Lancashire County Council

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 15th January, 2020 at 10.30 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No.  Item

1.  Apologies

2.  Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

3.  Minutes from the meeting held on 9 October 2019 (Pages 1 - 6)

4.  Permanence – Ofsted Focused Visit (Pages 7 - 16)

5.  Neglect Strategy (Pages 17 - 48)

6.  Child Poverty (Pages 49 - 50)

7.  Work Programme 2019/20 (Pages 51 - 60)

8.  Urgent Business

An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.
9. **Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will take place on Wednesday 26 February 2020 at 10:30am in Cabinet Room 'C' (The Duke of Lancaster Room) at the 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, 9th October, 2019 at 10.30 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Andrea Kay (Chair)

County Councillors

- N Hennessy
- I Brown
- J Eaton
- J Gibson
- J Mein
- D T Smith
- M Tomlinson

Co-opted members

County Councillors Jimmy Eaton and Julie Gibson replaced County Councillors Malcolm Barron and Lorraine Beavers respectively.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Paul V Greenall and Councillor Louise Edge, Children's Partnership Board Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Rossendale.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

3. Minutes from the meeting held on 3 July 2019

Resolved: That the minutes from the meeting held on the 3 July 2019 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Participation Strategic Framework

The Chair welcomed Dave Carr, Head of Policy, Information and Commissioning; Gavin Redhead, Strategy Lead for Participation; and Oliver Moores, Youth Council representative, to the meeting.

The report presented provided an opportunity for members of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to review the draft Participation of Children and Young People Strategic Framework 2020 – 2023. It also shared a current example of a
participation project that had been co-produced with members of Lancashire Youth Council.

In early 2019 the Strategy Lead for Participation reviewed current participation practice and policy across Lancashire and a number of areas where improvements could be made were identified.

The framework for participation would ensure that there was clear evidence of improved outcomes as a result of family participation and would evidence where changes had been made as result.

Members enquired how all the services and agencies would link so as to work well together. Through the Strategic Framework it was hoped that external services would open up their participation channels to make sure children were influencing these services.

The committee was advised that connecting with schools was a challenge due to the number of schools in Lancashire. It was felt the best approach was to connect them to locality youth councils and they could then bring their voice to Lancashire Youth Council.

The committee raised the question of how Lancashire County Council was going to embed the framework into other agencies i.e. CCGs and local councils, etc. and how would these agencies be supported in the participation process. Members were informed that there were many partnership arrangements in place and a whole range of boards and government structures that could be utilised to support this framework. Regarding support, the county council would be able to highlight good practice but could not be the sole resource for participation. At the moment 35 participation champions had been identified in various services and agencies. Members requested a list of these participation champions for their district councils. They also requested an update in the future on how this work was progressing.

Ollie Moores, Lancashire Youth Council (LYC) representative, was welcomed to give a presentation on the LYC’s research into knife crime. This presentation provided members with a good example of how participation with children and young people can be undertaken. When asked if he enjoyed the research process, Ollie pointed out that the best was yet to come when LYC received the data back to see what could be done with this data to make a difference to our communities.

The committee thanked Ollie for a great presentation (see attached).

**Resolved:** That;

i. The principles and priorities of the draft Strategic Framework be considered.

ii. The proposed monitoring and governance arrangements be noted.

iii. The Lancashire Youth Council research project be noted.
iv. Details of the network of participation champions when identified be circulated to all councillors to assist with supporting a 'culture of participation'.

v. A progress report be provided to a future meeting of the committee.

vi. Information on the questionnaire to schools be circulated to committee members to support generating responses.

5. Inspection of Youth Offending Services in Lancashire

The Chair welcomed Barbara Bath, Head of Fostering, Adoption, Residential and YOT, to the meeting.

The report presented provided the committee with an update following Lancashire's Youth Offending Team (YOT) inspection in April/May 2019 by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) as a full joint inspection. The inspection covered three domains, Organisational Delivery, Court Disposals and Out-of-Court Disposals. The overall rating was ‘Good’ with six recommendations made by the inspectorate.

Members were informed that a post Inspection action plan was developed in response to the six recommendations. The plan had been shared with the Lancashire Youth Justice Management Board and key partners were supporting the progress on relevant actions.

Regarding the YOT’s current performance it was measured nationally against three indicators, first time offenders, reoffenders and youths in custody. It was reported that it was vital to have participation in engagement with young people and all young people who received a service from the YOT were asked to complete a self-assessment questionnaire on the progress they had made and how the service helped them.

There was an analysis of the feedback from these questionnaires every six months. Feedback was generally positive and that the service had provided them with opportunities and alternatives. Parents were also asked to feedback.

In terms of the Action Plan and the ‘buddy’ system for individual practitioners and managers to be offered one to one support with a ‘buddy’, the committee enquired how far this had progressed. Members were advised that the YOT had already started to identify a buddy system for practitioners and managers and this process was now being embedded. The committee was informed that there had been staff vacancies that had impacted on caseloads. However there had now been appointments made to these vacancies and staff would be appointed buddies on commencement of employment.

It was noted that the National Youth Justice Board had this year launched new national standards that all youth offending teams had to work to and this put greater emphasis on Lancashire’s Youth Offending Management Board to have more strategic governance overview.
The committee enquired about education and job prospects for young people in the service. It was noted that after the YOT's restructure in 2018, a Specialist Education and Employment Training Officer post was created. Also the YOT was able to accredit young people with an AQA. The AQA was an education charity that provided qualifications that enabled young people to progress to the next stage in their lives.

The question of how the participation strategy would fit into the YOT was raised. Members were informed that the YOT had been given permission for two apprenticeship posts to lead in participation.

It was pointed out to the committee the number of first time offenders was reducing nationally and locally. This was down to diversions from putting young people through the criminal justice system. Since the restructure the YOT now had a prevention service and a diversion service and it was hoped this would reduce the number of young people that went through the courts.

Resolved: That;

i. The report be noted.
ii. A briefing note be provided to committee members in March 2020 on the post inspection action plan progress.

6. Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2019/20

The new work programme for the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year was presented.

The topics included were identified at the work planning workshop held on 22 July 2019.

Regarding the November 2019 meeting, topic of Permanence would now be an agenda item along with Child Poverty. In terms of the Child Poverty item, the committee was asked to select key focus areas to be included as part of the item. The following areas were selected:

- Holiday hunger
- Food banks
- Poverty fuelling knife crime
- Housing and housing conditions
- How it effects education and the difference the pupil premium makes
- Armed forces funding
- Data on child poverty at district and Lancashire level

Given the number of topics listed, it was suggested by the Chair that child poverty topics were broken down and included in every meeting of the committee.
Resolved: That;

i. The report presented be noted.
ii. The topic of Permanence be included on the agenda for the November 2019 meeting of the committee
iii. The key focus areas listed be included as part of the child poverty item.

7. **Urgent Business**

There were no items of Urgent Business.

8. **Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will take place on Thursday 28 November 2019 at 10:30am in Cabinet Room 'D' (The Henry Bolingbroke Room) at the County Hall, Preston.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston
Executive Summary

On the 4 November 2019, Ofsted undertook a two day focused visit to determine if Lancashire had improved their permanence offer to children and young people. This was not a graded visit but they provided an overview of the direction of travel on the four recommendations made in 2018.

The outcome of the inspection was that Lancashire has enhanced both the provision and the systems to ensure permanence is seen as a priority for Looked after Children. There is further work to be undertaken but they could see that across the workforce, improvements have taken place.

Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked that:

i. The improvements detailed in the report be noted.

ii. Review and support of the service is continued to ensure that all children and young people cared for by the county council are provided with highest level of care and support.

iii. The four areas for improvement identified in the Ofsted letter be noted and the Committee seek assurances on the improvements.

Background and Advice

Lancashire Children's Services were re-inspected by Ofsted in June 2018, the outcome of the inspection was the organisation Requires Improvement to be Good. This was progress on the 2015 inspection that had graded Lancashire as Inadequate.

Eleven recommendations were made to support Lancashire achieve a Good rating at future inspections. Of those, four recommendations that identified areas which required improvement were directly related to the permanence of children in the care of the local authority:
• Ensure that all plans for children in need, children subject to child protection plans, looked after children and care leavers are specific, measurable and outcome-focused, so that parents, young people and professionals know who needs to do what, and by when.
• Ensure that the quality of critical challenge provided by first line managers, Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) in looked after reviews and conference chairs within child protection conferences are effective in avoiding drift or delay.
• Ensure that permanence planning, including for those children who return home, is rigorously monitored and reviewed on a consistent basis across the county to reduce the likelihood of drift and delay.
• Ensure that when children successfully return home, timely revocation hearings are held to secure permanence plans for them to remain in the care of their parents.

Many children who come into care return home to live with their parents. However, for those children where this is not an option there are a number of possibilities. No one choice is more desirable than any other. The decision should be made on the needs of the child and not the resource available. The options are:

• Adoption
• Long Term Fostering
• Family and Friends Foster Care
• Special Guardianship Orders
• Child Arrangement Orders
• Residential Care

Two experienced consultants with knowledge of permanence were hired to assist the leadership team and workforce to undertake the work highlighted in the inspection report. There was a full county plan produced that included workforce development, commissioning and legal.

A permanency policy was produced in collaboration with social workers and managers. To support the policy, a permanence tracker and permanence planning meeting was established. These were led by the Heads of Service from the three localities. The purpose was to make sure that management had a clear line of sight of all children who should have a plan of permanence. The Heads of Service have driven the need for children to have a plan of permanency and have ensured they continue to chair the permanency meetings.

All children by their second Looked after Child review (chaired by an IRO) should have a clear plan of permanence noted on the child’s file. A great deal of emphasis was placed on IRO's to challenge practitioners when the plan was not on the file or not of a good enough quality. An escalation policy was introduced to make certain that managers were aware that there was a need to follow up on the need to ascertain the plan for the child. This is now placed on the child's file so that there is an audit trail of the escalation. This work was acknowledged in the focus visit, but further work needs to be undertaken where at third and fourth review the plan has not been executed.
Training has been provided by the principal social worker to ensure that assessments were clearly identifying the plan for permanence. Practitioners were supported to understand that there are three issues that must be considered when making a decision regarding permanency; is the placement emotionally warm, physically safe and legally correct? This is tested by the quality assurance team when auditing cases. Where the principals of permanency are not evidenced this is highlighted to a manager to discuss with the social worker and ensure the information is on the child's file and evident within all reports.

Work was undertaken to revoke care orders of children who had been at home where there had been no safeguarding concerns. Although a great deal of work was undertaken and initially a large number of orders were discharged, this has not continued at the rate we would have anticipated. There continues to be a large number of children at home on care orders and children who become subject to a care order at home following the completion of proceedings. There is a need to review this work making sure that families are not subject to intervention when it is not necessary or proportionate.

On the 4 November 2019, Ofsted undertook a 2 day focus visit on permanency. This was not a graded inspection but did provide the county council with an overview of the four areas identified in the 2018 inspection. Feedback was provided on the 5 November. The inspectors fed back that children in Lancashire were safe and it was evident to them the amount of work and commitment that had been undertaken over the last year. They highlighted that the voice of the child was evident in cases, audits allowed change to take place, and that they were thorough and balanced. They highlighted that social workers knew their children well and spoke with confidence, assessments were updated regularly, permanence plans were available at second review and that there was evidence of regular case and group supervision and they noted good access to training and development.

They were clear there was more to do, assessment quality and timeliness continues to be variable, although permanence plans at second review were on the file, where this had not been actioned at the third review there was no evidence of the IRO following this up. They highlighted that there continues to be drift and delay in both revocation and in proceedings that lead to children waiting too long to know where they will be living in the future.

The focus visit confirmed what we were aware of and did not highlight areas that we are not already working on and making change to.

The areas for improvement will be added to the existing Getting to Good plan, which is reviewed by a multi-agency group chaired by the Executive Director and will support the full inspection.

The actions will be monitored and reported back into the Ofsted preparation meeting that is held on a regular basis to make sure we are continuing to understand the importance of permanency for every child to make sure they understand what the plans are for their future and providing them and their families the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to their future plans.
Consultations

N/A

Implications:

Should the recommendations of the Ofsted visit not be implemented it is unlikely the next full inspection will award a good or outstanding judgement.

Risk management

The risk is overseen in several forums, the main driver is the Getting to Good group that has a comprehensive plan overseen by the Executive Director and partners from across the county. There is a LGA representative that supports the group ensuring independent scrutiny of the work and feeding back to the Department for Education.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA
18 December 2019

Edwina Grant
Lancashire
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PR1 8RJ

Dear Edwina

**Focused visit to Lancashire children’s services**

This letter summarises the findings of a focused visit to Lancashire children’s services on 4 November 2019. The inspectors were Lorna Schlechte, Her Majesty’s Inspector, and Shabana Abasi, Her Majesty’s Inspector.

Inspectors looked at the local authority’s arrangements for achieving permanence. This included children who had returned home, connected carers, long-term foster or residential care and special guardianship, but did not extend to adoption services.

Inspectors looked at a range of evidence, including case discussions with social workers. They also looked at local authority performance management and quality assurance information and children’s case records.

**Overview**

Following the last inspection in 2018, the local authority recognised the need to drive improvement in relation to permanence planning for children in care. However, the pace of improvement has only accelerated since the beginning of this year. Senior leaders have been responsive to external scrutiny from peer reviews and other partners, they have recently implemented a new permanence policy and they have introduced new systems and tools to scrutinise the quality of work more closely in this area.

This is leading to a more organised approach to permanence so that the need to live in secure and caring homes for the duration of their childhood is being appropriately considered for more children. However, some children still wait too long to achieve permanence with their long-term carers, which means that this approach is not yet fully embedded across children’s services. Progress in achieving permanence in a timely manner is affected by the inconsistent quality of assessments, plans and management oversight on the child’s record. Consequently, it is not always clear how decisions to achieve permanence are made within the child’s timeframe.
The new senior leadership team is appropriately focused on reducing very high numbers of children in care. Senior leaders have developed a more robust audit framework, which accurately identifies shortfalls in practice. There continues to be a strong focus on developing the workforce by providing a range of valued training opportunities to embed good practice. Social workers are a committed staff group, and report positively on their learning within a supportive work environment. Further work is required to continue the journey of improvement and to ensure that there is greater consistency across the service to reduce drift and delay for children.

**What needs to improve in this area of social work practice**

- Assessments that are of a consistently good standard.
- Plans that provide detailed actions and timescales to measure progress.
- Timely and purposeful direct work with children to help them understand their plan.
- Management oversight that provides a clear rationale for permanence decisions and reduces drift and delay.

**Findings**

- Children come into care appropriately, although there are sometimes missed opportunities to initiate legal proceedings earlier for children who are living in families where there is a history of chronic neglect. More recently, pre-proceedings have been used to good effect to ensure that decisive action is taken promptly and that children are safeguarded when they are at risk of harm.

- Children live in appropriate, mostly stable placements, within the county. They are well cared for and have their needs met. In many cases, children’s outcomes improve due to a range of support, and this helps them to develop and thrive in care. This includes significant support in relation to their emotional and well-being needs. Arrangements for children to see their families and friends are sensitively considered, well supported and reviewed on a regular basis.

- When children can return home safely, comprehensive home placement agreements are put in place. These identify how the child’s needs can be met and guide social workers in their work with the child and family. Sometimes, there is an over-optimistic assessment of parental capacity in these situations, which has led to some children returning home prematurely. However, when children do make progress at home, the decision to discharge the care order is well considered and is informed by detailed assessments of need and packages of support. The local authority has made some progress in addressing the number of discharges for a significant cohort of children placed on a care order at home with their parents.
The number of children who are placed with connected carers has increased. These placements are appropriately considered and the carers are assessed as potential permanent carers for children who cannot return home to their parents. However, the ratification of these arrangements through special guardianship is not always timely, which leads to some delay for children and their carers who would benefit from securing legal permanence at an earlier stage.

The quality of children’s assessments is too variable and this is recognised by senior managers. Assessments are updated regularly, including when children’s circumstances change, and historical risk factors are clearly articulated. However, assessments do not always include information from partner agencies and sometimes they lack detailed analysis about the impact for children.

The quality of care plans is also variable. In the stronger examples, plans record outcomes and the child’s views well. In the weaker examples, they contain too much narrative, lack detail and specificity regarding actions and timescales, and do not include contingency arrangements. This makes it difficult to measure progress or to fully understand how options to secure permanence can be achieved within the child’s timescales.

Children’s review meetings are regular and well attended, with children frequently encouraged to participate. The number of independent reviewing officers (IROs) has increased since the last inspection, and they have been provided with more bespoke training. This investment in the IRO role is reflected in the review record, which provides a clear rationale for why the child is in care, with actions being well recorded and permanence increasingly being considered at the child’s second review meeting. There is also evidence of the IRO footprint on the child’s record, through mid-review monitoring of compliance and practice issues. However, in those cases where there has been some delay securing permanence, it is not always evident that the IRO escalation process has provided robust challenge.

Visits to children are regular, purposeful and children are seen alone. Social workers know their children well and develop good relationships with them, although this is not always reflected in the child’s record. For example, some social workers highlight the child’s voice in bold in the record, but do not provide analysis of what this means for the child’s lived experience.

Direct work with children is sometimes limited and subject to delay. In some instances, it is clearly referenced in the care plan and seeks to help children understand what has happened to them, and what the plans are for their future. However, children can wait too long for life-story work to be undertaken, which means that they do not always have timely access to the support needed to help them understand their experiences.

The local authority has a detailed understanding of the needs of children and has developed its sufficiency strategy to ensure that most placements can meet children’s needs within the county. This includes ‘track and challenge’ forums for
children in residential placements and new commissioning arrangements for block purchasing residential placements locally. Funding has recently been secured to develop foster carer recruitment initiatives with neighbouring local authorities on a collaborative basis, although it is too soon to see the impact of this.

- A new permanence policy was implemented earlier this year and is helping the local authority to achieve a stronger focus on achieving permanence across the service. A permanence tracker, introduced early in 2019, is a comprehensive tool which helps managers to monitor the progress of children who need to be matched long-term, discharged from care or found suitable adoptive placements.

- Permanence panels are held across the locality areas and provide a useful mechanism to regularly scrutinise permanence plans. Panel records include an overview of children's circumstances, although it is not always clear how actions will support the timely progression of permanence planning. As a result, some children wait too long to have their placement formally matched at panel in line with their care plan. There has been a significant drive in recent months to ensure that all historic cases are ratified as long-term foster placements at exemption panels, but this has sometimes followed a period of significant delay. This means that some children experience unnecessary insecurity about their future care as they wait for permanence to be agreed.

- The practice issues of drift and delay are recognised by senior managers. They acknowledge that further improvements are needed to reduce the disproportionately high numbers of children in care. There is an appropriate improvement plan in place which supports future developments, including a strengthened family group conference service and the planned investment in a new model of practice.

- Performance is scrutinised within monthly performance clinics, which ensures that variability of practice across a wide geographical area is increasingly understood. This activity informs the audit process, which is thorough and balanced, and provides accurate insight into the quality of care planning for children in care. There is evidence of some learning from audits, especially those which are completed in discussion with social workers and their managers.

- Management oversight within supervision is regular, but the records of these discussions are often too brief and task focused, and they lack reflection about the most appropriate routes to permanence and the impact for children. The rationale for permanence decisions is not always evident within supervision records in order to help social workers develop their understanding of how to achieve permanence within the child's timescales.

- Caseloads are too high for some social workers, although senior managers report that these are reducing, and there has been a reliance on agency staff in some areas. Experienced agency staff are used to provide additional capacity to teams with less experienced social workers. Turnover rates for permanent members of
staff are quite low, and the workforce development strategy and action plan provides a firm basis for professional development.

Social workers spoke very positively about the supportive team environment in Lancashire, the accessibility of managers and the training provided to help them do the job. Newly qualified social workers were also positive about the support they receive. Purposeful practice workshops continue to be facilitated by advanced practitioners on a range of practice issues, as seen at the time of the last inspection, and are highly valued by staff.

Ofsted will take the findings from this focused visit into account when planning your next inspection or visit.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Schlechte

*Her Majesty’s Inspector*
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 15 January 2020

Neglect Strategy
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:
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Executive Summary

This report provides an update to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the implementation of the Neglect Strategy and the partnership working.

Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

i. Review and comment on the progress so far.
ii. Note that further work is to be undertaken across all partners to ensure the Neglect Strategy is well embedded and making a difference.

Background and Advice

In April 2019, a refreshed Multi Agency Neglect Strategy was launched by Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board (as attached at Appendix 'A'). Extensive consultation was undertaken in preparation for this review with key partner agencies and children and young people. This strategy sets out what neglect is and the current picture in Lancashire. Four key priorities evolved through a partnership working group. These are:

- Priority 1: Strategic Commitment across all partner agencies
- Priority 2: Improve awareness, understanding and recognition
- Priority 3: Prevent neglect through early help
- Priority 4: Improve effectiveness of interventions and reduce impact of neglect

What have we achieved so far?

Priority 1

- Neglect Strategy launched with a range of posters, materials and communication including a video.
- Ensured neglect is now a key priority of the Children's Safeguarding Arrangement Partnership (CSAP).
Developed Pan Lancashire links to the Strategy with Blackpool adopting the same strategy.

Priority 2
- An online multi agency toolkit was developed by a range of practitioners and is available on the website.
- Commissioned both multi agency and children's services targeted training. To date, we are part way through an extensive children's services training plan which commenced in September 2019. This one day training course for all practitioners brings together current research, the key priorities for neglect and ensures a strength based approach in line with the move for Lancashire children's service's towards a Family Safeguarding model. The multi-agency training benefits from the same highly experienced trainer to ensure consistency. Feedback and evaluation to date has been positive. The current trainer will dip sample trainees in 6-12 months' time for impact.

Priority 3
- Neglect will be a key priority in the revised early help strategy.
- The early help strategy is currently being developed and will soon be ready to launch. Early help "hubs "will bring together practitioners who will be better placed to identify neglect and act swiftly to provide the right support, at the right level.
- Developed a Safeguarding Networks Pilot to support schools in a range of safeguarding and neglect issues

Priority 4
- We have improved the quality of our SMART plans. Plans are more achievable and measurable and this is evidenced in our Audits.
- We are improving the quality of our supervision. This is evidenced in monthly audits of our staff supervision. We are building on the quality through additional training for managers through our Leadership Academy and Research in Practice.
- Tackled drift and delay; improving our timeliness of plans open to children's services and tracking pre proceedings work through our permanence tracker.
- Lancashire’s Family Safeguarding model will support improved effectiveness of interventions and help support the complex needs of adults, which are often the root cause of neglect to children.

What do we need to do?

We need to further embed the Neglect Strategy by;
- Developing a working group with key partner agencies to ensure effective and meaningful delivery of the strategy and alignment to the Family Safeguarding Model-planned from January.
- Plan multi agency district workshops to ensure a shared understanding of neglect and promote use of the toolkit.
- Monitor and measure the impact of the neglect strategy through the working group, developing a range of measures including multi agency auditing.
Consultations

N/A

Implications:

N/A

Risk management

Strategic commitment is required from all agencies to ensure the neglect strategy is well embedded across all districts of Lancashire, and the focus on neglect is maintained within the revised early strategy and the roll out of the Family Safeguarding model.

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

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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

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I am pleased to present the Lancashire Neglect Strategy 2019-21. This important multi-agency strategy has been developed by Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board, in consultation with children, young people and practitioners, and applies to all agencies working within Lancashire. It is expected that emerging or refreshed relevant agency policies and procedures will take into account the strategic priorities identified within this document.

I urge all agencies and professionals, along with the wider voluntary sector and community, to read the strategy, to sign up to it and to think about how you can make a purposeful contribution to its implementation. Whilst complex safeguarding i.e. child exploitation and radicalisation are dominating the media, we must not lose sight of neglect. Neglect remains the most common form of child abuse across the United Kingdom and is usually the most common reason for a child being subject to a child protection plan. Numbers of recorded cruelty and neglect offences in England and Northern Ireland are now the highest they have been for a decade.

The impact of neglect on children and young people is enormous. Neglect causes great distress to children, leading to poor health, educational and social outcomes and is potentially fatal. Lives are destroyed, children’s abilities to make secure attachments are affected and their ability to attend and attain at school is reduced. Their emotional health and well-being is often compromised and this impacts on their success in adulthood and their ability to parent in the future. This refreshed strategy builds on the achievements of the 2013 strategy and further demonstrates the commitment and ambition of all partners in Lancashire to maintain our focus to better identify children experiencing neglect and to more effectively join up the support offered to families in order to improve the outcomes for our children and young people. The strategy is informed by lessons learned nationally and locally, by statutory guidance and research. The time span of this strategy is such that it will be part of the multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements laid down in Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2018) and will reflect this transition.

Jane Booth
Independent Chair, Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board
Definition of Neglect

Working Together 2018 definition of neglect

The definition of neglect from statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2018) is:

‘The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health and development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse. Once a child is born neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

a) Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
b) Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
c) Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care givers)
d) Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child’s basic emotional needs.

As well as the statutory definition, it is necessary to recognise the specific needs of children and in turn understand ‘failure to meet basic needs’. Neglect is defined as “the ongoing failure to meet a child’s basic physical and psychological needs” (Department for Education, 2018; Department of Health, 2017; Scottish Government, 2014; All Wales, Child Protection Review Group, 2008). It is a form of child abuse that can have serious and long-lasting impact on a child’s life - it can cause serious harm and even death.
Types of Neglect

The main types of neglect are:-

- **Physical neglect**: not meeting a child’s basic needs, such as food, clothing or shelter; not supervising a child adequately or providing for their safety
- **Educational neglect**: failure to ensure a child receives an education
- **Emotional neglect**: failing to meet a child’s needs for nurture and stimulation, for example by ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them, witnessing the harm of another.
- **Medical neglect**: not providing appropriate health care (including dental care), refusing care or ignoring medical recommendations.

In addition, we see nutritional neglect, for example, obesity and failure to thrive; and lack of supervision and guidance, for example, monitoring online activity or whereabouts when out alone.

Impact of neglect

**Pre-birth** - a child can experience neglect at any age. The impact of neglect can start before birth – a mother may neglect her own (and therefore the unborn baby’s) health during pregnancy which would affect the development in the womb. Once a baby is born, physical and emotional neglect during the early years of life can also have a profound impact on the development of the brain and the body.

**Infancy (birth to two years)** – a baby’s growth and development is linked to their interaction with the world and their caregivers. Emotional and cognitive development e.g. games like ‘peek-a-boo’ where actions are repeated for social and emotional reinforcement from the reactions of caregivers, and neural connections are ‘fixed’ through stimulation. Disinterest or indifference to such actions and/ or failing to offer stimulation will limit the child’s development and growth. A secure attachment to a primary caregiver is the foundation that allows children to learn to trust others and explore the world around them. Studies have shown that children with disrupted attachment who have experienced
neglect have problems coping and managing emotions, are more hopeless, and have a poor self-concept. The ongoing nature of chronic neglect significantly impacts the brain in infancy and early childhood.

**Pre-school (two to four years)** – most children of this age are mobile and curious, but lack understanding of danger; they need close supervision for their physical protection, which neglected children may not experience. Children may not be appropriately toilet trained if they are in neglectful families, as this process requires patient and persistent interaction and encouragement. Children’s language development may be delayed if their caregivers are not interacting with them sufficiently, and physical care may be inadequate, e.g. dental decay.

**Primary age (five to eleven)** – for some neglected children, school can be a place of sanctuary. However, if their cognitive development has been delayed and they are behind their peers at school, it can also be a source of frustration and distress. Signs of neglect, e.g. dirty or ill-fitting clothing, will be apparent to peers, teachers and to the children themselves, and may cause embarrassment and difficulties in their social interactions. Children without clear and consistent boundaries at home can struggle to follow school rules.

**Adolescence (twelve to eighteen)** – neglect is likely to have an impact on the young person’s ability to form and maintain friendships and positive relationships, though the young person may be more reluctant to disclose their situation if they fear becoming looked after or being split up from their siblings. Whilst adolescents can find sufficient food for themselves, they are likely to be drawn to the availability of high-fat, high-sugar convenience foods if they have never learned to prepare meals which may lead to other associated medical conditions, for example,
severe tooth decay, vitamin deficiencies and weight issues including obesity. Adolescent risk-taking behaviour may be associated with, attributed to or exacerbated by a lack of parental supervision, which can expose neglected young people to the risk of harm through, for example, alcohol and substance misuse, risky sexual behaviour or criminal activity. Resilience to neglectful situations does not increase with age, and can have significant consequences for young people’s emotional wellbeing.
Young people’s view of neglect

A key part of our strategy is to work with young people. We have gathered the experiences and thoughts of those young people who have experienced neglect. Through our safeguarding surveys, young people have told us that they do not understand the term ‘neglect’ and would not know how to spot the signs or how to support a friend who was experiencing neglect. Our strategy is based on what young people have told us would have most impact.

Young people think neglect is…

- Not feeling safe
- Having no food
- Where drugs are more important than me
- No-one speaks to you
- No-one cares
- Not being clean
- Not helping with school work
- Being hit
Lancashire’s vision and principles

In Lancashire we are committed to making a positive difference to the lives of children and young people in our communities. We want Lancashire to be a great place to be young, where all children and young people thrive and feel safe from harm and neglect. Our neglect strategy is aligned with our business plan and will focus on the key things we think will make the most difference to improving the lives of our children and young people:

- We always put children and young people first
- We understand the impact the situation is having on the child or young person
- We take action to make positive change a reality
- We work with families to achieve long lasting change
Why we need a neglect strategy

There is considerable national research and local evidence which demonstrates the damage done to children and young people living in situations of neglect. Whilst the harm resulting from neglect can be especially damaging in the first 18 months of life, it has a cumulative impact across childhood and into adolescence and so affects all of our children and young people. Sadly, for some children the consequences of neglect are fatal.

- Neglect is one of the most common reason for a child to be the subject of a child protection in Lancashire.
- Neglect is the form of maltreatment more likely to be repeated.
- Neglect exposes children to other forms of abuse, e.g. exploitation/increased vulnerability.
- Neglect can be difficult to identify, making it hard for professionals to take action to protect a child.
- Neglect is an area where there can be drift and delay; professionals can become desensitised to a child’s living conditions and experiences of poor parenting.
What we want from our new strategy

The aim of the strategy is to enable us to...
✓ More robustly tackle the issue of neglect
✓ Listen to the voice of the child and their lived experiences
✓ More effectively mitigate the impact this form of child abuse has on children and young people.
✓ Identify neglect much sooner when it happens and earlier in children’s lives.
✓ Reduce the number of children that suffer neglect and reduce the impact and time they suffer.
✓ Elevate child and adolescent neglect to the highest level of awareness and priority that this single most prevalent form of child abuse merits.
✓ Deliver a well-trained multi-agency workforce confident in tackling neglect and a public that recognises and reports neglect.
What we have achieved so far

This is our second neglect strategy in Lancashire, having first developed a comprehensive strategy in 2013.

So far we have:

✓ Established a multi-agency working group;
✓ Delivered multi-agency neglect training;
✓ Developed website resource for practitioners;
✓ Delivered a Serious Case Review conference in 2018;
✓ Completed multi-agency case file audits;
✓ Developed a quality assurance framework to enable the LSCB and others to understand and scrutinise performance around neglect;
✓ Spoken with young people who have been neglected, to better understand their experiences;
✓ Consulted young people from Lancashire to inform our new strategy;
✓ Taken part in the DfE national campaign to encourage the public to report neglect and child abuse;
✓ Introduced a Risk Sensible Framework for multi-agency partnership handbook.
Neglect in Lancashire

Neglect continues to be an area of priority and focus in Lancashire. Early help also has a key role to play in supporting parents and preventing children becoming at risk from neglect or abuse. Lancashire offers a wide range of parenting programmes and open access groups through children’s centres, and commissions a number of parenting support services, such as one to one support in the home establishing a routine for caring and interacting with children, parenting courses and family counselling sessions as part of our early help offer. Commissioned services are targeted to the areas of the greatest need and should result in a reduction in future demand to Children’s Social Care. Work is needed to ensure better identification to bridge this gap and provide early help to children and families.

As at the end of March 2018 1,243 children were on child protection plans in Lancashire; 375 were due to neglect; a percentage of 30.1%. In comparison, over the same time period, the England average was 47.5% and the North West average 40.5% with regards to neglect. The number and percentage of plans for neglect in Lancashire over recent years are set out below. Also provided below is the Lancashire District split, this illustrates the number of child protection plans across each of the Children’s Social Care team areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As at end of March</th>
<th>No. on child protection plan</th>
<th>No. due to neglect</th>
<th>% due to neglect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>33.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>33.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,394</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>32.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,243</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>30.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A large proportion of these plans are in the 0-5 age range, with increases in the first year of life and around 4 and 5 years. This is possibly because of greater involvement by Midwives and Health Visitors in the earlier age group. Many children subject to child protection plans for neglect are in sibling groups. A concern or referral in relation to one child may result in all the children of that family becoming subject to a plan. Neglect is also localised, within specific areas of the County. A large proportion of children subject to child protection plans for neglect live in deprived areas. In Lancashire, this is largely in the areas of Pendle (42%), Rossendale (38.7%) and Preston (34.1%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>No. on child protection plan</th>
<th>No. due to neglect</th>
<th>% due to neglect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burnley</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chorley &amp; South Ribble</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fylde &amp; Wyre</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyndburn &amp; Ribble Valley</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pendle</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rossendale</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lancs</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What frontline practitioners think

The views of multi-agency practitioners underpins this strategy through discussion and analysis at a number of neglect workshops held between September and October 2018. In addition, a Survey Monkey went out to all LSCB partner agencies. The LSCB collects views from frontline practitioners through a number of ways, including audits, surveys and feedback collected through training.

*Some of the feedback from frontline multi-agency practitioners is set out below:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use plan, clear language</th>
<th>Better understanding of outcomes</th>
<th>Early identification of neglect is vital</th>
<th>Voice of the child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underpinned with quality multi-agency training</td>
<td>Measurable action plans</td>
<td>Long term neglect requires long term solutions</td>
<td>Definition of neglect needs to be clear and consistent across partner agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared understanding of neglect across all partners</td>
<td>Prevention and early intervention is paramount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement of root causes - poverty, mental health, substance misuse, domestic abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What children and young people think:-
Through our audits and work with children and young people affected by abuse and neglect, they have told us they want the following:

 ✓ To be heard and listened to
 ✓ To be included in planning and have the opportunity to ask questions
 ✓ For all professionals to be clear with them about what is happening

I don’t feel noticed
Neglect is being mistreated and getting hit
No, I was neglected but my Mum still cared for me
I wanted to be treated the same as others

Being in care is helpful. You get to go out and your needs are met i.e. health, people who listen to me. I feel safe and have better clothes and glasses. I did not feel like a kid at home. I had to pay for everything by working. I feel better because I’m happier – I don’t want to go home
No, I was neglected but my Mum still cared for me

It is better now because I am in care, if I went back home it would be the same
Social Worker gives you more stress sometimes, but I know that I am cared for and feel safe.

Things didn’t get better, as they would just come round the Social Workers and Mum would be fake and then they left and she would be the same
I am no longer at home. I needed to have more help at home i.e. Outreach Worker, no-one supported me at home

Being in care is helpful. You get to go out and your needs are met i.e. health, people who listen to me. I feel safe and have better clothes and glasses. I did not feel like a kid at home. I had to pay for everything by working. I feel better because I’m happier – I don’t want to go home
No, I was neglected but my Mum still cared for me

I wanted to be treated the same as others

Social Worker gives you more stress sometimes, but I know that I am cared for and feel safe.

Things didn’t get better, as they would just come round the Social Workers and Mum would be fake and then they left and she would be the same
I am no longer at home. I needed to have more help at home i.e. Outreach Worker, no-one supported me at home
**Priorities for 2019–2021**
Through consultation the following key priorities evolved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority 1: Strategic commitment across all partner agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neglect continues to be a priority for Lancashire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To address this, we will:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Relaunch Lancashire’s neglect strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Drive neglect as a key priority of the LSCB with a whole family approach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority 2: Improve awareness, understanding and recognition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frontline practitioners are still telling us that neglect is difficult to recognise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To address this, we will:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Work with young people to get a better understanding of neglect from their perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Refresh and relaunch a neglect campaign focused on adolescent neglect and neglect by affluence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Review and refresh the LSCB website, including procedures content around neglect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Improve the use of communication channels to promote awareness, understanding and recognition of neglect, including social media etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Priority 3: Prevent neglect through early help
Raise awareness and collaboration around neglect with other partnerships

To address this, we will:
✓ Ensure that neglect is included in the revised early help strategy.
✓ Promote the use of online tools across the partnership.
✓ Carry out CAF audits to check the use of the neglect tools.
✓ Develop good practice case studies

Priority 4: Improve effectiveness of interventions and reduce the impact of neglect
Sometimes our interventions do not make a big enough difference or impact quick enough to improve the lived experiences of our children and young people.

To address this, we will:
✓ Promote the use of achievable and measurable action plans e.g. SMART
✓ Pilot a virtual neglect operational group whereby practitioners can share concerns, good practice and advice on neglect cases.
✓ Promote effective safeguarding supervision particularly neglect cases where there is drift.
✓ Improve our responses to specific target groups, e.g. children with disabilities.
✓ Improve the quality and timeliness of parenting assessments for children on a child protection plan/ pre proceedings
Making our priorities happen

Action plan
The action plan at Appendix 1 sets out the key actions we think we need to do to achieve our priorities. This will be reviewed and updated quarterly to ensure delivery of this strategy.

Governance
The LSCB will continue to meet to monitor the implementation of the neglect strategy. A report outlining progress and any issues or risks will be regularly presented to Board. Performance reporting and impact will be scrutinised by the Quality Sub-Group.

Updates on progress will be regularly provided to the LSCB and will hold partners to account for the delivery of the strategy. Progress and impact will also be included in the LSCB’s Annual Report, which is published annually, and shared with key officers and committees in the local authority, Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups.
Measuring Success

The success of the strategy will be measured based on a range of quantitative and qualitative measures set out in this strategy.

A number of measures will be monitored and reported through the governance arrangements. These include:

- The LSCB multi-agency audits of neglect child protection plans show good impact of the plan and use of neglect tools.
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Children’s Social Care audits show good use of neglect tools.
- The independent review of children in need plans for neglect shows effective planning and impact and good use of tools.
- Feedback from parents collected at children in need, initial child protection case conference, child protection case review meetings and at case closure.
- Young people’s views of neglect through the LSCB safeguarding survey, feedback at children in need, initial child protection case conference, child protection case review meetings and at case closure and specific work as part of the neglect strategy.
- Feedback from frontline staff through frontline visits, audits, staff surveys and training questionnaires across the partnership.
### How we will know our practice is good?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much we did</th>
<th>What does it show?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This will be measured by the LSCB</td>
<td>The neglect measures will show us whether we are identifying neglect early enough and at a young enough age, whether we deal with cases in a timely way and avoid drift and delay. It will also tell us whether practitioners are taking up the training offered and using the tools we have developed to support them in their practice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How well we did it</th>
<th>Is anyone better off?</th>
<th>Feedback from staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ LSCB multi-agency audits of neglect child protection plans show good impact of the plan. ✓ Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Children’s Social Care audits show good use of screening tool. ✓ Independent Review of children in need plans for neglect shows effective planning and impact and good use of tools.</td>
<td>Feedback from parents collected at: ✓ Children in need ✓ Initial child protection case conference ✓ Child protection case review meetings ✓ Case closure. Feedback from parents collected at: ✓ Children in need ✓ Initial child protection case conference ✓ Child protection case review meetings ✓ Case closure. Young people’s views of neglect through: ✓ Direct work with those young people on a plan for neglect ✓ Focus groups ✓ Safeguarding survey ✓ Feedback at children in need, initial child protection case conference, child protection case review meetings and at case closure.</td>
<td>Feedback from frontline staff through: ✓ Frontline visits ✓ Audits ✓ Staff surveys ✓ Training questionnaires.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix 1 - Lancashire Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy, 2019 - 2021 Action Plan

**Priority 1: Strategic commitment across all partner agencies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>By when</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Launch revised Neglect Strategy.</td>
<td>LSCB</td>
<td>1st April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>LSCB to hold agencies to account for the implementation of their own agency plans detailing operational response to the 4 agreed priorities</td>
<td>All partner agencies</td>
<td>May 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Priority 2: Improve awareness, understanding and recognition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>By when</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Launch the Neglect Strategy – including the rollout of materials such as posters and flyers.</td>
<td>LSCB</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Undertake a workshop with young people around neglect to develop a definition of neglect and &quot;what makes a difference&quot;. Develop material from this workshop to support practitioner awareness and provide impact.</td>
<td>Children in Care Council</td>
<td>May 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Review and refresh LSCB website, including procedures in relation to neglect on Tri-x.</td>
<td>LSCB</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priority 3: Prevent neglect through early help

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>By when</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Review all multi-agency neglect training to ensure it is evidence based and is aligned with the 4 key priorities.</td>
<td>LSCB</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Develop online multi agency toolkit.</td>
<td>Chris Coyle (CSC)</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Ensure neglect is a central theme within the revised early help strategy.</td>
<td>Early Help, LCC</td>
<td>July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Commitment from agencies to the &quot;Safeguarding Networks&quot; pilot model</td>
<td>LSCB Partners</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Priority 4: Improve effectiveness of interventions and reduce impact of neglect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>By when</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>To ensure that multi-agency practice with regard to neglect is on a par with other safeguarding cases.</td>
<td>LSCB</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Develop mechanisms to prevent drift and delay in neglect case.</td>
<td>CSC, LCC</td>
<td>May 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Undertake thematic multi agency audit in relation to neglect with an outcome based perspective and considering the quality of interventions. To include the Voice and the Child and Lived Experience. Feedback learning from these audits, to include case studies.</td>
<td>LSCB</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Further information**

You can find more information about Neglect by visiting the Lancashire Safeguarding Board’s website:

www.lancashiresafeguarding.org.uk/

The website holds information about Neglect as a form of abuse, offering toolkits and guidance to support practitioners.

If you wish to contact the LSCB, please email lscb@lancashire.gov.uk, and follow us on Twitter for information relating to Safeguarding @LancsSguarding

The NSPCC also holds a range of useful information in relation to Neglect: www.nspcc.org.uk

If you are concerned about the safety of a child, please call:

Children’s Social Care on 0300 123 6720; or Police on 101 (dial 999 in the case of an emergency)
Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 15 January 2020

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Child Poverty

Contact for further information:
Samantha Parker, Tel: (01772) 538221, Senior Democratic Services Officer,
sam.parker@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of information to be presented to the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation

The Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee is requested to:
   i. Note and comment on the presentation.
   ii. Discuss and identify specific topic areas for further scrutiny.

Background and Advice

Members of the committee will be provided with a comprehensive presentation on the subject of child poverty which will include the following:
   • Indices of deprivation
   • Links to children’s health
   • Outcomes framework plan

The committee are requested to note and comment on the information presented, and to discuss and identify specific topic areas for further scrutiny.

Consultations

NA

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk implications associated with this report.
Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact/Tel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate
NA
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 15 January 2020

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Work Programme 2019/20
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:
Samantha Parker, Tel: (01772) 538221, Senior Democratic Services Officer,
sam.parker@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The work programme for the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The topics included were identified at the work planning workshop held on 25 July 2019.

Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

i. Note and comment on the report and work programme;
ii. Discuss and confirm topics for the next meeting and reasons for scrutiny.

Background and Advice

A statement of the work to be undertaken and considered by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year is set out at Appendix 'A'.

The work programme will be presented to each meeting for consideration and includes topics to be discussed at committee meetings, events, task groups, rapporteur work, briefing notes and training for members.

Members are requested to note and comment on the report and to discuss and confirm topics for the next meeting and reasons for scrutiny.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact/Tel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA
Appendix A

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2019/20

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken over the forthcoming municipal year through scheduled Committee meetings, task group, events and through use of the 'rapporteur' model.

The items on the work programme are determined by the Committee following the work programming session at the start of the municipal year in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees terms of reference detailed in the County Councils Constitution. This includes provision for the rights of County Councillors to ask for any matter to be considered by the Committee or to call-in decisions.

Coordination of the work programme activity is undertaken by the Chair and Deputy Chair of all of the Scrutiny Committees to avoid potential duplication.

In addition to the terms of reference outlined in the Constitution (Part 2 Article 5) for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will:

- Scrutinise matters relating to services for Children and Young People delivered by the authority and other relevant partners
- 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
- Invite interested parties when reviewing any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area, to comment on the matter and take account of relevant information available, particularly that provided by the Local Healthwatch
- 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
- Take steps to reach agreement with NHS body, in the case of contested NHS proposals for substantial service changes
- Refer a matter to the relevant Secretary of State in the case of contested NHS proposals for substantial service changes where agreement cannot be reached with the NHS
- Refer to the relevant Secretary of State any NHS proposal which the Committee feels has been the subject of inadequate consultation
Appendix A

- Scrutinise the social care services provided or commissioned by NHS bodies exercising local authority functions under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999
- Draw up a forward programme of health scrutiny in consultation with other local authorities, NHS partners, the Local Healthwatch and other key stakeholders
- Acknowledge within 20 working days to referrals on relevant matters from the Local Healthwatch or Local Healthwatch contractor, and to keep the referer informed of any action taken in relation to the matter
- 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
- Invite any officer of any NHS body to attend before the Committee to answer questions or give evidence

The Work Programme will be submitted to and agreed by the Scrutiny Committees at each meeting and will be published with each agenda.

The dates are indicative of when the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will review the item, however they may need to be rescheduled and new items added as required.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Lead Officers/ Organisation</th>
<th>Proposed Date(s)</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Committee Meetings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lancashire SEND Partnership Improvement Plan</strong></td>
<td>Progress update on the Improvement Programme and Plan as requested at the meeting of the committee on 13 May 2019</td>
<td>Sally Richardson Samantha Jones (LPCF) Hilary Fordham (Health) Ajay Sethi</td>
<td>3 July 2019</td>
<td>An update to be provided on the speech and language services, the progress of actions delayed and progress of the 12 areas set out in the WSoA</td>
<td>To be reported to Education Scrutiny Committee at 29 Oct 2019 meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Children and Families Partnership Arrangements</strong></td>
<td>Progress update on the review of current partnership arrangements</td>
<td>Dave Carr Rob Dobson (Burnley BC)</td>
<td>3 July 2019</td>
<td>Noted</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Offending Team (YOT)</strong></td>
<td>Inspection outcomes and action plan</td>
<td>Head of Fostering, Adoption, Residential and YOT</td>
<td>9 Oct 2019</td>
<td>A briefing note be provided to committee members in March 2020 on the post inspection action plan progress.</td>
<td>Added to work programme</td>
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| Participation Strategy | Enhancing participation practice – new draft strategic framework | Strategy Lead for Participation Youth Council representative Head of Policy, Information and Commissioning (Start Well) | 9 Oct 2019 | Details of the network of participation champions when identified be circulated to all councillors to assist with supporting a 'culture of participation'.

A progress report be provided to a future meeting of the committee.

Information on the questionnaire to schools be circulated to committee members to support generating responses. |
<p>| Child Poverty | Holiday hunger and food banks Poverty and knife crime Impact of Universal Credit Housing and housing conditions | Director of Children's Social Care Partners TBC Business Intelligence | 15 Jan 2020 |
| Permanence | Overview of Permanence and the new Permanence plan | Director of Children's Social Care Head of Children's Social Care | 15 Jan 2020 |
| Neglect Strategy | Update on implementation of strategy and partnership working | Director of Children's Social Care | 15 Jan 2020 |</p>
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<tr>
<th>CAMHS</th>
<th>Timescales and delays in referrals – update on progress of service redesign programme</th>
<th>Sally Nightingale, Head of Policy, Information and Commissioning (Start Well)</th>
<th>26 Feb 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Children's Health | Update on current data/trends on children's health including:  
- Childhood obesity trailblazer programme  
- Childhood immunisations**  
- Dental health inc Orthodontic Service procurement | Director of Public Health | 24 March 2020 |
<p>| Area Safeguarding Arrangements | Future focus and plans | Director of Children's Social Care | 23 Apr 2020 |
| Adoption Service | Review of new Regional Adoption Agency – update on implementation plan for new Pan Lancashire arrangements | Head of Fostering, Adoption, Residential and YOT | 23 Apr 2020 |
| Looked After Children | Update on Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service annual report priority to improve the quality of IRO challenge in respect of quality of care plans and drift and delay with a focus on improving outcomes for the child. Ensuring that challenge is evident and effective | Head of Safeguarding, Inspection and Audit | 23 Apr 2020 |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Participation Strategy</th>
<th>Update on progress of the strategy implementation</th>
<th>Strategy Lead for Participation Head of Policy, Information and Commissioning (Start Well)</th>
<th>TBC</th>
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<tr>
<td>0-19 Healthy Child Programme</td>
<td>Virgin Care contract review of service provision</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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**Briefing Notes**

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<th>Road Safety</th>
<th>Update on Lancashire road safety data following release of national data</th>
<th>TBC</th>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse</td>
<td>Update following conclusion of the cabinet working group</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<td>Suicide Prevention</td>
<td>Data update at district level and bereavement support work undertaken</td>
<td>Head of Health, Equity, Welfare and Partnerships</td>
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<td>Independent Visitors</td>
<td>Update on recruitment and strategy to increase diversity</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<td>YOT</td>
<td>Action plan progress post inspection</td>
<td>Barbara Bath</td>
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**Proposed Information Sessions (BSB’s)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inspection outcomes</th>
<th>Inspection outcomes across children’s services</th>
<th>Director of Children's Social Care</th>
<th>TBC</th>
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## Reports for Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSCB Annual Report</th>
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<td>IRO Annual Report</td>
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<td>LGO Annual Complaints Review</td>
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<td>Lancashire Getting to Good Plan</td>
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### Potential topics:
- Road safety
- Independent children's homes
- Peer review outcomes