

Lancashire County Council

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 9th February, 2021 at 10.30 am in Teams Virtual Meeting - Teams

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 13 January 2021 (Pages 1 - 4)

4. Early Years sector – impact on private providers supporting vulnerable children and families (Pages 5 - 18)

5. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/2021 (Pages 19 - 24)

6. 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.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will be held on Thursday 11 March 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, 13th January, 2021 at 10.30 am in Skype Virtual Meeting

Present:

County Councillor Andrea Kay (Chair)

County Councillors

L Beavers	A Gardiner
Mrs S Charles	J Mein
A Cheetham	E Nash
S Clarke	J Potter
M Dad	J Purcell
B Dawson MBE	M Salter
J Eaton BEM	P Steen

Co-opted members

County Councillors Lorraine Beavers and Bernard Dawson replaced County Councillors Nikki Hennessy and Sobia Malik respectively for this meeting.

Stephen Whittaker attended in place of Dr Sam Johnson.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor David Smith, Mrs Janet Hamid and Simon Smith.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

County Councillor Peter Steen declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a governor of Bacup Maintained Nursery.

County Councillor Jennifer Mein declared a non-pecuniary interest as she was a governor at Ribbleton Avenue Infant School, St. Ignatius Primary School and Preston College.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2020

Resolved: The minutes from the meeting held on 16 December 2020 were confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Shaping the future of multi-agency Early Help in Lancashire

The Committee received a presentation and update from Sarah Callaghan, Director of Education and Skills, and, Debbie Duffell, Head of Service Early Help, Children and Family Wellbeing on the Early Help Offer for Lancashire informing Members that Early Help meant providing support as soon as a problem emerged, at any point of a child's life from the foundation years to the teenage years. Early Help could also prevent further problems arising.

It was noted that the model of Early Help delivered by Lancashire County Council strengthened the focus on outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and their families by prioritising children and families with the most needs. It delivered an Early Help offer for families across the county in neighbourhoods, multi-agency support teams around schools and family support at home. It ensured that the Early Help Service offer aligned with education provision at a locality basis recognising that most children accessed childcare and went to school. It complemented the Family Safeguarding model and other joint working opportunities.

It was noted that in terms of delivering Early Help to children, young people and families it was vital for them to have access to provision of the right support, at the right level at the right time. Regarding Family Intensive Support which was about responding to families with more complex needs and where there were developing risks for children, a lot of resources had been put aside for this.

It was noted that Lancashire County Council did things well in terms of delivering Early Help Support. The county council had been able to demonstrate the impact that its Early Help offer had made through its engagement with the national Troubled Families Programme.

It was noted that there was a key focus on ensuring Lancashire County Council worked alongside colleagues in delivering the new Family Safeguarding Model in Lancashire. There was a workforce development programme in place to improve practice in Early Help and align practitioners with the Family Safeguarding Model. The development programme would also strengthen Early Help Partnership arrangements.

Members were informed that the team would establish joint management oversight arrangements with social care for the new service arrangements. The Early Help Partnership strategy would be reviewed and updated based on the Early Help remodelling, Family Safeguarding Model and Early Years Strategy. The team would embed the closer support for school approach, delivering early intervention pathways. The remodelling and audit action plans would be implemented including a new Quality Assurance and Performance Framework.

Comments and questions raised by the committee were as follows:

- There was concern over what the impact Covid-19 had been in terms of family breakdown, domestic violence and mental health issues. The

committee enquired if Lancashire County Council had front loaded resources to try and meet the steep increase in demand regarding these issues. It was noted that since the pandemic these issues had been exacerbated. There had been increased referrals regarding home education and vulnerable families had become more vulnerable. The team had moved Early Help Partnership Officers into school improvement. The Early Help Team was in the process of recruiting two Children's Champions, one for primary schools and one for secondary schools. The team met weekly with health colleagues and education teams so that the right services were in place to support families. More resources would be put into Early Help particularly around children with Special Educational Needs.

- There had been a lot of changes to how the Early Help Team delivered support to children, young people and families. A lot of support provision had now been moved onto digital platforms but it was noted that face to face family support was still maintained.
- The Early Help Team must support its partners in order to support their growth of capacity and confidence to deliver Early Help.
- The committee was informed that there were various ways for identifying when Early Help was needed. One way was through referrals from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH considered what the Early Help needs were and what level of support was needed. Once the decision was made the MASH would send the family the right service for support. Another pathway into Early Help was through district social care teams. There was a pathway for children and families to come out of statutory services and come to Early Help. There was also a pathway where families could refer themselves. There were 24 neighbourhood centres still open in Lancashire where people could walk into and ask for support. The Early Help Team was a consent based service. There was a request for a flowchart showing what pathways were being used by families.
- It was noted that the Troubled Families Programme was due to end in March 2021. Members were informed that the programme was a success. The Government still wanted to invest in it and it would be extended for another year. The Lancashire Early Help Service was responsible for the delivery of the programme.
- It was noted that the Troubled Families Programme was a payment by results model and the Early Help Service could only secure investment if it was able to demonstrate the impact it was having. The implementation of the new service model was not reliant on the Troubled Families Programme income.
- The Children and Family Wellbeing's budget was made up of a contribution from the local authority and a contribution from Public Health Grants. The service was in a sustainable position. The service had a finite resource and there was a limit to what capacity it could deliver.
- There was concern around Elective Home Education and the committee enquired what Lancashire County Council was doing to lobby Government to change the rules to ensure children and young people were being properly educated. The service got monthly updates on the number of

people being home educated. These people were also refined by other vulnerable factors like being eligible for Early Help, free school meals, did they have an Education Health and Care Plan or were they on Child Protection. The local authority had to visit the families within six weeks of starting Elective Home Education to make sure they were receiving their education entitlement. The service was looking at Elective Home Education with regards to vulnerable groups and was revising its protocol.

- The committee was pleased that Lancashire County Council was using good practice from other authorities.

Resolved: The Education and Children's Services Committee noted the update report on the Early Help offer for Lancashire.

5. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/2021

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

The meeting on 9 February would focus on the Early Years Sector regarding the impact on private providers supporting vulnerable children and families, including an update on the Early Years Strategy and School Improvement Model. There was a request for the funding pressures on the Early Years Sector to be included. There would also be an update on the recommendations from the Schools Causing Concern Task Group.

A special meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee had been arranged for Tuesday 2 February at 2:00pm to receive a briefing from West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, Southport and Formby CCG and Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust on their Shaping Care Together Programme and the transformation of hospital and community services provided to children in West Lancashire and Sefton.

Resolved: That the work plan presented be noted.

6. Urgent Business

There was no Urgent Business.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next virtual meeting of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee would take place on Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 10.30am.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 4

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 9 February 2021

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Early Years sector – impact on private providers supporting vulnerable children and families

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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

Executive Summary

A presentation on the Early Years sector – impact on private providers supporting vulnerable children and families.

Recommendation

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

Background and Advice

Sarah Callaghan, Director of Education and Skills and Delyth Mathieson, Head of School Improvement will attend the meeting to deliver a presentation on the Early Years sector – impact on private providers supporting vulnerable children and families. A copy of the presentation is set out at appendix 'A'.

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

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

Early Years sector – impact on private providers supporting vulnerable children and families

Introduction and Background

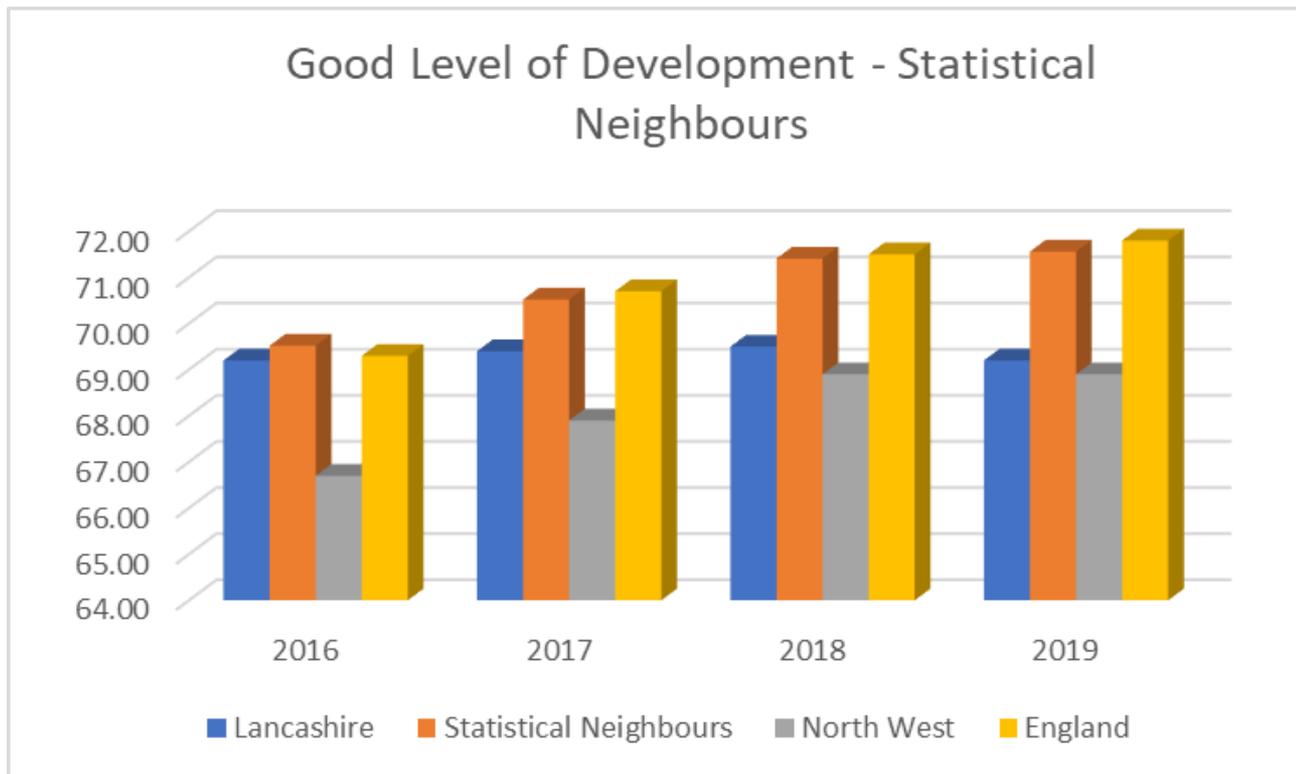
- Currently 1407 providers in Lancashire
- Lancashire receives an historically lower rate of DfE funding for 2, 3 & 4 year olds
- High levels of deprivation
- Early Years - Key Priority for the Service

Challenges

- **Finance** – Threat to Viability
- **Ofsted Grades** - Changes to EYFS and subsequent impact on how settings are inspected
- **Early Education Funding (EEF) take up** - Reduced take up of 2-year-old EEF, especially in areas of deprivation
- **Maintained Nursery Schools** – Financial sustainability and current service demand
- **Early Years Strategy & Outcomes** – Outcomes of strategy not yet measured
- **Early Years, Key Priority for the Service** – Low 'Good Level of Development' score for children transferring from early years settings to formal education

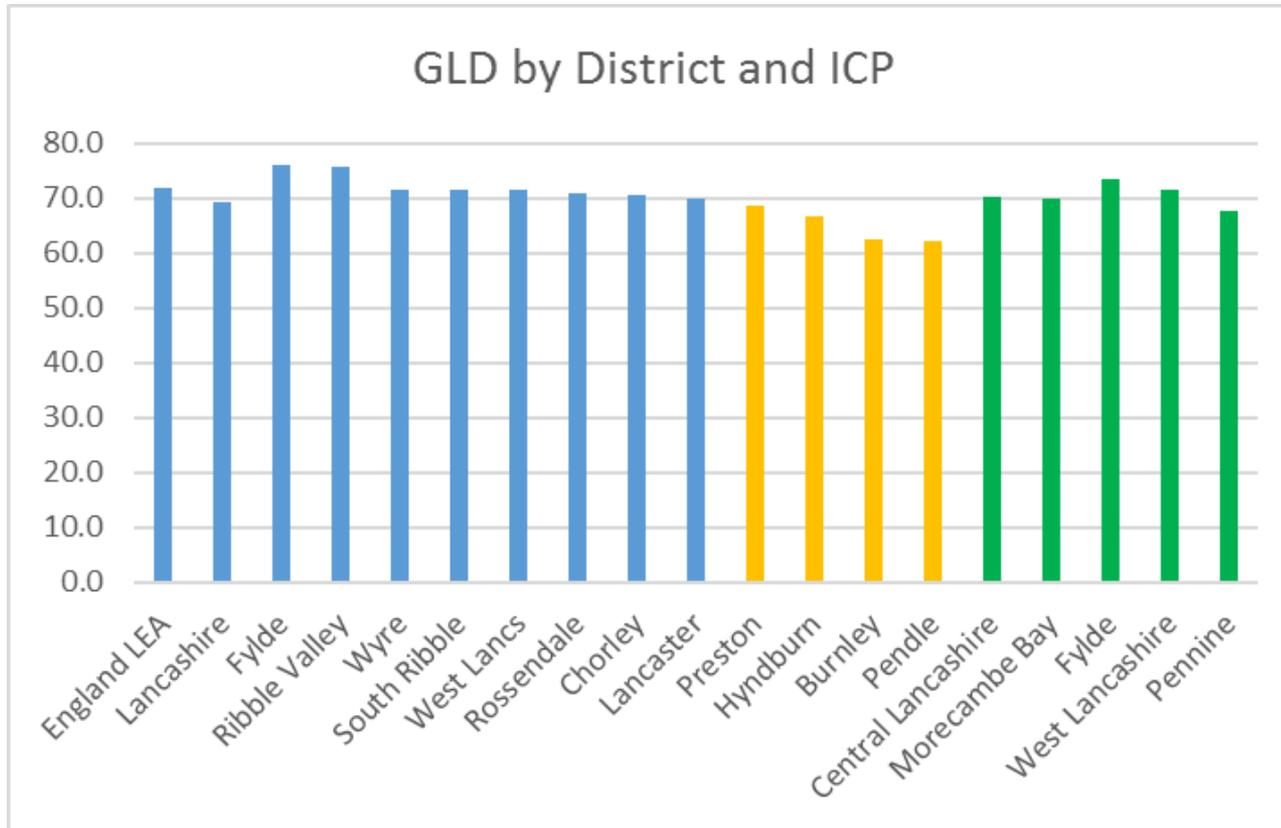
Good Level of Development

Statistical Neighbours



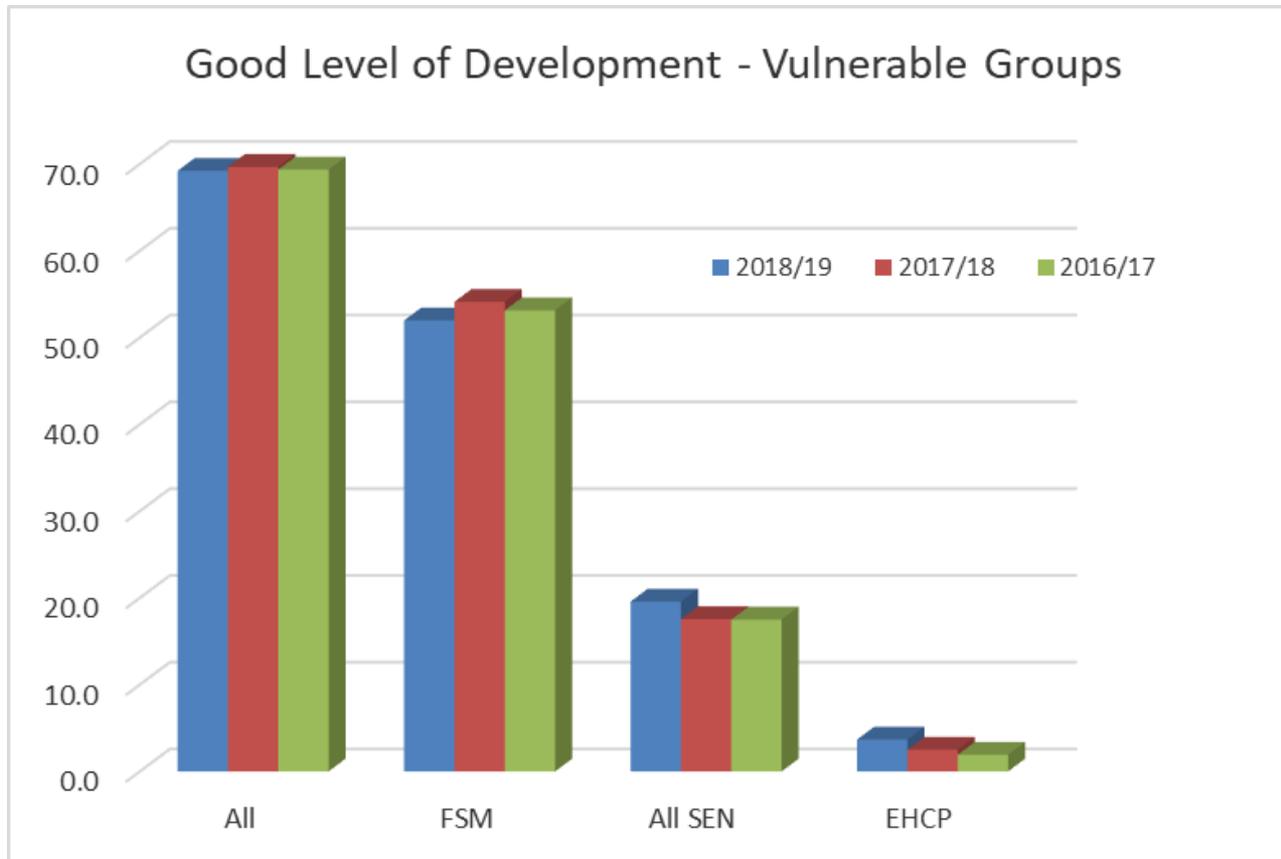
Good Level of Development

District and Integrated Care Partnerships



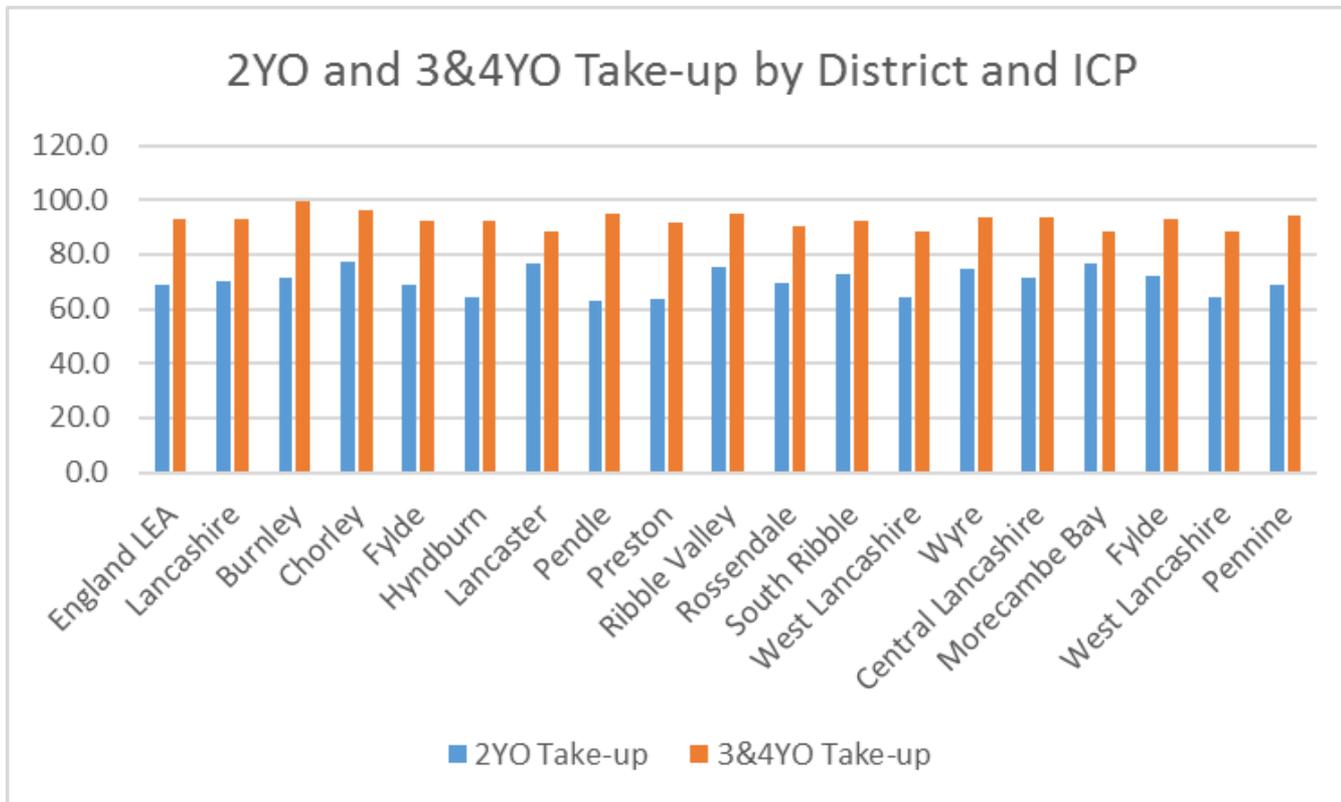
Good Level of Development

Vulnerable Groups



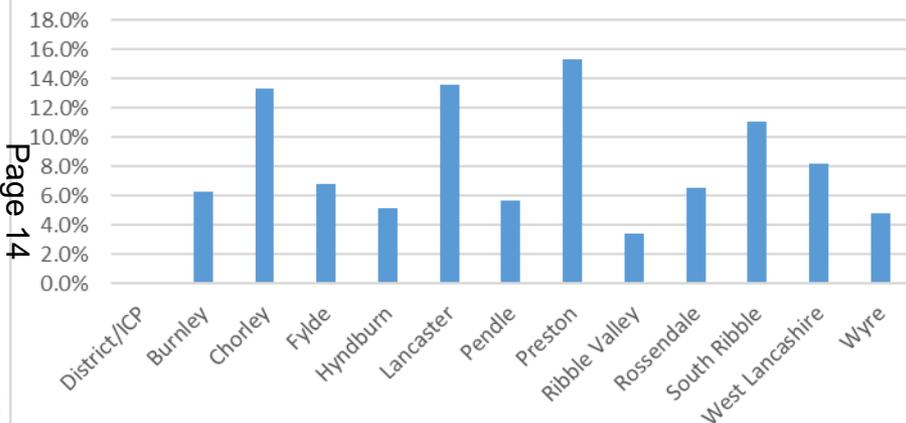
EEF Take-up

District and Integrated Care Partnerships

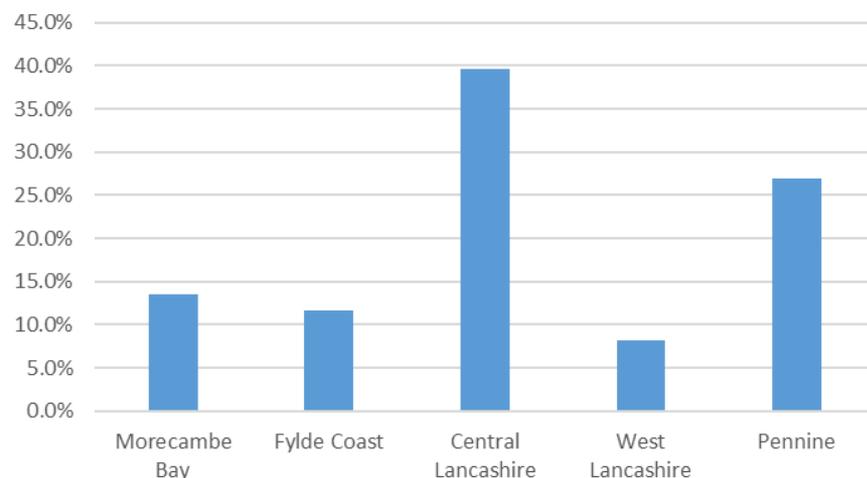


EEF Take-up – Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable Children - 2YO Eligibility by District

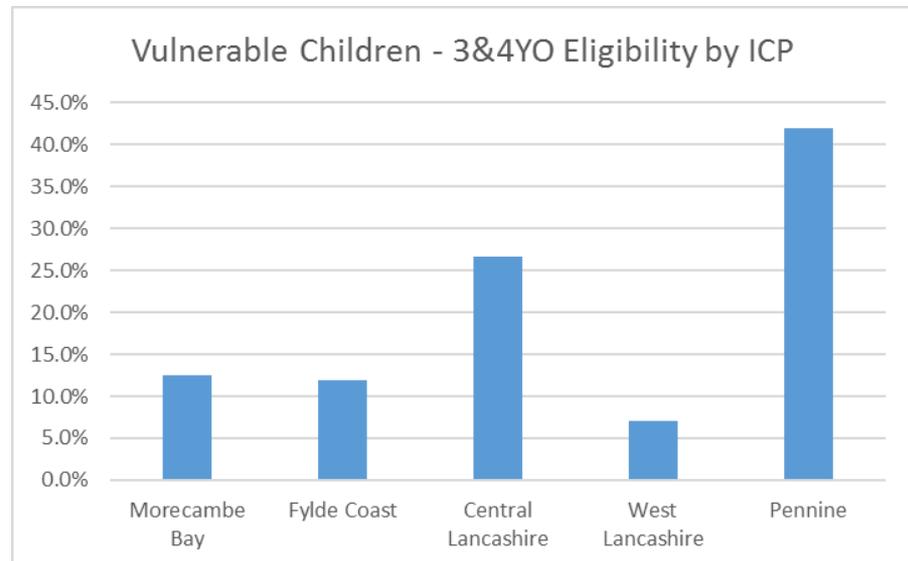
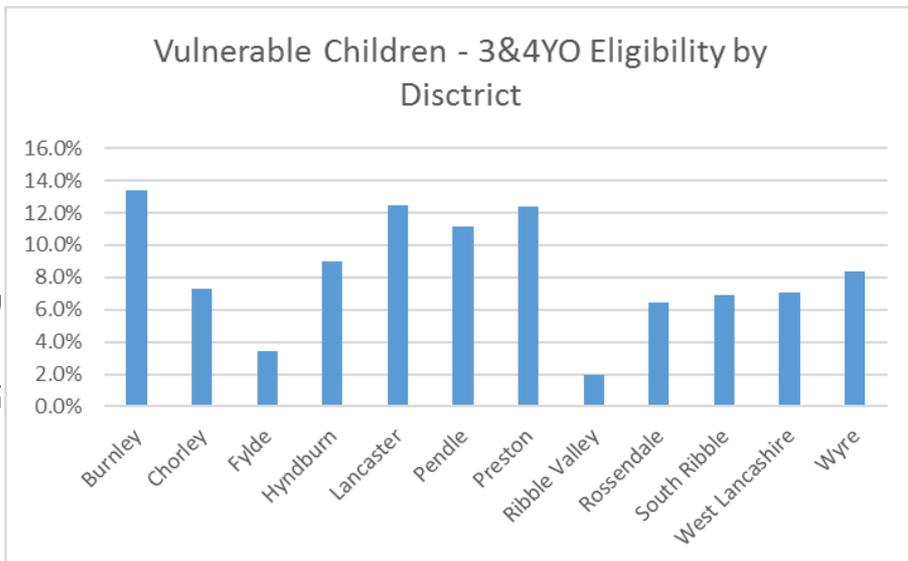


Vulnerable Children - 2YO Eligibility by ICP



Page 14

EEF Take-up – Vulnerable Groups



Solutions

- **Finance** – Financial Training and Business Modelling
- **Ofsted Grades** – Training and guidance for providers to embed new EYFS framework
- **Early Education Funding (EEF) take up** – Enhanced action plan delivered to reflect local demands for EEF
- **Maintained Nursery Schools** - Consultation on Future Delivery Models to launch in February
- **Early Years Strategy & Outcomes** – Outcome measures to be sourced and populated to drive strategy forwards
- **Early Years, Key Priority for the Service** – Further develop holistic model of transition from Early Years to Formal Education

Priority Actions

- **EEF 2YO** – Targeted activity to enable access to funded childcare places for those that need it the most
- **Financially Secure Providers** – PVI's and MNS to be consulted on financial vision for the whole sector
- **Outcome Measurement** - Data collection & analysis of current position and future pathways

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 9 February 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

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RIPA annual report 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"> • Shaping Care Together briefing on the transformation of community and hospital services for adults in West Lancashire and Sefton areas 	

		<p>EY Strategy and School Improvement Model)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaping Care Together briefing on the transformation of community and hospital services in West Lancashire and Sefton areas (Special Meeting 2 Feb 2021 pm) 			
	March	<p>**Family Safeguarding Model – update on implementation of model in Oct/Nov 2020</p> <p>Schools causing concern task group - update on recommendations</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS 111 First – update (tbc) Health System Reforms (tbc) 	<p>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)</p>
	April	<p>**SEND: Lancashire Breaktime update SEND Accelerated Progress Plan update Progress update on Pupils in special schools with medical conditions task group recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Credit – Welfare Rights Service update (tbc) Review of Community Safety Partnerships Governance arrangements 	-	<p>Scrutiny of the Council's response to the Government's call for local councils to invest in street safety</p>

Appendix 'A'

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Other Topics</p>	<p>Topics from work programmes 2019/20 not scheduled</p>	<p>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) CAMHS Redesign in Lancashire and South Cumbria – progress report (tbc)</p>	<p>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)</p> <p>LEP – response to the pandemic – economic recovery plan incorporating 'green' principles Impact of pandemic on road safety and lessons learnt</p>	<p>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 Disabled Facilities Grants Housing with Care and Support Strategy 2018-2025 – tbc 2021 Healthcare Infrastructure Programme (HiP2) – tbc 2021 Update on The Future of Hospital Services in Central Lancashire Task and Finish Group activity</p>	<p>Local Government Funding and Income Generation Task Group Update on Reducing Single Use Plastics in Lancashire</p>