

Lancashire County Council

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 9th March, 2016 at 4.30 pm in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item
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1.	Apologies
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2.	Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair
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To note the appointment of County Councillor Gina Dowding as Chair of the Committee and County Councillor Susie Charles as Deputy Chair.

3.	Terms of Reference and Membership
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(Pages 1 - 4)

4.	Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests
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Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.

5.	Children's Partnership Board Representatives - Services Overview
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(Verbal Report)

Presented by: Elaine Shinks, Terri Hacking, Sarah Barraclough, Alice Marquis-Carr and Debra Wilson
To provide an overview of their service areas to the Committee

6.	Draft Work Plan
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(Pages 5 - 18)

Presented by: Wendy Broadley

7.	Recent and Forthcoming Decisions
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(Pages 19 - 20)

8.	Urgent Business
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9.	Date of the Next Meeting
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Next meeting of the Committee to be held on the 20th April 2016 at 4.30pm, Cabinet Room C, County Hall

County Hall
Preston

I Young
Director of Governance,
Finance and Public Services

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Note: The Committee shall, for the purpose of discharging the statutory health overview and scrutiny functions in relation to services for children and young people, include five non-voting district council Members.

The committee shall also include a representative nominated by the Youth Council with full voting rights.

1. To review decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any relevant functions undertaken by the Cabinet collectively, or the relevant Cabinet Members or Cabinet committee.
2. To make reports or recommendations to the Full Council, the Cabinet or the relevant Cabinet Members or Cabinet committee with respect to the discharge of any functions undertaken by the Cabinet collectively or the relevant Cabinet Members or Cabinet committee.
3. In reviewing decisions (other than decisions designated as urgent under Standing Order 34(3)) made in connection with the discharge of any relevant functions undertaken by the Cabinet collectively or the relevant Cabinet Members or Cabinet committee, but which have not been implemented, the Committee may recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it or to refer the decision to the Full Council for it to decide whether it wishes it to be reconsidered by the decision taker.
4. To request a report by the executive to Full Council where a decision which was not treated as being a key decision has been made and the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is of the opinion that the decision should have been treated as a key decision
5. To hold general policy reviews and to assist in the development of future policies and strategies (whether requested by the Full Council, the Cabinet, the relevant Cabinet Members, Cabinet committee or decided by the Committee itself) and, after consulting with any appropriate interested parties, to make recommendations to either the Cabinet, the relevant Cabinet Members, Cabinet committee or to the Full Council as appropriate.
6. To undertake reviews (whether requested by the Full Council, the Cabinet, the relevant Cabinet Members, Cabinet committee or decided by the Committee itself) and make recommendations to the Full Council, the Cabinet, Cabinet committee or the relevant Cabinet Members, as appropriate, on relevant services or activities carried out by external organisations which affect Lancashire or its inhabitants.
7. To consider any relevant matter referred to the Committee by the Scrutiny Committee following a request by a County Councillor or a Co-optee of the Committee who wishes the issue to be considered.

8. To request that the Scrutiny Committee establish sub-committees, task groups and other working groups and panels as necessary.
9. To invite to any meeting of the Committee and permit to participate in discussion and debate, but not to vote, any person not a County Councillor whom the Committee considers would assist it in carrying out its functions.
10. To require any Councillor who is a member of the Cabinet, the appropriate Executive Director or a senior officer nominated by him/her to attend any meeting of the Committee to answer questions and discuss issues.
11. To recommend the Full Council to co-opt on to the committee persons with appropriate expertise in the relevant children's services matters, without voting rights
12. To recommend to the Scrutiny Committee appropriate training for members of the Committee on children's services related issues.
13. To request that the Scrutiny Committee establish as necessary joint working arrangements with district councils and other neighbouring authorities.

The following provisions relating to scrutiny of health and social care relate to services for children and young people:

14. To review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area and make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies as appropriate,
15. In reviewing any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area, to invite interested parties to comment on the matter and take account of relevant information available, particularly that provided by the Local Healthwatch
16. To review and scrutinise any local services planned or provided by other agencies which contribute towards the health improvement and the reduction of health inequalities in Lancashire and to make recommendations to those agencies, as appropriate
17. In the case of contested NHS proposals for substantial service changes, to take steps to reach agreement with the NHS body
18. In the case of contested NHS proposals for substantial service changes where agreement cannot be reached with the NHS, to refer the matter to the relevant Secretary of State.
19. To refer to the relevant Secretary of State any NHS proposal which the Committee feels has been the subject of inadequate consultation.

20. To scrutinise the social care services provided or commissioned by NHS bodies exercising local authority functions under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999.
21. To draw up a forward programme of health scrutiny in consultation with other local authorities, NHS partners, the Local Healthwatch and other key stakeholders.
22. To acknowledge within 20 working days to referrals on relevant matters from the Local Healthwatch or Local Healthwatch contractor, and to keep the referrer informed of any action taken in relation to the matter
23. To require the Chief Executives of local NHS bodies to attend before the Committee to answer questions, and to invite the chairs and non-executive directors of local NHS bodies to appear before the Committee to give evidence.
24. To invite any officer of any NHS body to attend before the Committee to answer questions or give evidence.

Agenda Item 6

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 9 March 2016

Electoral Divisions affected: All

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Plan 2016/17

(Appendices A & B refer)

Contact for further information:

Wendy Broadley, 07825 584684, Democratic Services,

wendy.broadley@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

A briefing session was held on 9 February to enable members to have a general overview of children's services and discuss potential topics for scrutiny by the Committee. A copy of the notes of the session are attached at Appendix A

It was also agreed by the Chair that a draft work plan be formulated for consideration by the Committee and this is now attached at Appendix B

The topics currently included were identified at the briefing session and suggestions by the Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation

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

Background and Advice

At Full Council on 17 December it was agreed to establish a new "Children's Services Scrutiny Committee", and consequential amendments to the Terms of Reference of the scrutiny committees.

Following the Ofsted inspection in September and October it was proposed to establish an additional scrutiny committee with the remit to consider matters relating to services for children and young people.

The new committee, called the "Children's Services Scrutiny Committee" (CSSC), will operate in addition to the existing committees. Its remit will cover all issues relating to children and young people's services, although specifically education matters will still be reserved for the Education Scrutiny Committee. The

new CSSC will scrutinise services provided by the council and all partners, including the health service. To facilitate the new committee's work in relation to the health service, it is proposed that it be given the statutory powers of an overview and scrutiny committee as they relate to the NHS.

Prior to the first formal meeting of the CSSC on 9 March it was agreed that a briefing session be provided for members to receive background information which included

- Overview of Children's Services
- Summary of the Ofsted inspection/remit of the Post Inspection Improvement Board
- Newton Consultants
- Children's Health Issues

A copy of the notes of the session are attached at Appendix A

In line with all the scrutiny committees a statement of the current status of work being undertaken and considered by the Committee is presented to each meeting for information. For the first meeting of the CSSC a draft work plan has been formulated and is attached at Appendix B.

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/Directorate/Tel
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N/A.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.

Lancashire County Council

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Briefing Session

Notes of the Briefing held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 11am in Cabinet Room C, County Hall, Preston

Present:

Committee Members:

County Councillor Gina Dowding
County Councillor Susie Charles
County Councillor Sue Prynn
County Councillor Graham Gooch
County Councillor David Smith
County Councillor Cynthia Dereli
County Councillor Mike Otter

Terri Hacking, Action for Children
Debra Wilson, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust
Sarah Barraclough, Ashton Primary School
Alice Marquis-Carr, Fylde & Wyre CCG

Officers

Wendy Broadley, Principle Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Bob Stott, Director Children's Services
Louise Taylor, Corporate Director Operations and Delivery
County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Richard Cooke, Health Equity, Welfare and Partnerships Manager
Chris Coyle, Senior Practitioner – Child Protection
Sakthi Karunanithi, Director Public Health and Wellbeing
Steven Knight, Newton Consultants
Emily Roche, Newton Consultants

Apologies:

Apologies were received from County Councillors Munsif Dad and Julie Gibson and Elaine Shinks

Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed committee members to this briefing for an opportunity to meet and gain an understanding of children's services prior to the first formal meeting of the Committee.

As part of the briefing, there was a number of presentations and electronic copies of these were circulated to the committee members.

Overview of Children's Services

Bob Stott presented to the Committee an overview of the current Children's Services structure with details of each service:

- Traded Services includes a number of services such as School Catering Service, Educational/Off Site Visits and Governor Services. This is very much a school focussed service with a wide remit. Traded Services operates on a full cost recovery basis.
- School Improvement covers a wide variety of services which includes Elective Home Education (EHE) and Alternative Education Provision. Much of these services are traded with a number of statutory elements. Bob reported that currently 90% of primary schools and 83% of secondary schools have Ofsted judgements of good/outstanding.
- Safeguarding, Inspection and Audit Responsibilities Service sits at the heart of all children's services. This service links in with Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and has several functions that provide a link to all services including Independent Reviewing Officers, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information Advice and Support Service.
- Adoption, Fostering, Residential and Youth Offending Team includes Supporting Carers and Young People Together (SCAYT +). The Residential Team deals with some of the most challenging children and Ofsted have particular interest in this part of the service.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Service includes the monitoring and transition of all children and young people with SEND. In addition, Education Psychology forms part of this service. There has been a national shortage of education psychologists but Lancashire County Council are now getting back up to full staffing numbers.
- Children's Social Care sits at the core of the safeguarding offer and includes some of the most difficult services to deliver. This service includes children subject to children in need plans (CiN) and those subject to child protection plans (CPP).

At this point, Bob introduced Chris Coyle to the Committee to detail the work within children's social care.

There is a level of complexity when working within children's social care particularly the challenges faced with dealing not only with complex family needs but also with the judicial system.

Much of the work is linked to neglect issues which can result from a number of behaviours relating to the toxic trio (substance misuse, domestic violence, mental health and in addition, disguised compliance). These behaviours may also link to mental health issues.

Child protection plans (CPP) can include Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Female Genitalia Mutilation (FGM), radicalisation and childhood obesity.

Chris outlined the process when a referral is received through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) or the Contact and Referral Team (CART). CART are responsible for identifying whether a Section 17 or Section 47 assessment is required.

Children Looked After (CLA) follow a different pathway. They are subject to Independent Reviewing Officer reviews after placement but a child can be removed from a placement as we have overall responsibility as a corporate parent.

Home education – Bob reported to the Committee that to take a child out of school to educate at home, parents need to contact the school and the local authority but if a child has never been in education, this is not required. This can create a safeguarding issue as the local authority would not be made aware of the child although other services may pick up where a child is not entering education system and notify the local authority.

It was agreed that the following information would be circulated to the Committee:

- A glossary of acronyms
- Information on Section 17 and 47 processes
- Flowchart of pathway from the initial referral into children's social care

Summary of the Ofsted inspection/remit of the Post Inspection Improvement Board

Richard presented information to the group on the Ofsted inspection and the Post Inspection Improvement Board.

The findings indicated a unique outcome where Children's Services were judged as inadequate with the LSCB judged as good.

The Ofsted report is based around 17 recommendations but there are also other areas which require consideration.

A number of immediate actions were completed which included workforce capacity. This has now been addressed through recruitment of a number of agency staff and newly qualified social workers (NQSW).

Linda Clegg has been seconded from Blackburn with Darwen Council as Director of Children's Services to help support the significant transformation work

required. Linda will report to Louise Taylor, Corporate Director of Operations and Delivery.

All Child in Need cases have been reviewed to assess the level of risk. There are currently a number of systems in place for performance reviewing which are being worked on to identify the correct reporting requirements. Liquid Logic is the case management system used which is linked to performance reporting.

Ofsted have agreed to support Lancashire County Council with an improvement offer which includes monthly visits with feedback on findings and a quarterly report to the Improvement Board.

The timeline for re inspection is two years and the judgement can only be changed after full inspection has taken place.

The Post Inspection Improvement Board has been established with a varied membership of elected members and partners including health, police, LSCB, voluntary organisations and the Children and Young People's Trust chair (although membership is not static and will change to be reflective of issues).

The Improvement Board will monitor the delivery of improvement through a plan which will be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE).

Tony Crane will be completing the diagnostic for submission to the DfE by the beginning of March. From this diagnostic, the DfE will then inform the approach which either will be via an improvement plan or direct intervention.

Richard confirmed that a piece of work is being completed to define the functions of the Improvement Board and its relation to the other scrutiny committees already in place.

In addition, an Operational Improvement Board has been established with membership from multi agency front line staff with the first meeting in March.

The following actions were agreed by the Committee:

- Summary of the key issues to inform a future work plan
- Confirmation of the remit of the Improvement Board in relation to this committee to avoid duplication of work - Wendy to arrange a meeting between Tony Crane, CC Gina Dowding and CC Susie Charles
- Link provided to the Ofsted report (see below)

[Children's services: Ofsted inspection 2015](#)

Newton Consultants

Louise introduced Steven Knight and Emily Roche to the Committee to discuss work undertaken around the Children's Pathways Review.

Newton Consultants were commissioned to complete an eight week assessment to look at the breadth and width of children's services through an assessment to identify areas where improvements could be made.

The assessment approach took information from various sources which included:

- 14 days of live study with practitioners
- Over 2000 days of tick sheet studies – feedback suggested that practitioners were very engaged in the assessment
- 375 cases reviewed
- Historical complete case data over the last 2-3 years
- Interviews with local teams

The scope of the review was to assess the end to end process looking at the pathway and resources.

Steven and Emily presented the findings from the assessment including example cases.

From the 350 cases reviewed, almost half could have an improved pathway through reduction in drift and delay, improved effectiveness of work and improved threshold decisions.

The Committee raised concerns around the current Liquid Logic system issues. It was identified that 75% is the way we work with it and only 25% is the actual IT system. In order to improve this there is a need for more of a cultural change and not just training.

A report is due to go to Cabinet with the proposed next steps in three weeks' time.

Children's Health Issues

Sakthi presented information to the Committee detailed in the Child Health Profile from June 2015 which included the following information:

- 63% children are school ready
- Infant and child mortality is significantly worse than the England average
- Children with dental problems is significantly worse than the England average
- One quarter of children are overweight or obese
- Diabetes is now a significant contributor to economy issues

The level of health and wellbeing of children is generally worse than the national average but the level of child poverty (17.1% of children under the age of 16) is better than the national average.

See below link to the Child Health Profile June 2015.

[Child Health Profile June 2015](#)

Lancashire is a part of the national troubled families' project to identify and work with vulnerable families. The criteria has been widened in second phase to include parents who are either part of the criminal justice system or NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

There are a number of inherited contracts which have been reviewed and currently in the process of re procuring these services. In addition, a healthy weight management service for adults, children and young people across Lancashire is in the process of procuring a range of providers.

Information on balanced diets form part of the infant feeding and healthy child programme. Poverty does have big impact on healthy eating and malnutrition is now a problem as well as Vitamin D deficiency.

Safeguarding does impact on universal services and may demand time from practitioners which then impacts on services. The safeguarding agenda is consistently growing. E safety is big on the agenda as well as mental health and CSE.

There are some issues around IT information management systems as there are different systems across partners. Sakthi reported they are currently looking at a platform to act as an interface to assist with this.

They are also looking at the implementation of an electronic version of the red book (monitors child development to age 5).

The staff consultation on children's centres, YPS (Young People's Service) and Early Help is now open with the proposed changes to the services provided.

It was suggested that this may be an area to look at given that children's centres were judged good throughout the Ofsted inspection.

It was agreed that:

- Terri Hacking will provide information around children's centre worker roles
- Sakthi will provide information round the remit of health visitors and school nurses

Next Steps

It was discussed and agreed that it would be very useful for each of the representatives from the Children's Partnership Boards to give an overview of children's services from their different backgrounds.

Future actions identified include:

- Progress on the transformation
- Further presentation from Newton Consultants

Glossary:

CART – Contact & Referral Team

CiN – Children in Need

CLA – Children Looked After

CoN – Continuum of Need

CPP – Child Protection Plan

CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation

DfE – Department for Education

ELE – Elective Home Education

FGM – Female Genital Mutilation

IRO – Independent Reviewing Officer

LSCB – Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board

MASH – Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub

NEET – Not in Education Employment or Training

NQSW – Newly Qualified Social Worker

PDRO – Performance Development Reviewing Officer

SCAYT+ - Supporting Carers and Young People Together

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

WPEH – Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help

YOT – Youth Offending Team

YPS – Young People's Service

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Workplan 2016/17

Date of Meeting	Topic	Author	Purpose/Key issues
9 March 2016	Children's Partnership Board representatives	Debra Wilson Terri Hacking Sarah Barraclough Elaine Shinks Alice Marquis-Carr	Each CPB representative to provide the Committee with a brief verbal overview of their role.
	Draft work plan	Wendy Broadley	Following on from the briefing session held for members on 9 Feb a draft work plan has been formulated for discussion by the Committee.
20 April 2016	Newton Consultants	Steven Knight Emily Roach	A presentation to the full Committee on the work the consultants have done on the Children's Pathway Review
	Work plan	Wendy Broadley	The Committee to agree the work plan going forward and to consider what methods of scrutiny they intend to use.
8 June 2016	Tbc		
20 July 2016	Tbc		
7 September 2016	Tbc		

Date of Meeting	Topic	Author	Purpose/Key issues
19 October 2016	Tbc		
30 November 2016	Tbc		
18 January 2017	Tbc		
1 March 2017	Tbc		
12 April 2017	Tbc		

Committee Sub Group Summary

Name of Sub Group review	Completion Date and/or Committee Date reporting to

Potential Future Agenda items (suggested by):

- Children with SEND services (CC Dowding)
- Leaving Care (CC Dowding)

- Fostering and adoption services (CC Dowding)
- Children's Centres and the new draft plan for the transformation of services (CC Dowding)
- School Nurses (member briefing session)
- Childhood Obesity (member briefing session)

DRAFT

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 9 March 2016

Electoral Division affected: None

Recent and Forthcoming Decisions

Contact for further information:

Wendy Broadley, Democratic Services, 07825 584684

wendy.broadley@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

To advise the committee about recent and forthcoming decisions relevant to the work of the committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to review the recent or forthcoming decisions and agree whether any should be the subject of further consideration by scrutiny.

Background and Advice

It is considered useful for scrutiny to receive information about forthcoming decisions and decisions recently made by the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members in areas relevant to the remit of the committee, in order that this can inform possible future areas of work.

Recent and forthcoming decisions taken by Cabinet Members or the Cabinet can be accessed here:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1>

The County Council is required to publish details of a Key Decision at least 28 clear days before the decision is due to be taken. Forthcoming Key Decisions can be identified by setting the 'Date range' field on the above link.

For information, a key decision is an executive decision which is likely:

(a) to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function which the decision relates; or

(b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the council.

For the purposes of paragraph (a), the threshold for "significant" is £1.4million.

The onus is on individual Members to look at Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions using the link provided above and obtain further information from the officer(s) shown for any decisions which may be of interest to them. The Member may then raise for consideration by the Committee any relevant, proposed decision that he/she wishes the Committee to review.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk management or other implications

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A