

# Lancashire County Council

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 11th April, 2018 at 2.00 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. | <b>Apologies</b> |
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| 2. | <b>Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests</b> |
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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.

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| 3. | <b>Minutes from the meeting held on 14 March 2018</b> | (Pages 1 - 6) |
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| 4. | <b>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - Service Update</b> | (Pages 7 - 20) |
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| 5. | <b>Work Plan 2017/18</b> | (Pages 21 - 28) |
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| 6. | <b>Urgent Business</b> |
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An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

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| 7. | <b>Date of the Next Meeting</b> |
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Next meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 2pm, Cabinet Room C, County Hall, Preston

L Sales  
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall  
Preston



## Lancashire County Council

### Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 14th March, 2018 at 2.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

#### **Present:**

County Councillor Andrea Kay (Chair)

#### **County Councillors**

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| I Brown    | H Khan    |
| A Cheetham | J Parr    |
| L Cox      | J Rear    |
| A Gardiner | D T Smith |

#### **Co-opted members**

Councillor Stella Brunskill, Children's Partnership Board - Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Rossendale

County Councillor Jean Parr replaced County Councillor Nikki Hennessy for this meeting.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from County Councillors Joe Cooney and David Howarth; and Councillors Gail Goodman and Zara Khan.

#### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were disclosed.

#### **3. Minutes from the meeting held on 31 January 2018**

**Resolved:** That the minutes from the meeting held on the 31 January 2018 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. Children's Services Inspection and Review**

The Chair welcomed John Readman, Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services; Debbie Duffell, Head of Children and Family Wellbeing Service; Grant Murdoch, Subject Matter Expert (Children) Programme Office;

Victoria Gent, Head of Service Children's Social Care – East; Halima Sadia, Social Worker; Lisa Sowden, Children Social Care Team Manager - East; and Wenda Tyrer, WPEH Team Leader, Children and Family Wellbeing Service – Lancaster District; to the meeting.

The report presented highlighted the key findings of a range of inspections that had taken place in Children's Services in the last year. It gave an overview of strengths and areas of developments. It also delineated governance structures and plans in place to support effective improvement going forward.

Since February 2017 there had been 13 different external inspections or reviews of Children's Services. There had been 4 monitoring visits by Ofsted, 2 looking at services for children looked after, 1 at Children in Need and 1 looking at the multi-agency safeguarding hub arrangements.

The Committee was informed that from April 2017 to February 2018 the Children and Family Wellbeing Service had supported 5,087 families made up of around 15,417 children and young people. Children's Social Care dealt with 1,908 Children in Need, 1,314 children subject to a child protection plan, and 1,949 Children Looked After. Also there was around 90 children open to the leaving care service. Other key service areas were the Fostering Adoption Residential Service, the Youth Offending Service, and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Service.

Regarding rural areas Members Were informed that the Children and Family Wellbeing resources were deployed around all districts in the County including the rural areas. There was also an outreach model for rural areas. The Team also worked very closely with colleagues in Children's Social Care and was looking to integrate those resources.

It was reported that there were ongoing challenges around recruitment and retention of social workers. Campaigns were in place around recruitment and was definitely improving. It was confirmed that a robust recruitment and retention strategy was in place in Children's Social Care. Regarding retention of children's social workers, the average length of retention fluctuated across the County. It was highlighted that there was a number of support mechanisms in place for retention of staff and advanced practitioners in place to work alongside staff on more complex issues.

After feedback from Ofsted the Committee was informed that police referrals were still very high. The Police were working closely with LCC around their part in child protection.

On the Improvement Plan it was noted that one of the areas, 'to develop and implement a delivery plan for the Residential Strategy and edge of care response', was delayed in its progress due to delays in building works. At its March meeting Cabinet approved additional capital investment to complete the building works.

Members were informed that the next Ofsted inspection would be a four week full inspection potentially sometime between May 2018 and July 2018.

It was acknowledged that the quality of work had improved and this was having a positive impact on the children. Also work with Education had improved greatly.

**Resolved:** That the;

- i. Report presented be noted
- ii. A quarterly briefing note on improvement activity and impact be received.

## **5. Forced Marriage**

Victoria Gent, Head of Service Children's Social Care – East; and Lisa Sowden, Children Social Care Team Manager – East, presented a report considering the national and local picture in relation to forced marriage.

It was pointed out to the Committee that forced marriage was a very small percentage of the work done in Children's Social Care and currently the majority of cases of forced marriage fell within East Lancashire.

There were good legal frameworks in place that the Team could utilise as a Local Authority to safeguard children and young people at risk of forced marriage.

Regarding the national picture there was a joint Foreign Office and Home Office funded team that supported services within and outside the UK in regards to forced marriage. This was the Forced Marriage Protection Unit and it was very helpful with the Children's Services Social Care Team. In terms of where cases originated from on a national level, around a quarter of them originated from the North West. There was a reduction in the number of notifications nationally and this was replicated in the number of applications the Team had made for orders as a Local Authority. In the last two years Lancashire had received 17 Forced Marriage Protection Orders.

Members were advised that children and young people were also supported through Child in Need Plans and Child Protection Plans. If the risks were very high, the children could enter the care of the Local Authority in order to safeguard them.

Regarding the monitoring of cases, children and young people were monitored via whatever process they were in at that current time, i.e. a Child in Need Plan, a Child Protection Plan or a Child Looked After. In addition there was ongoing monitoring through the police.

As the majority of case occurred in the east of the County, it was reported that there were incidences where families had crossed borders but when this happened LCC would notify the relevant authority. There was a protocol and

procedure in place in how to hand the work over to the neighbouring authority. Multi-agency working and working with other local authorities had improved greatly.

Members stated that more emphasis should be placed on education and working with secondary schools. There was a strong School Safeguarding Team in place that was working strongly with both primary and secondary schools.

**Resolved:** That the;

- i. Report presented be noted; and
- ii. A briefing note be provided annually on Forced Marriage.

## **6. Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2017/18**

The work plan for the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for the 2017/18 municipal year was presented. The topics included were identified at the work planning workshop held on 21 June 2017.

The April meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee would be a joint meeting of the Education Scrutiny Committee on SEND following the Ofsted joint local area review.

A SEND workshop had been confirmed for 15 May. The workshop would include a full breakdown of the review process and would include representation from health, schools and SEND officers.

There would be a Bite Size Briefing on Teen Suicide on 30 April.

Regarding the Committee meeting on 22 May the topic of Children's Partnership Boards would be moved back to a later date. In its place, Domestic Abuse would be on the agenda. There would also be an update report on Troubled Families.

The Committee was update on the progress of the '**Supporting Pupils in School with Medical Conditions**' Task Group. The group had met on 7 March with head teachers, representatives from CCGs and parents. The group was planning to meet them again in early May.

**Resolved:** That;

- i. The report and comments be noted.
- ii. The topics to be considered at the next scheduled meeting be confirmed.

## **7. Urgent Business**

There were no items of Urgent Business.

**8. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will take place on Wednesday 11 April at 2:00pm in Cabinet Room C (The Duke of Lancaster Room) at the County Hall, Preston.

L Sales  
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall  
Preston





## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 11 April 2018

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - Service Update

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

David Graham, Tel: 01772 532713, Head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Email: david.graham@lancashire.gov.uk

### Executive Summary

This report provides an overview on information to be presented to members on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) service update following the outcome of the SEND joint local area inspection in November 2017.

### Recommendation

Members are requested to:

- i. Consider the information presented and to identify any areas they may wish to comment on; and
- ii. Identify any further actions required following this update.

### Background and Advice

Between 13 November and 17 November 2017, Ofsted and the CQC conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Lancashire to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms, as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

As a result of the findings of the inspection, and in accordance with the Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has determined that a written statement of action is required due to the significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice. HMCI has also determined that the local authority and the area's clinical commissioning groups are jointly responsible for submitting the written statement to Ofsted. The outcome letter is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The findings of the inspection were presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 31 January 2018. It was agreed at this [meeting](#) that an update on progress following the outcome of the joint inspection would be presented to members at the 11 April 2018 meeting of the committee. An invitation

to this meeting was also extended to all members of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

The following information will be presented to members:

- School performance in Lancashire
- Local area SEND inspection update including information on the:
  - Written Statement of Action
  - DfE & NHS England Monitoring
  - Engagement Strategy
  - Improvement Partnership Team
  - Task and Finish Groups
- Lancashire Parent Carer Forum including information on the:
  - Constitution of a new Lancashire Parent Carer Forum
  - Engagement with parents & carers locally and representation on the SEND Partnership Board
- Representation by children & young people (POWAR)
- Positive Outcomes Evaluation Tool with survey response and initial findings
- High Needs Block Funding

In attendance, there will be representation from both SEND and School Improvement services.

Members will be requested to consider the information presented and to identify any areas they wish to comment on. In addition, members will be asked to identify any further actions required following the update.

### **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 |
|-------|------|-------------|
|-------|------|-------------|

NA

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA



Ofsted  
Agora  
6 Cumberland Place  
Nottingham  
NG1 6HJ

T 0300 123 1231  
**Textphone** 0161 618 8524  
[enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)  
[lasend.support@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:lasend.support@ofsted.gov.uk)



8 January 2018

Ms Amanda Hatton  
Director of Children's Services  
Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Fishergate  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR1 5BY

Mr Mark Youlton, CCG Chief Officer, East Lancashire

Mr Denis Gizzi, CCG Chief Officer, Chorley, Greater Preston and South Ribble

Ms Hilary Fordham, CCG Chief Operating Officer, Morecambe Bay

Mr Peter Tinson, CCG Chief Officer, Fylde and Wyre

Mr Mike Maguire, CCG Chief Officer, West Lancashire

Mr David Bonson, CCG Chief Officer, Blackpool

Mr Roger Parr, CCG Chief Officer, Blackburn with Darwen

Mr Stephen Martin, Local Area Nominated Officer

Dear Ms Hatton

### **Joint local area SEND inspection in Lancashire**

Between 13 November and 17 November 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Lancashire to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms, as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The inspection was led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) from Ofsted, with a team of inspectors including an HMI, an Ofsted Inspector and two children's services inspectors from the CQC.

Inspectors spoke with children and young people who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, parents and carers, and local authority and NHS officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they were implementing the SEND reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education. They reviewed performance information and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning.

As a result of the findings of this inspection and in accordance with the Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has determined that a written statement of action is required because of significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice. HMCI has also determined that the local authority and the area's clinical commissioning groups are jointly responsible for submitting the written statement to Ofsted.

This letter outlines the inspection findings, including some areas of strength and areas for further improvement.

## Main findings

- There are two fundamental failings in Lancashire local area. Children, young people and their families are not at the heart of the delivery of the SEND reforms and leaders have failed to work together to deliver these reforms. As a result, children's and young people's needs are not always being effectively identified or met and many outcomes are not improving.
- The provision for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities has not been a priority for elected members or leaders across health, education and social care. The local authority has had to deal with significant turbulence and unrest in leadership arrangements in past years. This, coupled with an inadequate judgement for children's services and reorganisational and financial challenges, have diverted leaders' attention away from ensuring the implementation of the Code of Practice.
- Leaders in the local area are unable to demonstrate effective joint strategic leadership in terms of implementing the reforms. They rightly describe being late in terms of implementation, but have underestimated how far behind they are. The local area is well behind in terms of implementation.
- A lack of effective strategic leadership means that there is poor joint working across education, health and care professionals. This is exacerbated by a lack of a designated clinical officer (DCO) or designated medical officer (DMO) or a clear SEN strategy. As a result, the health and well-being, and improvement of outcomes, for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities are compromised.
- Leaders have an inaccurate view of their strengths and weaknesses. This is because they have not evaluated the impact of their actions or taken into account the views and lived experiences of children, young people and their families. This has led to weak arrangements for joint commissioning.
- The autism spectrum disorder (ASD) pathways, where they exist, do not comply with the guidelines of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines. This results in inaccurate identification and the needs of children and young people and their families not being met.
- Inconsistency and variability in terms of children's and young people's needs being met are constant themes across the local area. Too much depends on

where a child lives and which professional is involved in their situation. This results in an inequality of experience for children and young people and their families. Where there are successes, they are in silos and because of the excellent work of front-line staff or leaders, rather than because of strategic leadership. Where there are strengths in terms of provision, this good practice is not shared across the area.

- Parents report bewilderment and confusion about how decisions are made by services about their children. They do not believe that systems and processes are transparent and fair. Consequently, most of the parents whom inspectors heard from have lost trust in the local area.
- The views and experience of provision among parents who took part in the inspection are overwhelmingly damning. Leaders are unaware of the extent of this. During the inspection, it became clear to leaders that much work, tenacity and purpose are needed to regain the trust of parents and carers and to put them, children and young people at the heart of the SEND reforms.
- Co-production is weak and there is no clear understanding of what true co-production means. This is contrary to the requirements of the Code of Practice.
- The quality of education, health and care (EHC) plans seen during the inspection was alarmingly poor. Many EHC plans contain gaps, are out of date and/or do not reflect all of the child's or young person's needs. This means that those needs are not being met.
- Leaders have not acted quickly enough to reduce the proportion of children and young people who have an EHC plan or statement of SEN who are permanently excluded. The number of exclusions is at an unacceptable level and continues to rise. The negative impact of these exclusions on children and young people and their families is considerable.
- The local offer is not used effectively. This is because of little awareness of its existence and the inaccessible manner in which information is provided to users.
- There are not enough commissioned healthcare services for young people who have SEN and/or disabilities beyond the age of 16. Many parents who took part in the inspection described the provision as 'a chasm'. Weaknesses also exist after the two- to two-and-half-year-old checks.
- Inspectors identified weaknesses in the quality of record keeping and sharing of information relating to safeguarding. Some of the more vulnerable children and young people who spoke to inspectors did not have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe.
- POWAR (Lancashire's participation council group for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities) gives individual young people the opportunity to share opinions about issues that affect them. POWAR has recently produced impressive resources around child sexual exploitation and

healthy relationships for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities. These young people are a force for good in the local area.

- The culture and focus at Lancashire have begun to change in recent months. Professionals are starting to talk to each other and are beginning to see the benefits of finding joint solutions to common challenges. Inspectors saw emerging signs of improvement, which should act as an impetus for the local area to move forward with greater urgency.

## **The effectiveness of the local area in identifying children and young people's special educational needs and/or disabilities**

### **Strengths**

- The portage service is highly valued by families and practitioners. This service is responsive and effective in helping to remove the challenges that face children and their families. As a result of this support, the youngest children's needs are identified early.

### **Areas for development**

- Children and young people are at risk of delays in the provision of specialist healthcare services due to obstructive referral procedures. Access to services is challenging and inconsistent across different providers.
- Most parents that contributed to the inspection do not have confidence that the local area identifies their children's needs effectively.
- There is a lack of transparency for parents and carers about the criteria for the identification of needs. This contributes to a belief that the EHC process is done to them rather than with them.
- There is no clarity, and real confusion, among professionals about who can request an EHC assessment and when. This means that children and young people are at risk of not having their needs met in a timely manner and receiving the help they need.
- From a very slow start, the local area is well on its way to ensuring that all statements convert to an EHC plan before the nationally specified date. However, the focus on completing all conversions by March 2018 has resulted in poor-quality EHC plans. Inspectors saw delays of more than 11 months in amendments to EHC plans being made following annual reviews. This means that children's and young people's needs are not being appropriately met.



## **The effectiveness of the local area in assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities**

### **Strengths**

- Children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities can access effective speech and language therapy (SALT) and occupational therapy in a timely manner across Lancashire. Joint working between therapists, workshops and group therapy sessions is used appropriately and sensitively to increase the number of children who are able to benefit from these services.
- Parents and children are benefiting from SALT drop-in sessions offered across the north and south of Lancashire. Therapists are able to provide a range of services from simple advice and guidance through to formal referrals for specialist input. This gives these children and young people the help that they require.
- Young children and their families access effective child development centres in some localities. Multi-agency assessment and care planning are strong. The support from the specialist health visiting team provides a consultation service to other colleagues. In addition, the team delivers evidence-based support, for example on sleeping, behaviour and toileting.
- A joint healthcare and education provision is based in the east of the area and is overseen by the hospital education team. This day provision supports the healthcare and education needs of those children and young people who are unable to access mainstream education because of their mental health difficulties.
- Parents consider the information, advice and support (IAS) to be a well-run and well-used service. Evidence shows that when the IAS service has been involved to support families, dispute resolution has worked. This means that solutions can be found and children and young people receive the support that they need.

### **Areas for development**

- ASD diagnostic pathways across Lancashire are of very poor quality. For the areas that have a pathway, none is compliant with NICE guidance. Worse still, children and young people in the north of the area are not able to access any diagnostic pathway whatsoever. CCGs across Lancashire have failed to reach any consensus on commissioning an area-wide pathway over a period of years. This is a serious failing in meeting the needs of children and young people.
- Families with children who need specialist input by SALT for eating, drinking and swallowing are often unable to access support and care locally. In some

areas, families are expected to travel unrealistic distances, whereas children in other areas can access the same support within their neighbourhood. This puts unreasonable pressure and expectations on families who are reliant on these essential services.

- There is no secure evidence to indicate that children looked after in Lancashire have their healthcare needs identified, assessed and met. This is because there is no oversight across Lancashire of this group. There is inconsistent practice across Lancashire and variable experiences for these children and young people.
- Families do not benefit from a unified healthcare service, particularly in relation to specialist equipment and consumables, such as continence products. There are particular barriers when children live in one area but are registered with a GP or consultant in another area. When children do not meet the continuing healthcare criteria, they have no option other than to obtain these consumables from hospitals. This means that children are at risk of not having the right equipment at the right time.
- Specialist nursing services are inequitable, with significant gaps in provision in some areas. For example, one area had only one complex needs nurse, no special school nurse, no paediatric outreach and no community children's nurse due to its commissioning arrangements. This poses not only a significant risk to children, but is also a clinical governance concern and is unsustainable for the nurses providing the care.
- Experience of the system among parents whom inspectors heard from is poor. They struggle to identify any areas that have improved as a result of the implementation of the reforms. In fact, many described a reduction in services that were a strength in the past, such as access to short breaks. Very few parents believe that their children's needs have been effectively assessed and their needs met.
- Weaknesses in joint working approaches and the process for assessing children's and young people's needs have led to stark weaknesses in the quality of EHC plans. In too many cases, poor planning and weak recording systems mean that children's and young people's needs are not being adequately met.
- The contribution of healthcare and social care professionals to EHC plans is deficient. This seriously hampers children's and young people's healthcare and social needs being met. EHC plans are too focused on educational outcomes, even when a child or young person has significant healthcare and/or social needs.
- Parents' awareness of the local offer is poor. Information on the local offer does not always give parents and users the information that they need to access the right service in the easiest way possible.
- Transition arrangements across the area are splintered. There is no evidence of a strategy to ensure that young people transition effectively into adult

services, or that appropriate arrangements are in place for those young people who do not meet adult thresholds. Inspectors saw evidence of good practice, such as in physiotherapy in the east of the area and where specific GPs or consultants have a special interest in transition, but there is no mechanism to share and disseminate learning.

## **The effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities**

### **Strengths**

- Children and young people who have SEN support and those who have an EHC plan or statement of SEN have high attendance rates in comparison with the national averages.
- The Youth Offending Team (YOT) and SEN services work together to deliver good-quality, safe and sustainable restorative services. This improves the life chances of these children and young people.

### **Areas for development**

- There is little evidence to show how the outcomes of pupils who have SEN and/or disabilities have improved as a result of the implementation of the SEND reforms in the local area.
- The local area is not doing enough to improve the life chances of young people as they move into adulthood. The numbers of young people on supported internships and accessing supported living is low. Similarly, the proportion of young people who have learning disabilities securing paid employment is three times lower than the national average. This is despite the high proportion of young people who have SEN and/or disabilities attaining a level 3 qualification.
- Children receiving a universal health visitor service are not supported to be school ready. The commissioned service ends after the two- to two-and-a-half-year review. For those children who do not access early years provision, concerns that may become evident after this age are not being identified. This results in some children starting school well behind in their development for their age.
- Children's and young people's access to short breaks is poor. Health visitors and school nurses across Lancashire report a lack of accessibility. This creates situations that are difficult and stressful for families.
- Leaders have not addressed the underachievement of children and young people who have SEN support or an EHC plan. The standards reached by these children are lower than those seen nationally at the end of early years and key stage 1. At key stage 4, the progress made by young people who have an EHC plan or statement of SEN is the lowest 10% nationally. Despite

leaders accurately analysing educational outcomes, the year-on-year trend of underperformance has not been addressed.

- The proportion of children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities and are permanently excluded is too high. While the proportion of permanent exclusions has reduced in primary schools, it has increased exponentially for secondary-age pupils. For those who have an EHC plan or statement of SEN it is more than four times the national average. The local authority's own information for 2016/17 shows a bleaker picture. Even though this has been the case for a number of years, insufficient action has been taken. The impact and pressure of this are felt particularly by special schools and pupil referral units, which are beyond capacity. Consequently, pupils are being inappropriately placed in schools and their experience of education worsens.
- A number of parents reported a very poor transition experience for their children as they moved from mainstream primary to secondary. Although the transition itself was seen as well planned and managed, the experience has become less positive. Some children and young people and their parents told inspectors that some teachers do not know how to manage their special educational needs appropriately.

**The inspection raises significant concerns about the effectiveness of the local area.**

The local area is required to produce and submit a written statement of action to Ofsted that explains how the local area will tackle the following areas of significant weakness:

- the lack of strategic leadership and vision across the partnership
- leaders' inaccurate understanding of the local area
- weak joint commissioning arrangements that are not well developed or evaluated
- the failure to engage effectively with parents and carers
- the confusing, complicated and arbitrary systems and processes of identification
- the endemic weaknesses in the quality of EHC plans
- the absence of effective diagnostic pathways for ASD across the local area, and no diagnostic pathway in the north of the area
- no effective strategy to improve the outcomes of children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities
- poor transition arrangements in 0–25 healthcare services
- the disconcerting proportion of children and young people who have an EHC

- plan or statement of SEN who are permanently excluded from school
- the inequalities in provision based on location
- the lack of accessibility and quality of information on the local offer.

Yours sincerely

**Jonathan Jones**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

| <b>Ofsted</b>                                    | <b>Care Quality Commission</b>  |
|--|---|
| Andrew Cook HMI<br>Regional Director, North West | Ursula Gallagher<br>Deputy Chief Inspector, Primary Medical Services, Children Health and Justice |
| Jonathan Jones HMI<br>Lead Inspector             | Karen Collins-Beckett<br>CQC Inspector  |
| Matthew Barnes HMI                               | Lea Pickerill<br>CQC Inspector  |
| Lesley Cheshire<br>Ofsted Inspector              | Sue Knight<br>CQC Inspector   |

Cc: Department for Education  
 Clinical commissioning group  
 Director of Public Health for the local area  
 Department of Health  
 NHS England



## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 11 April 2018

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2017/18

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

Samantha Parker, Tel: 01772538221, Senior Democratic Services Officer,  
sam.parker@lancashire.gov.uk

### Executive Summary

The Plan at Appendix 'A' is the work plan for the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for the 2017/18 municipal year.

The topics included were identified at the work planning workshop held on 21 June 2017.

### Recommendation

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

### Background and Advice

A statement of the work to be undertaken and considered by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year is set out at Appendix 'A'. The work plan is presented to each meeting for information.

For the Committee's information, attached as Appendix 'B', is the Education Scrutiny Committee work plan for 2017/18.

### 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 |
|-------|------|-------------|
|-------|------|-------------|

NA

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA



Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Work Plan 2017/18

| Date to Committee | Report  | Lead Officers     | Outline reasons for scrutiny/scrutiny method  |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| 26 July 2017      | Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help Service (WPEHs) – Overview | Debbie Duffell    | Overview of WPEHs offers in particular – the early offer and universal services accessibility - identification of any gaps in provision around the Continuum of Need, CAF, children's centres, partnership and integrated working challenges, CAMHS, MASH |
|                   |   |                   |   |
| 6 September 2017  | New SEND Pathway  | David Graham      | Overview of changes /referral process/journey of a child/case studies/transition timescales and managing parents expectations   |
|                   | Medicine management in schools                                  | David Graham      | Reviewing the impact of withdrawing School nurses from special schools  |
|                   | Ofsted feedback   | Amanda Hatton     | Following monitoring visit in July  |
|                   |   |                   |   |
| 18 October 2017   | Homelessness of young people                                    | Tracy Poole-Nandy | District level data – who do we pay? Who do we work with? What's the accommodation offer? And links with CAMHS  |
|                   | Tracking of Care Leavers  | Audrey Swann      | Overview of new process   |
|                   | Youth Accommodation for LAC                                     | Tracy Poole-Nandy | Care leavers and accommodation issues – what's the offer? Is it up to standard?   |
|                   |   |                   |   |
| 6 December 2017   | Children in secure accommodation – out of area                  | Sally Allen       | Exit strategies and update on Audit exercise<br>National picture – placing child nearer to families   |

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Work Plan 2017/18

| Date to Committee | Report   | Lead Officers                   | Outline reasons for scrutiny/scrutiny method   |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
|                   | Children's social worker recruitment and retention challenges (strategy and support) | Amanda Hatton/Tracy Poole-Nandy | Update on the ongoing challenges   |
|                   | Buildings and accommodation for social workers                                       | Tracy Poole-Nandy               | Overcrowding, access to IT equipment and lack of desk space for social workers   |
| 31 January 2018   | SEND Ofsted Report   | David Graham/Amanda Hatton      | Update following joint local area SEND inspection in Lancashire  |
|                   | Budget proposals   | Neil Kissock                    | Budget Proposals from Susie Charles – Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools  |
| 14 March 2018     | Recent Children's Services reviews   | John Readman                    | Update on recent reviews undertaken, outcomes from the reviews and impact on services:<br>LGA Peer Review<br>Ofsted monitoring visit<br>DfE 6 month review |
|                   | Forced Marriage  | Vicky Gent                      | Further understanding of the issue in Lancashire   |

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Work Plan 2017/18**

| <b>Date to Committee</b>   | <b>Report</b>   | <b>Lead Officers</b>                      | <b>Outline reasons for scrutiny/scrutiny method</b>  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 11 April 2018<br>(joint meeting with Education Scrutiny Committee) | SEND Ofsted review report update  | David Graham                              | Progress update with timelines following joint local area review outcome                                 |
|  |   |   |  |
| 22 May 2018  | Domestic Abuse  | Sally Allen, Barbara Bath, Debbie Duffell | Update on the service provision  |
|  | Children and Family Wellbeing Service (formerly Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help) | Debbie Duffell                            | Update on service provision including the Troubled Families Initiative agreed as at meeting in July 2017 |

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**Potential topics for the Committee:**

- Recruitment and retention of social workers – update from December meeting – to be scheduled for July 2018
- New models of delivery (overspend on children's social care) – Amanda Hatton/Neil Kissock - in response to overspend on Children's Services
- Consultation responses outcome from SCAYT+, YOT and Child and Family Wellbeing Service
- Children's Partnership Board Review – to be scheduled for July 2018
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions – CC Brown – draft report – to be scheduled for July 2018

**Task Group Work**

| <b>Task Group</b>                                   | <b>Update</b>   |
|---|---|
| Supporting Pupils in School with Medical Conditions | Task group in progress with draft report due to be presented to the committee at the July meeting |



Education Scrutiny – Work plan 2017/18

| Date to Committee | Report   | Lead Officers                       | Outline reasons for scrutiny/scrutiny method                                 |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 26 September 2017 | Implementation of the School Places Provision Strategy (Basic Need funding and S106 funding) | Mel Ormesher                        | Overview and update on basic need funding and the allocation of S106 funding |
|                   | Summer Born Policy   | Debbie Ormerod                      | Overview on the Policy and Implementation of deferred/delayed places         |
|                   | School Admissions Appeals  | Angela Esslinger and Debbie Ormerod | Report on the effectiveness of the service for parents and schools           |
| 28 November 2017  | Foundation Stage Standards and level of progress through each Key Stage                      | Steve Belbin                        | Tracking progression of pupil attainment through the key stages              |
|                   | GCSE Performance   | Steve Belbin                        | Data report  |
|                   | LAC Attainment   | Audrey Swann                        | Narrowing the gap of attainment  |
|                   | Elective Home Education  | Frances Molloy                      | Overview report on the service, attainment and take up                       |
| 27 March 2018     | Personal Education Plans   | Audrey Swann                        | Overview of the process, how they are being progressed and risk management   |
|                   | School Improvements Report   | Steve Belbin                        | Rise in permanent exclusions (including SEND)                                |
|                   | Alternative Provision  | David Graham                        | Suitability and sustainability audit<br>Draft consultation                   |

Education Scrutiny – Work plan 2017/18

| Date to Committee  | Report                           | Lead Officers | Outline reasons for scrutiny/scrutiny method                             |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 11 April 2018<br>(joint meeting with Children' Services) | SEND Ofsted review report update | David Graham  | Progress update with timelines following joint local area review outcome |

Potential topics for the Committee:

- TA to teacher career path initiatives
- School attendance – missing from home and education
- SEND Transport Policy 2013/14 – David Graham – provisional date June 2018
- Pupil tracking from primary to secondary faith schools (request from CC Hasina Khan)
- Summer Born Policy
- Nursery Funding Provision – June 2018

Task Group Work

| Task Group  | Update   |
|---|--|
| Supporting Pupils in School with Medical Conditions | Task group in progress with draft report due to be presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee in July |