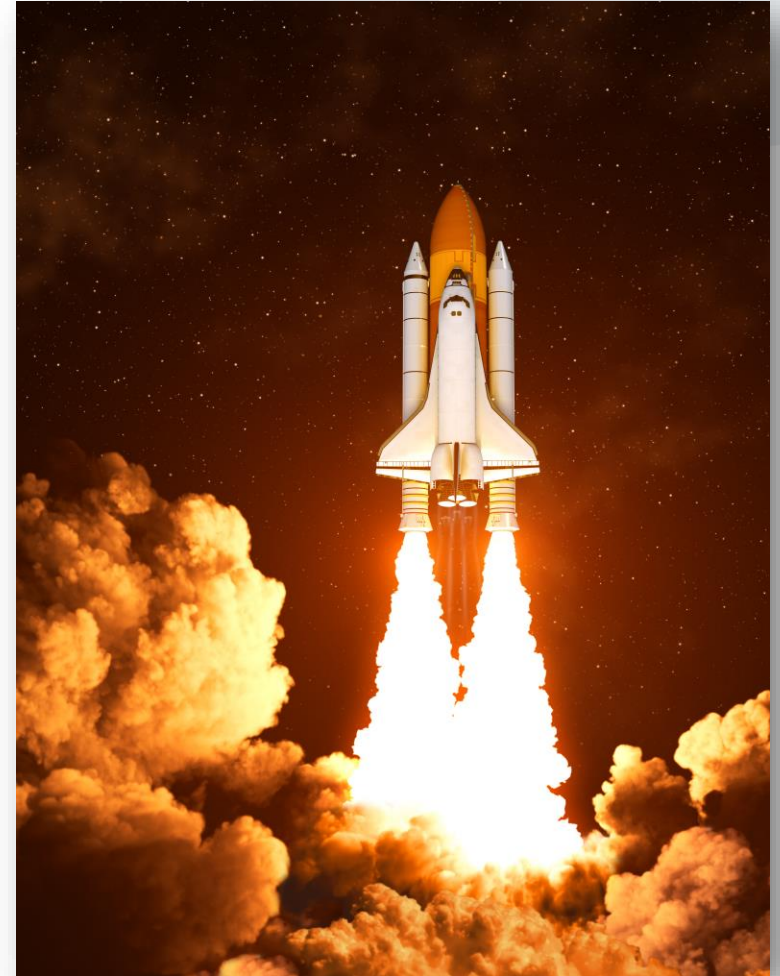
We have a mostly young and inexperienced workforce, and our focus needs to be on upskilling them into confident and able practitioners, who are able to deliver the model whilst managing the competing and complex demands of the role.

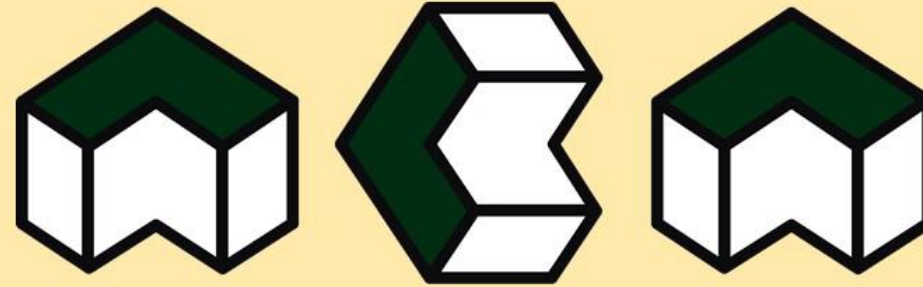
Key decision making

FS requires the need for fluidity in its decision making, but in a way that supports and upskills practitioners but at the same time ensuring that casefiles reflect the thought processes and analysis of practitioners and managers.

Evolving the service offer

Herts have evolved their service offer since implementation to cover gaps in provision and Lancashire should consider the same.



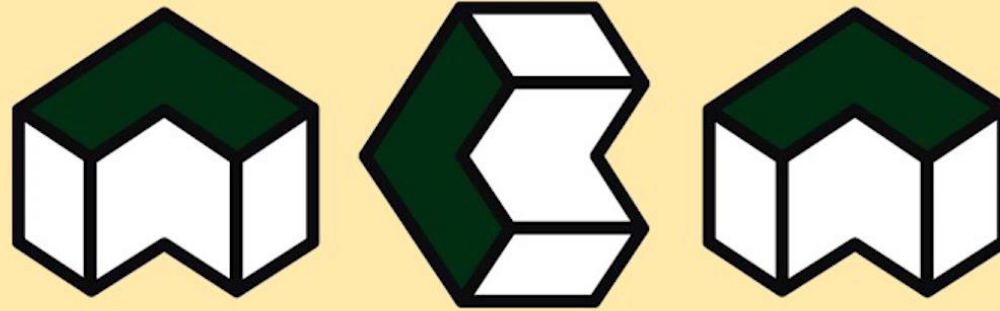


ALASDAIR CANT & ASSOCIATES

Motivational Interviewing

Emma – Approaching TAF Meetings: Families' Stories





ALASDAIR CANT & ASSOCIATES

Motivational Interviewing

**MI with teenagers and young people:
Families' Stories**



Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Wednesday 13 March 2024

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Supporting economic growth;
Caring for the vulnerable

Education Strategy Update

Contact for further information:

Aby Hardy, Head of Education Improvement, Tel: 07890 415909,
aby.hardy@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report seeks to provide an update to the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee on the work of the Lancashire Education Strategy from September 23 to Mar 24.

Recommendation

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Reflect on the information provided; and
- ii. Consider ways to further support work in this area.

Detail

Delivering high quality advice, training and support for schools and families

We are two years into the Lancashire Education Strategy. The progress towards the outcomes of the Education Strategy is strong so far and this report should provide you with an update of our work for this first half of the academic year 23/24.

Education Strategy

Priority 1 – Improve Take Up in Early Years

We have made good progress in increasing the number of early years children accessing a funded 2-year-old place in the last 12 months. This has been achieved through strong partnership work with our internal colleagues within Children's Social Care, Children & Family Well Being Service, Cultural Services and Public Health. We have also worked closely with schools, Health Visitors, Department for Work and

Pensions, District Councils, and the Voluntary, Community & Faith sector to raise awareness of the early years funded entitlements.

Actions:

- Corporate campaigns to promote key messages through social media, radio advertising, TV advertising, external advertising, radio interviews, targeting particular communities and areas of low take up.
- Production of publicity materials (e.g., posters, leaflets, flyers) for professionals and families to raise awareness) in a variety of different languages.
- Community sessions for families to drop in and learn more about how to access a funded place linked to family hubs work.
- Delivery of termly webinars for social workers, foster carers and prospective adopters.
- Supplying information to schools about their pupils who have younger siblings who are eligible for a funded place, so that schools can proactively target and support these families to access a place.
- Promoting and sharing key information through the weekly sessions that are delivered in libraries for families with young children e.g. Bounce & Rhyme, Story Time, Rhyme Time. Raising awareness through the community & faith leaders in areas where take up is lower.

Impact

We have now our highest figures ever with 93% of 2 year olds taking up their offer in comparison to 90% at this time last year and a 5% increase on last term.

District	Eligible Population (DfE)	No. of children	% take up	% Change since last term	% Change since Autumn 2022
Burnley	433	395	91.2	7.8	1.5
Chorley	247	242	98.0	-0.5	-1.2
Fylde	119	110	92.4	-0.7	-19.3
Hyndburn	413	366	88.6	5.3	5.5
Lancaster	368	381	103.5	10.5	3.5
Pendle	412	352	85.4	5.8	3.3
Preston	544	459	84.4	6.7	1.3
Ribble Valley	73	76	104.1	-3.9	-6.0
Rossendale	194	195	100.5	8.3	12.3
South Ribble	218	213	97.7	4.9	1.2
West Lancashire	246	217	88.2	-6.3	-4.8
Wyre	236	219	92.8	-4.2	-1.3
Unknown	7	24	342.9		
Total	3510	3249	92.6	5.2	2.0



Priority 2 – Further reduce exclusions, both permanent and suspensions

A significant amount of work has been undertaken this year alongside our colleagues in Inclusion to further reduce exclusions in schools. This work will take time to make an impact so even though we have seen an increase in permanent exclusions in Lancashire this year, our suspensions have remained the same and in our highest excluding schools, where we have focused our efforts, these numbers have come down significantly.

Actions:

- An extra 70 schools have undertaken the 3-day intensive trauma informed practice training to equip staff with the right tools to manage children's behaviours more effectively. This means 207 schools have now been through this training.
- The two behaviour consultants have developed a comprehensive training programme for schools and attendance at these has been excellent.
- A behaviour network of school to school support based practice has been developed and training undertaken for these behaviour mentors.
- The Behaviour Quality Mark has had another cohort of 12 schools join its ranks.
- The Relational toolkit has been developed with the Educational Psychologist Team and Virtual school to enable schools to review their behaviour policies in light of evidence-based research around managing behaviours.
- Sixty children who have been permanently excluded from school have not been automatically placed in a short stay school. Instead, further information has been gathered from the headteacher, parents and through us of the child's voice, where possible, to see if a mainstream school would be more appropriate for the child. Action has then been taken to support them with this transition. This has meant a significant change in processes and communications with schools around these changes.
- Exclusion training for governors continues to be well attended.
- The inclusion and engagement service continue to provide vital support for children at risk of exclusion with SEND. This service now has a waiting list as it is so in demand by schools.
- The children's champions continue to provide extensive support to schools for children at risk of exclusion. Four more champions will be recruited due to funding from the schools forum to focus on reintegration and children who have been permanently excluded.
- Short Stay Schools are being encouraged and supported by CFW and the pupil access service to reintegrate pupils back into mainstream when they are ready.
- The Fair Access Protocols (which ensure children without a school place or from challenging circumstances can be placed in schools and fairly distributed) have been revised and new panels set up so each district now has a functioning FAP panel.
- The Genesis programme is a programme which we have written to formalise the process for reintegration from a PRU setting into a mainstream. It sets out the expectations of all involved and has been drafted in consultation with



headteachers in the East. The pilot for the programme will start from February to March and headteachers have agreed to a roll out from Easter. This should significantly support our AP strategy to move to a short stay school model and reintegrate children back into mainstream with the right support.

Impact

Unfortunately, the overall number of permanent exclusions has remained static. However, in the areas where we provided the most challenge last year, (Lancaster and Chorley) these have improved significantly. West Lancs remains committed to embedding trauma informed practice throughout their schools which has contributed to the reduction in exclusions here. However, there are still significant issues in some areas which need to be improved.

Autumn term 22/23 to Autumn term 23/24

District	22/23	23/24	% Change
Burnley	5	6	20%
Chorley	10	1	-90%
Fylde	2	3	50%
Hynburn	9	10	11%
Lancaster	12	4	-67%
Pendle	6	8	33%
Preston	7	16	129%
Rosendale	2	17	750%
South Ribble	9	13	44%
West Lancashire	13	5	-62%
Wyre	7	10	43%

Priority 3 – Addressing numbers of EHE where this is not in the best interests of the child.

This is a key priority for this year. The list of EHE children has been cleansed to ensure its very clear who we have contact with and who we don't. We have then used the list of those who haven't been in contact for over a year and have checked this across with council tax databases. This has removed some children from the list as they have moved away, but as we are reliant on district councils this is quite a lengthy process. Our next step will be to contact the families on the list to reiterate their need for annual contact and escalate this to home visits if necessary. If families do not contact us, they will be referred to CME but only after all attempts to contact them have been exhausted. A CME/EHE officer has been recruited and will start in March. This officer will be responsible for speaking to parents who have just decided to EHE and ensuring that they understand this commitment and to broker relationships with schools where required. It is hoped this work could mean less children becoming EHE. Nationally, the draft guidance for EHE has been updated. This provides the local authority with the ability to challenge parents to provide annual contact and evidence regarding a suitable education. Once this is implemented this will be very helpful to our work moving forward.



Priority 4 - Improve outcomes for vulnerable children.

Balance System

Working closely with public health, the service has helped to establish the Balanced system in Hyndburn, reducing speech and language referrals from 52 weeks to zero over a 12-month period. This will now be rolled out in Preston by April 24, Fylde and Wyre May 24, and South Ribble and Chorley by Dec 24. There are ongoing negotiations with other ICB/NHS boards for the other districts.

Attendance

Our new attendance lead has been appointed and is working on analysis of all the attendance visits from the Autumn term to identify the wider themes. We know that mental health and extended leave are coming through as the main reasons for persistent absence. Focus groups will take place in the Summer term to consult with children and families on how we can improve attendance and this will feed into the new attendance strategy in September. There has been a pilot to encourage families to shorten extended leave. Rather than fine after 15 days we have told parents that we would move to a prosecution instead. This has deterred significant numbers of families from taking more than 15 days out of school and therefore we are looking to roll this out across the county.

Impact

Lancashire continues to be higher than both national and regional averages for attendance, but this is lower than it was in the Autumn Term.

January 2024

	Lancashire	North West	England
Primary	93%	93%	93%
Secondary	90%	90%	90%
Special	88%	86%	86%

Inclusion Summits

In the Autumn Term, both heads of service attended all 12 districts to discuss how to create a more Inclusive Lancashire. We shared data on new to country, CME, exclusions and SEND data to demonstrate the changing picture in each district and how we can meet this new demand collaboratively. Out of these summits we have created a number of actions which we are acting on to move these forwards. These include setting one transition date for Year 7 across Lancashire, creating a directory of best practice and best practitioners across Lancashire, working out how to streamline the processes around consultation for EHCPs and development of further training and support in schools from all of our services. Further meetings will take place with Governors and Early Years settings prior to the summer, and it is expected that these consultative sessions will be able to inform the new Education/Inclusion Strategy for 2025 – 2028.



Priority 5 – Increase the number of children and young people in Education, Employment and Training

This is the second priority for 2023/2024 academic year. A NEET action plan has been created in collaboration and consultation with multi agency partners and will begin in September 2023 after approval by the Scrutiny committee.

The new Youth Futures Team are making a strong start engaging our districts with the highest numbers of children who are NEET, by creating local careers leads meetings and ensuring it is a TASS priority focus in the locality groups. The team have been working closely with colleges on how to retain young people and what mental health/local authority support they need in order to help young people stay in education.

However, we are seeing the impact of the reduction in flexible part time courses across Lancashire due to the change in funding from EFSA to UKSPF. This means that young people need to attend colleges/apprenticeships full time which is sometimes too big a step for them at this time.

Across all 16 and 17yr olds, compared to November, we have seen a reduction in the not knowns, from 6.0% (1,743) to 3.5% (1,020). This equates to 723 fewer young people. As a result, our NEET figures have increased by 230. Whilst this shows that 493 not knowns were actually in a positive destination, we are seeing the NEETs rising – there are 217 more young people in the NEET group than December 2022.

As always, it is important to note that there are more young people in the cohort (737) but the team is noticing the change and the percentage of young people who are NEET is rising – from 2.5% last year to 3.2% this year

The Youth Futures Team, and also the casual staff we use, have contacted the not known young people several times now, so we are looking at other ways to tackle this – contacting their secondary school, contacting other LAs for data etc.

With regard to the NEET group, the Youth Futures Team have said that there are four key reasons why young people are NEET – there isn't any appropriate provision for them; they want a job but can't get one; they have mental health issues preventing them from participating, or they just don't want to do anything.

16 and 17yr old CLA (LCC only) – the position is not as positive as last year with 18.7% of the cohort being NEET compared to 14.2% in December 2022. Also, the NEET position has increased from last month, with 64 young people being NEET in December, compared to 56 in November.

There are currently 342 CLA young people in the 16/17yr old cohort, which is 46 more than last year. 16 and 17yr olds with EHCP – we had an issue with the September 2022 to March 2023 data in the last academic year in that this was for 17yr olds with an EHCP only, so it is not possible to provide a direct comparison to last year. There were 23 young people with an EHCP who were not known in December, compared to 51 in November so this position has improved.



There are currently 1,285 young people aged 16/17yrs old living in Lancashire who have an EHCP issued by LCC. In the 16 and 17yr olds with SEN Support cohort there are 2,808 young people, which is 1,746 more than December 2022. In December 2023, 88.1% of these young people are in EET, compared to 94.7% in December 2022

This all suggests that the impact of the rise in mental health needs, SEND needs and lack of flexible provision are having an impact on the numbers of NEET in Lancashire.

Next steps

The wider Consultant and Advisory Team continue to support schools and most schools continue to have Good and Outstanding judgements from Ofsted. The training offer continues to be refined to ensure we are meeting the needs of schools and stronger links are being built with our inclusion colleagues to ensure that there is no duplication of work and that we are providing a consistent approach to schools with the right support.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The report celebrates the effective work of the service in the last term, however, the risks this year are the rise in permanent exclusions, NEET and the changes to early years funding which will be our challenges this year.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A



Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 13 March 2024

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
N/A;

Work Programme 2023/24
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:
Misbah Mahmood, Tel: 01772 530818, Senior Democratic Services Officer,
Misbah.mahmood@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report provides members of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee with the committee's work programme for 2023/24.

Recommendation

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the work programme for 2023/24.

Detail

The work programme for 2023/24 was drafted following the Portfolio and Service Area Update for the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee, held on 12 June 2023. Following this meeting, the draft programme was finalised, reported, and approved at the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board on 25 July 2023.

Attached at **Appendix 'A'** is a copy of the work programme for the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee for 2023/24, the committee is asked to note the work programme.

Included as part of the work programme will be a record of all recommendations agreed at previous committee meetings. This record will be updated for each meeting to allow members to review progress, outcomes and any further review required. It is proposed that this will be the focus of the work programme report at committee meetings.

Since the last meeting of the committee in January 2024, no further updates to the committee's recommendations have been received.

Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report. For clarification it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Work Programme for the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee 2023/24

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal

N/A

Finance

N/A

Risk management

N/A

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A



Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023-2024

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken during the forthcoming municipal year.

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee has responsibility to review and scrutinise the county council's Children's Services functions, other matters affecting children, young people and families, and to satisfy the statutory responsibilities related to the education functions of a Children's Services Authority. Accordingly, the work of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee will focus on the following areas:

1. Children's Social Care
2. Children's Services
3. Education and Skills

The programme is determined by the Committee following a planning session at the start of the municipal year. This includes provision for the rights of county councillors to ask for any matter to be considered by the committee.

Coordination of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee programmes is undertaken by the Scrutiny Management Board. This is in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Terms of Reference, as set out in the county council's [Constitution](#) (Part 2 Article 5).

Cabinet Members

The Cabinet Member portfolios aligned to the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee's responsibilities are:

[County Councillor Cosima Towneley](#), Cabinet Member for Children and Families

[County Councillor Jayne Rear](#), Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

The areas of responsibility for each Cabinet Member are set out at [Appendix A – Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members](#) to the county council's constitution.

Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023-2024

	Committee Meeting Date					
Scrutiny Activity	20 Sept 2023	1 Nov 2023	13 Dec 2023	31 Jan 2024	13 Mar 2024	15 May 2024
Service Area Report to Committee	Academisation / Commercialisation Education Strategy Annual Report Report on School Place Planning Inquiry Day	EET/NEET (as well as connecting with local businesses to create opportunities)	Alternative Provision Strategy SEND Sufficiency Plan	School Transport	Family Safeguarding and Complex Safeguarding (include update on Project Searchlight)	Strengthening the Youth Offer across Lancashire Lancashire Education Strategy 2025-2028
Annual Report to Committee		School Place Planning Annual Update		Education Attainment Data		Youth Justice Board Annual Report Annual Quality Assurance Checks
Update Report for Information		Education Attainment Overview Update			Education Strategy Update	
Short Scrutiny (Rapporteur) Review or Other Scrutiny Review Such as a Deep Dive			Briefing Note on the broader work and implications of the House Project.		A Deep Dive Session to be held on 23 April, at 2.00pm on Inclusion (including mainstream), Mental Health, Delivering the Where our Children Live programme, Family Hubs and what we are doing in Schools	

Cabinet Member Required Attendance	Cabinet Member for Children and Families and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Cabinet Member for Children and Families and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Cabinet Member for Children and Families
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Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee Recommendations Progress

Meeting Date	Report Title	Corporate Priority	Recommendation	Progress Detail
20 September 23	Academisation / Commercialisation	Caring for the vulnerable; Delivering better services	That: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Education Improvement Service and support the Academisation and Commercialisation report. ii. An update on Academisation and Commercialisation be provided to the committee in 12 months. 	The recommendations have been shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills. The Cabinet Member provided a written response, which was emailed to committee members and will be included in the work programme report at the meeting on 31 January 2024.
20 September 23	Education Strategy Annual Report	Caring for the vulnerable; Delivering better services	That: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. An update on Home Education (to include the number of children who are home educated in Lancashire, and where possible, attainment data on what they go on to achieve e.g., at college) to be presented to the committee at the January 2024 meeting, or at an appropriate time. ii. A piece of work to be completed to understand the reasons behind persistent absence, using data from the termly visits conducted by Attendance Workers, to be circulated to the committee when available. iii. Details of the number of permanent exclusions, broken down by district, including details of any 	The recommendations have been shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills. The Cabinet Member provided a written response, which was emailed to committee members and will be included in the work programme report at the meeting on 31 January 2024.

			<p>specific clusters and trends to be circulated to the committee.</p> <p>iv. Details of the percentage and raw numbers of families not receiving any of their top three choices in secondary school admissions, and a breakdown by district to be circulated to the committee.</p> <p>v. Details of the cost to schools for a Behaviour Consultant to be circulated to the committee.</p> <p>vi. A structure chart or diagram to illustrate the different services which are offered to schools, including their roles and responsibilities be circulated to the committee at an appropriate time.</p>	
20 September 23	Report on School Place Planning Inquiry Day (Mainstream and SEND) and School Transport	Caring for the vulnerable; Delivering better services; Protecting our Environment	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A piece of work to take place on school place planning and how it has been distorted by various factors such as margin of error above 5% and new housing developments. Faith schools to also be included in this review. 2. Consideration be given to what issues cause inaccurate forecasting when the margin of error is above 5%. 3. Consideration be given to what measures can be taken to ameliorate the destabilisation of established schools when the margin of error is approaching 5%. 4. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to consider the reinstatement of the Safer Travel Unit, as and when the budget allows. 5. A report be presented to the Children, Families and Skills committee setting out how we work 	<p>The recommendations have been shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.</p> <p>A response has been provided and will be shared with the committee as part of the Work Programme report at its meeting on the 1 November 23.</p>

			<p>closer with the district planning authorities to ensure that we maximise developer contributions. Progress to be reported and updated on a regular basis on the Dashboard.</p> <p>6. Consideration be given to a review of the procurement process for school transport contracts in relation to environmentally friendly issues such as cleaner, low carbon and greener options and for this to be considered as part of the scoring process. Review to include types of fuel, vehicle age and plans for electric/hydrogen vehicles etc.</p> <p>7. That the Education Improvement Team liaise with schools and consider using the safest routes (not necessarily the shortest) to schools when assessing eligibility for home to school transport applications and proximity of schools to homes.</p> <p>8. That the School Transport Team and School Place Planning team have a closer working relationship with the aim of endeavouring to avoid an allocation of a place for which school transport is eligible but cannot be provided due to a lack of capacity.</p> <p>9. That a review of School Transport take place in conjunction with the Public Transport Team, to consider how best to increase uptake of greener school transport options and bus use more widely though better service provision. The aim of the review will be to provide sufficient places for all those who want to use the bus (notwithstanding the fundamental statutory obligation to provide for children who qualify for home to school transport). The review could explore:</p> <p>a. increased co-ordination of commercial, subsidised, school buses, and where</p>	
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1 November 2023	Young People in Education, Employment or Training and Young People not in Education, Employment or Training	Caring for the vulnerable; Delivering better services	<p>Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Youth Futures Team be invited to attend a future meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee to talk about their work, the progress they have made and any challenges and barriers they have faced. <p>Actions for officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KS4 to KS5 Transition Booklet to be emailed out to committee members. - A request to the colleges for any data held on young people in EET, specifically relating to Refugees to be shared with the committee. - In regard to Tables 7 – 9 in the report showing the successful outcomes/progression routes achieved by the cohort of Lancashire's young people in care or leaving care who are engaged with the Employment and Support Team, if there a reason why it appears public sector opportunities in Lancashire are reducing? 	<p>The recommendations have been shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member provided a written response, which was emailed to committee members and will be included in the work programme report at the meeting on 31 January 2024.</p>

1 November 2023	School Place Planning Annual Report	Delivering better services; Caring for the vulnerable; Protecting our environment; Supporting economic growth	<p>Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report to be presented to a future meeting of the committee to consider the new schools programme in Northwest Preston, taking into consideration the outcome of the consultation, feedback from existing schools and what that means in terms of the next stage. <p>Action for officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regarding forecasting, it was highlighted during the Inquiry Day that some areas changed from a hot spot to a cold spot, with more than 20 places available in existing schools, it was agreed that a letter be written to established primary schools, in areas where they felt destabilised. Officers to check if a letter has gone out. 	The recommendations have been shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – awaiting response.
13 December 2023	Alternative Provision Strategy	Caring for the vulnerable; Delivering better services	<p>Resolved: That the action taken to date and planned in relation to the Alternative Provision Strategy be supported with no further recommendations from the committee at this time.</p>	No update required for this item.
13 December 2023	SEND Sufficiency Plan	Caring for the vulnerable; Delivering better services	<p>Resolved: That the proposals that are being developed to increase the range and availability of specialist provision across Lancashire be supported with no further recommendations from the committee at this time.</p>	No update required for this item.
31 January 2024	School and Post 16 Transport	Caring for the vulnerable;		The recommendations have been shared with the Cabinet Member for

		Delivering better services	<p>Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consideration be given to investing in software that can provide tracking data on passenger routes, use of passes and how often routes are used to better manage, monitor, and rationalise the services provided in relation to school transport. ii. Further information to be provided on how risks are mitigated in relation to standees on buses. 	Education and Skills – awaiting response.
31 January 2024	Education Attainment Data	Caring for the vulnerable; Delivering better services; Supporting economic growth	<p>Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. When available, the 2024 Attainment Data Tables to be made available to members of the committee. ii. Outcomes of the Disadvantaged Conference with schools to be shared with the committee once available. 	The recommendations have been shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – awaiting response.