

**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:  
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**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

