

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 21st July, 2022
at 5.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Conference Room 3 and 4 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

Members

Councillor Winning (Chair)
Councillor J Baillie
Councillor A Bunday
Councillor Vaughan
Councillor Windle

Appointed Members

Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church
Francis Otieno, Primary Parent Governor
Vacancy - Secondary Parent Governor
Rob Sanders, Church of England

Contacts

Democratic Support Officer
Maria McKay
Tel: 023 8083 3899
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Scrutiny Manager
Mark Pirnie
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PUBLIC INFORMATION

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL

Role of this Scrutiny Panel: To undertake the scrutiny of Children and Families Services in the City, including the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Early Help, Specialist & Core Service, looked after children, education and early years and youth offending services, unless they are forward plan items. In such circumstances members of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel will be invited to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting where they are discussed.

Terms Of Reference:-

Scrutiny of Children and Families Services in the City to include:

- Monitoring the implementation and challenging the progress of the Council's action plan to address the recommendations made by Ofsted following their inspection of Children's Services in Southampton and review of Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in July 2014.
- Regular scrutiny of the performance of multi-agency arrangements for the provision of early help and services to children and their families.
- Scrutiny of early years and education including the implementation of the Vision for Learning 2014 – 2024.
- Scrutiny of the development and implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy developed by the Youth Offending Board.
- Referring issues to the Chair of the LSCB and the Corporate Parenting Committee.

Public Representations

At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting on any report included on the agenda in which they have a relevant interest. Any member of the public wishing to address the meeting should advise the Democratic Support Officer (DSO) whose contact details are on the front sheet of the agenda.

Access – access is available for the disabled. Please contact the Democratic Support Officer who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

Mobile Telephones:- Please switch your mobile telephones to silent whilst in the meeting

Business to be Discussed

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

QUORUM The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 3.

Use of Social Media:- The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair's opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council's Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting.

By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public.

Any person or organisation filming, recording or broadcasting any meeting of the Council is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them doing so.

Details of the Council's Guidance on the recording of meetings is available on the Council's website.

Rules of Procedure

The meeting is governed by the Council Procedure Rules and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Smoking policy – the Council operates a no-smoking policy in all civic buildings.

Fire Procedure – in the event of a fire or other emergency a continuous alarm will sound, and you will be advised by Council officers what action to take

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2020-2025 sets out the four key outcomes:

- Communities, culture & homes - Celebrating the diversity of cultures within Southampton; enhancing our cultural and historical offer and using these to help transform our communities.
- Green City - Providing a sustainable, clean, healthy and safe environment for everyone. Nurturing green spaces and embracing our waterfront.
- Place shaping - Delivering a city for future generations. Using data, insight and vision to meet the current and future needs of the city.
- Wellbeing - Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time.

Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year

2022	2023
16 June	26 January
21 July	30 March
29 September	
24 November	

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any “Disclosable Pecuniary Interest” or “Other Interest” they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

(i) Any employment, office, trade, profession, or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

(ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

(iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.

(iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.

(v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.

(vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council, and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.

(vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:

- a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
- b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Other Interests

A Member must regard himself or herself as having an 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

Any body to which they have been appointed or nominated by Southampton City Council

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability, and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful; and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

AGENDA

1 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

To elect the Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

2 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

To note any changes in membership of the Panel made in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

3 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

4 DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any prior participation in any decision taken by a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel of the Council on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

5 DECLARATION OF PARTY POLITICAL WHIP

Members are invited to declare the application of any party political whip on any matter on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

6 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING) (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 16 June 2022 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

8 EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION (Pages 3 - 20)

9 CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND PERFORMANCE (Pages 21 - 48)

10 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS (Pages 49 - 52)

Public Document Pack

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' SCRUTINY PANEL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2022

Present: Councillors Winning (Chair), D Galton and Windle
Appointed Member Mr Rob Sanders

Apologies: Councillors J Baillie, A Bunday and Vaughan

1. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED: that this item be postponed until the following meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2021, 4 November 2021 and 31 March 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

It was noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillor J Baillie from the Panel, the Director of Legal and Business Services, acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillor Galton to replace him for the purposes of this meeting. In addition, the Committee noted apologies from Councillors A Bunday and Vaughan.

4. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING SERVICE - PEER REVIEWS AND OFSTED ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT MEETING**

The Panel received the report of the Director, Legal and Business Services, which recommended that the Panel considered and challenged the latest version of the self-evaluation.

The Cabinet Member for Children & Learning – Councillor Paffey; Robert Henderson, Executive Director - Children and Learning; and, Steph Murray, Deputy Director – Children and Learning with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel.

In discussions with the Cabinet Member and officers, the Panel noted the following:

- The challenging financial climate whilst demand for services was rising.
- The comments contained within the LGA Peer Review relating to the confidence that the financial savings could be delivered in the timescales identified. It was recognised, following a review of statistical neighbours, that considerable savings could be achieved but Children's Services would meet with Executive Directors and the Cabinet to assess the viability of budget adjustments moving forward.
- The progress noted by Ofsted following their Annual Engagement meeting.

- The expected improvement in outcomes from November 2022, following the recruitment and induction of additional Social Workers.
- The reduction in the use of agency Social Workers.
- The request by Children's Services and Learning to Ofsted for a focused visit or joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) this year to enable improvements to bed in.

RESOLVED that the Panel be provided with a copy of the final Ofsted Engagement Letter.

5. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE**

The Panel received the report of the Director, Legal and Business Services, which recommended that the Panel considered and challenged the performance of Children and Learning Services in Southampton.

The Cabinet Member for Children & Learning – Councillor Paffey; Robert Henderson, Executive Director - Children and Learning; Steph Murray, Deputy Director – Children and Learning; and, Jo Feeney, Performance Manager with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel.

In discussions with the officers, the Panel noted the following:

- The implementation of Care Director was presenting some challenges, but this would not affect the monitoring of any child.
- The number of contacts had increased by 25% in 21/22 compared with 20/21 activity.
- A high number of cases progressing to statutory case work rather than targeted early help.
- A high volume of contacts from the police, who have a statutory obligation to report all contact they have with a child, resulting in 2-300 reports per week. Those contacts need to be screened and where applicable, referred to the voluntary sector or to Early Help referrals.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Performance Manager circulates the May 2022 performance data to the Panel when it has been verified.
- 2) That, reflecting the importance of early intervention and diverting children away from statutory safeguarding services, the Panel consider the developing Early Help Service at a future meeting of the Panel.

Agenda Item 8

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION
DATE OF DECISION:	21 JULY 2022
REPORT OF:	INTEGRATED HEAD OF SERVICE - PREVENTION AND EARLY HELP

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Children and Learning	
	Name:	Rob Henderson	Tel: 023 80 834 899
	E-mail:	Robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Head of Service – Early Help and Prevention	
	Name:	Dan Buckle	Tel: 023 80 833955
	E-mail:	dan.buckle@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None.	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
Attached as Appendix 1 is the Early Help and Prevention Highlight Report for July 2022 that provides a brief overview of the Early Help and Prevention Service. The Panel are recommended to note the content of the report including key data, updates, and feedback within the service area.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the Panel notes the Highlight Report for Early Help and Prevention and scrutinises the content provided with the invited officers and Cabinet Member.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To enable the Panel to scrutinise the Council's update on the Early Help and Prevention Service.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	<p><u>Children and Families First:</u> Formally known as the Early Help team, the Children and Families First team consists of four teams delivering two key elements of early help which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic and targeted group work delivering evidence backed interventions • Case holding work – 12-16 week targeted interventions.
4.	Early help is described as when a child, young person and/or family needs something extra. Early help is the initial response offered by all services in contact with children, young people and families. This builds an

	understanding to address extra needs and prevent situations from getting more difficult for children and young people. The aim of Early Help is to build on people's strengths and resources to manage their own dilemmas, resolve their own difficulties and prevent further problems in the future.
5.	Attached as Appendix 1 is a highlight report outlining key elements of the service and priorities moving forward.
6.	The Panel are requested to note the highlight report and to scrutinise the information provided with the invited officers and Cabinet Member.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
7.	None.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
8.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
9.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
10.	None.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
11.	None.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
12.	None.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Early Help highlight report - July 22
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents: Not applicable.	

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
None	

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July 2022



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Children and Families Scrutiny Panel
Highlight Report
Early Help and Prevention
Dan Buckle, Head of Service

Agenda Item 8

Appendix 1

What is Early Help?

When a child/young person/family needs something extra, early help is the initial response offered by all services in contact with children, young people and families. This builds an understanding to address extra needs and prevent situations from getting more difficult for children and young people. The aim of Early Help is to build on people's strengths and resources to manage their own dilemmas, resolve their own difficulties and prevent further problems in the future.

Children and Families First (re-branded)

Four teams delivering two key elements of early help (0-19):

- Generic and targeted group work delivering evidence backed interventions (i.e EPEC, EY, NF Parenting, FGCs)
- Case holding work – 12-16 week targeted interventions

Key D22 changes

- Separated out group work and case holding tasks
- Created dedicated parenting/group work team
- Introduced Social Work spine
- New leadership structure – Social Work managers
- Introduction of clinical leads

Integrated/co-located services

Service operates primarily from seven centers across the City.

East

Townhill Park - Cutbush Lane

Thornhill - Byron Road

Weston - Foxcott Close

Central

Pickles Coppice Children's Centre - Windermere Avenue

The Ashby Centre - Stratton Road

West

Clovelly - Clovelly Road

Swaythling - Honeysuckle Road

Co-location with:

- 0-19 PHN (health visiting/school nursing)
- Midwifery
- Community/Voluntary sector

Performance

- Approx. 1,000 children open
- Approx. 175 new referrals each month
- 25-30 cases 'stepped up' each month

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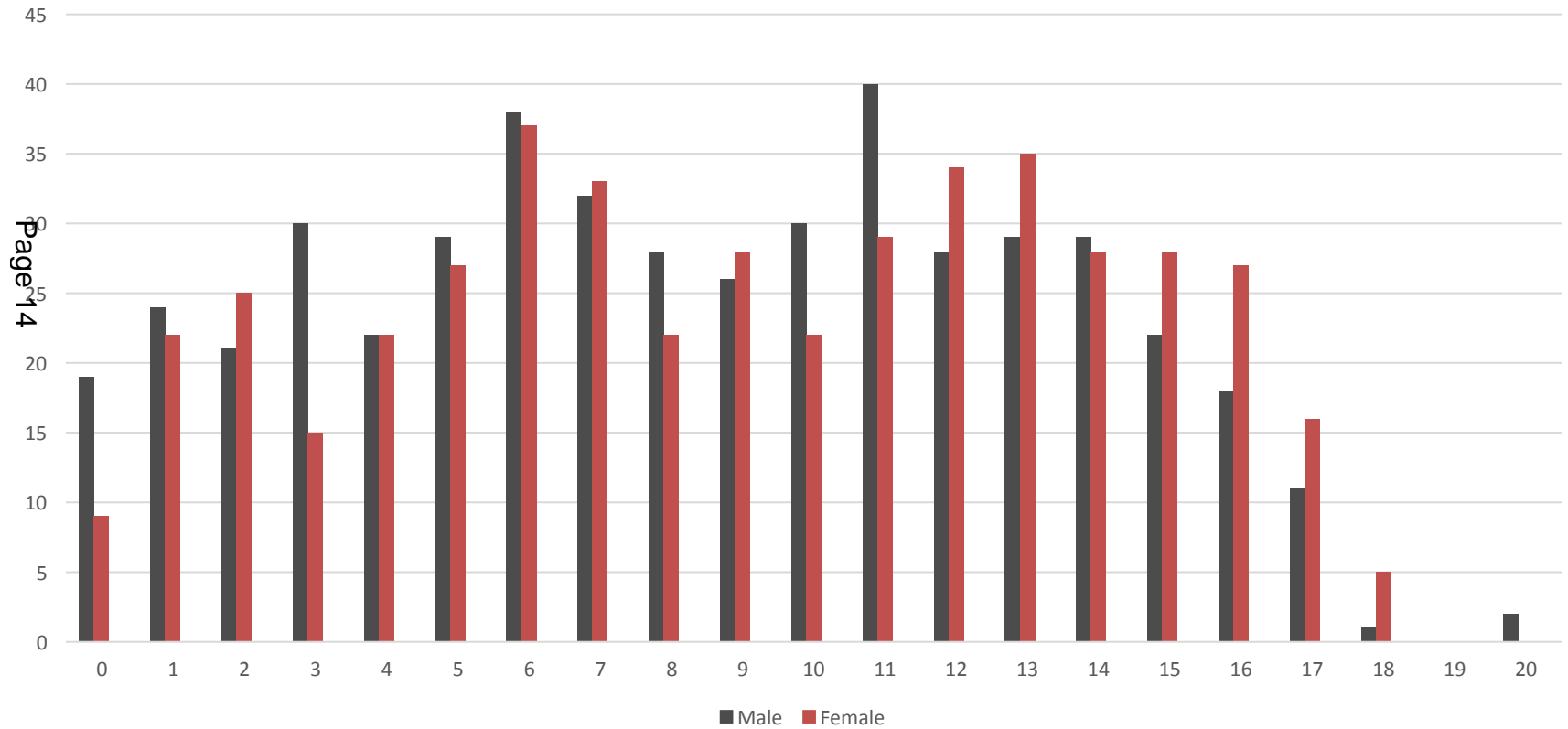
- Performance tracking
 - Cases open
 - Assessments on time
 - Visits
 - Plans
 - Supervisions

Group Activity

- 100 stay and play sessions running per month
- 14 parenting courses across the City
- Inc. 5 evidenced based group programmes
- Plan to expand EPEC offer to include parenting teenagers
- Planned role out of New Forest Parenting Programme – under 11's with ADHD

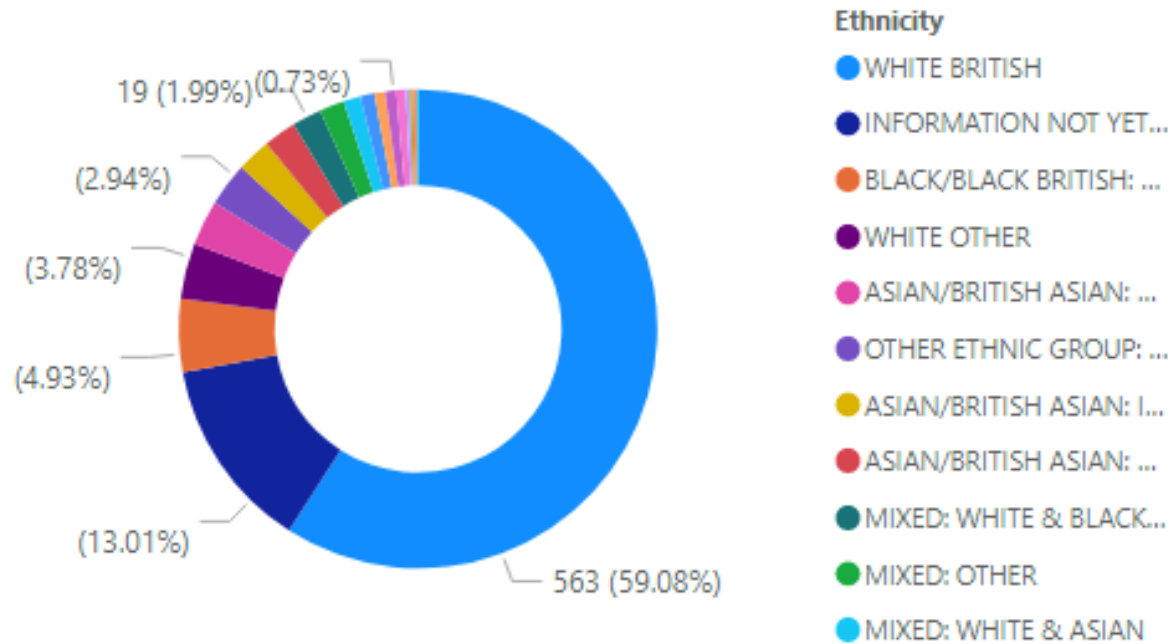
Breakdown by age

Ages of Children



Cases by ethnicity

Cases by ethnicity



Priorities

- Improve consistency in practice standards
- Establish clinical lead positions
- Better collaboration and co-working with PVI sector
- Co-ordination of locality services
- Joint working with Solent 0-19 colleagues
- Family Hub development

Family Hubs

Family Hubs are centres which, as part of integrated family services ensure families with children and young people aged 0-19 receive early help to overcome a range of difficulties and build stronger relationships. Effective early intervention can improve children's wellbeing, educational attainment and life chances, reduce family poverty, improve mental health and lead to lower crime, unemployment and other negative outcomes.

Family hubs are for families with children of all ages, but with a great [Start for Life](#) (the critical 1,001 days from conception to age 2) offer at their core. This includes mental health advice for new parents in the weeks immediately before and after birth and support for parents to build strong relationships with their babies.

Positive practice examples

Identifying families not taken up 2 year funding offer. Pro-active 'door knocking' in the community.

- Visited 155 families
- Discussed the funding with 60 families, supporting with completing the paperwork or leaving the information with the family
- Identified that 26 of the children were waiting for a space in September
- Information and contact details for the local centre were posted through the letter box of those not at home

Parent feedback – Social Work in C&F1st

“So to start from the beginning, I was left a voice mail saying child services are contacting me regarding my eldest son. Its safe to say my heart absolutely dropped. I’ve never had anyone involved with my boys so I got very anxious and upset (as i think anyone would). I instantly thought someone was coming to take my boys especially when I got a call to say someone was coming to see us. When the Social Worker spoke to me she did make me feel a bit more at ease as she said she’s only here to help with my child’s routine and so that me and my ex partner have good communication regarding our child. She has helped me do a “working in school” course which I am really enjoying. I’m an anxious person and this has really helped me to come out of my comfort zone as I’m talking to other people and putting my own input in. I wouldn’t have done this without her help so I’m really grateful. I’m glad me and my ex can talk now too instead of it going through a third party as It makes everything a lot less complicated. Having children services involved was very scary for my but I’m grateful for the help I have had.”

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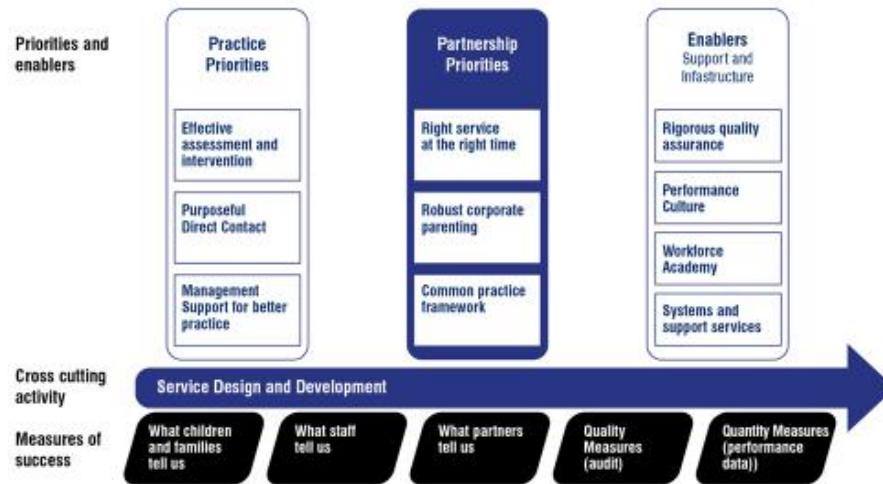
DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND PERFORMANCE
DATE OF DECISION:	21 JULY 2022
REPORT OF:	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Children and Learning	
	Name:	Robert Henderson	Tel: 023 80 834 899
	E-mail	robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Head of Service – Quality Assurance	
	Name:	Stuart Webb	Tel: 023 80 834 102
	E-mail	stuart.webb@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
Not applicable	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
To brief the Panel on progress against the revised Children and Learning Improvement Plan and the performance of Children's Services and Learning up to the end of June 2022.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	That progress delivering the actions within the improvement plan be noted
(ii)	That there is a further update to the Scrutiny Panel on the quality of practice in November 2022
(iii)	That the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children's Services and Learning in Southampton.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To enable effective scrutiny of Children's Services and Learning in Southampton.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
	Background
3.	The service reviewed the structure of its improvement plan in June 2021 to address the findings of the May 2021 Ofsted Focused Visit. The plan was re-structured to focus on 10 core priority areas which will make the most difference to achieving better outcomes for children:

Our priorities

Underpinning our detailed plan are core priorities and enablers. We believe that with a relentless focus, we will achieve the best outcomes for children in Southampton; laying the foundations for a service that provides consistently good practice.



The plan is high level, underpinned by a series of service improvement and development plans owned by Heads of Service in the Children and Learning Service, and across the Council, and aligned with cross cutting multi-agency plans overseen by senior leaders. The service delivery plans detail clear actions, owners and timescales against which progress is monitored by the Executive Director and the Improvement Board. Underneath these are more granular actions and project plans.

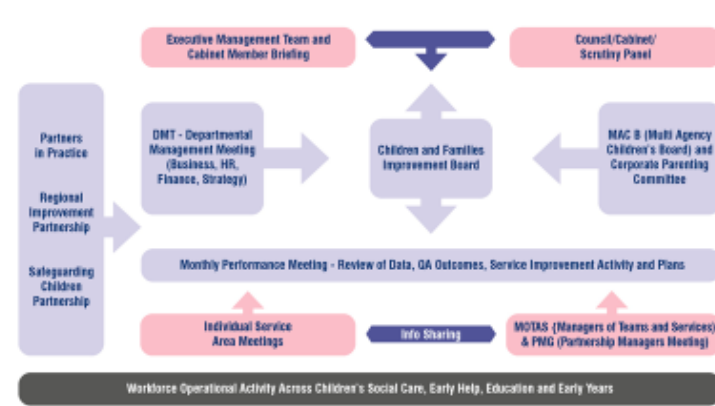
Current Position

4. Reports to the improvement board are bi-monthly. The plan reflects improvements over the past 12 months:

- Review of the service vision; overriding strategy and strategic plans
- Agreement to progress with Child Friendly City accreditation
- Implementation of the Destination 22 service redesign programme
- Stability of senior leadership and management team
- Launch of Practice Framework and Workforce Academy
- Strengthening of corporate parenting function
- Staff are generally more engaged, stable, happier
- Performance and performance culture are improving
- Early signs of fostering recruitment improving

A peer review by the Local Government Association in May 2022 endorsed the service's strategic direction but said that the targets for improved practice and financial stability were too ambitious.

5. Despite foundations now being in place, there is a significant amount of attention still required on the quality of practice. For example, in the Ofsted Focused Visit (May 2021), inspectors identified two areas of priority action (effective and rigorous senior management oversight of children in care who are placed in unregistered settings, are at home with their parents or are with connected carers in emergency circumstances *and* effective management oversight of services to care leavers) and two areas for improvement (the quality of supervision and management

	oversight of children on child protection <i>and</i> child-in-need plans and visits to vulnerable children who are electively home educated (EHE).
6.	The service has used a Partners in Practice Peer Review to retain the focus on the experiences of looked after children and care leavers. There has also been robust attention to management recruitment and development and a relaunch of our supervision guidance and tools. A business case has been submitted for additional staff to have more contact with electively home educated children.
	Governance and Scrutiny
7.	<p>The service Improvement Board reconvened in November 2020 with revised membership and terms of reference. Membership now includes senior leaders from safeguarding partner agencies; improvement leads from the Department for Education and Local Government Association and the chairs of the staff reference group. An independent chair assumed her responsibilities in January 2021. The board receives bi-monthly performance updates, alongside thematic reports.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <h3 style="color: #0070C0; margin: 0;">Governance Structure</h3> </div> <p>Our improvement plan is reviewed by a bi-monthly Improvement Board, chaired by the Executive Director for Finance. The Board receives and considers performance data; progress (exception) reports and presentations from service managers. Membership has been extended to include key partners and will also include practitioners, with an interface with our practitioners reference group.</p> <p>Further oversight is provided through the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel.</p>  <p>The diagram illustrates the governance structure. At the top are the 'Executive Management Team and Cabinet Member Briefing' and the 'Council/Cabinet/Scrutiny Panel'. Below these is the 'Children and Families Improvement Board', which is connected to 'Partners in Practice', 'Regional Improvement Partnership', 'Safeguarding Children Partnership', 'DMT - Departmental Management Meeting (Business, HR, Finance, Strategy)', and 'MAC B (Multi Agency Children's Board) and Corporate Parenting Committee'. Below the board is the 'Monthly Performance Meeting - Review of Data, QA Outcomes, Service Improvement Activity and Plans'. At the bottom are 'Individual Service Area Meetings' and 'MOTAS (Managers of Teams and Services) & PMG (Partnership Managers Meeting)'. A base layer represents 'Workforce Operational Activity Across Children's Social Care, Early Help, Education and Early Years'.</p> <p>Children and Families Improvement Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director – Finance and Commercialisation (Chair) • Chief Executive (annually) • Deputy Chief Executive • Cabinet Member, Children and Learning • Cabinet Member, Finance and Resources • Shadow Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Learning • Executive Director, Children and Learning • Executive Director Resources • Service Director of HR • Head of Children's Social Care Services • Head of Integrated and Specialist Services • Head of Education and Learning Services • Southampton CCG Managing Director • Chief Superintendent Southampton Police • Safeguarding Children Partnership Chair • LGA representative • DFE representative • 2 x representatives from Staff Reference Group • Partners in Practice representative • Secondary and Primary Head teacher • Special School Head teacher
8.	The functions and effectiveness of the improvement board have also been subject to a peer review, with a report to board scheduled for July 2022. It is likely that the improvement board will have a much more defined focus moving forward; after the new Children's Strategic Partnership Board launches in September 2022.
9.	The scrutiny panel work programme has been designed with the Scrutiny Manager and the Chair to ensure ongoing focus on service improvement.
10.	To provide context to the information within this report a link to the previous Children's and Learning Service improvement plan report to the Panel from November 2021 is provided in background documents.
	Performance
11.	To enable an informed discussion on the improvement plan, attached as Appendix 1 is the July report to the Improvement Board. The report contains the key

	performance dataset for Children’s Services up to 30 June 2022. An explanation of the significant variations in performance has been included.
12.	The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and representatives from the Children’s Services and Learning Senior Management Team, have been invited to attend the meeting to provide the performance overview and to outline progress relating to the improvement plan.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
13.	None at this stage
<u>Property/Other</u>	
14.	None at this stage
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
15.	S.111 Local Government Act 1972
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
16.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
17.	The overall improvement plan is risk assessed.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
18.	<p>The service quality assurance framework contributes to achieving the outcomes desired for children in Southampton.</p> <p>The 2021-2025 Corporate Plan sets out the following regarding wellbeing in the city: “We want a city in which people can start well, live well, age well, and live happy and fulfilling lives. We will be a city that prevents and intervenes early, promotes wellbeing, and allows people to live independently for longer, enjoying their lives and all our great city has to offer.”</p> <p>Aligned to this, priorities in the Corporate Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of children looked after • Achieve our ambition to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City by 2024/25.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Children and Learning Improvement Report – July 2022
2.	Glossary of terms
Documents in Members’ Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?		No
Data Protection Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		No
Other Background Documents		
Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)	
1.	Children and Learning Service Improvement Plan – 4 November 2021 Agenda for Children and Families Scrutiny Panel on Thursday, 4th November, 2021, 5.30 pm Southampton City Council (item 26)	

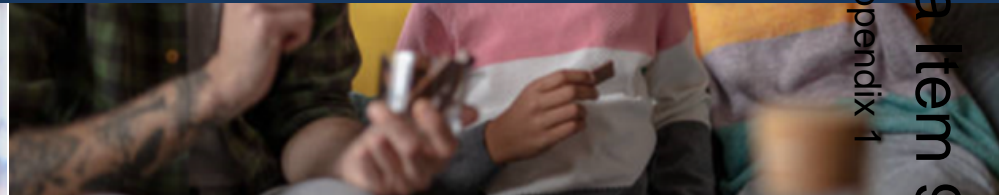
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Scrutiny Panel Performance Report

Southampton Children and Learning Service Improvement Board
July 2022

Stuart Webb, Head of Quality Assurance
Jo Feeney, Performance Manager



Agenda Item 9
Appendix 1

A city of opportunity where everyone thrives



Priority Areas

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Practice and Performance Summary	3	
Effective assessment and intervention	4	Medium
Purposeful Direct Contact	5	Medium
Management Support for better practice	6	High
Right service at the right time	7	High
Robust corporate parenting	9	High
Common practice framework	11	Medium
Rigorous quality assurance	12	Medium
Performance Culture	13	High
Workforce Academy	14	Medium
Systems and support services	15	High

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Practice and Performance Summary

We can see green shoots in the latest performance, alongside challenges and inconsistency in some areas. We are seeing the positive impact of D22 in the work of our Brief Intervention Teams and Young People's Service. Child protection plans and the number of children entering care are reducing. All our leaders and managers including practice managers are now permanent and most of our newest recruits have joined the service and completed their induction. Caseloads for our South African colleagues are increasing, some now have a full caseload, and our newly qualified social workers are approaching graduation and registration.

The staffing situation across the service remains fragile due to the unplanned departure of a number of agency social workers, many of whom were experienced, trusted staff. Most have joined innovation teams in neighbouring LAs. These staff were an important part of our 'towards sustainability' plan for the coming months: their exit has created significant workload pressures in the service and we are worried about our permanent staff. Positively, we have continued to build our senior social worker cohort (the second panel took place in May).

Our practice development team ran a successful practice week on purposeful direct work, alongside the launch of our supervision policy and practice standards. The first phase of workforce academy training has begun, with systemic practice and motivational interviewing training rolled out, and Safe Together training starting over the Summer. Our 'Ask one person', fostering campaign is gaining traction with increased enquiries and a favourable conversion rate. Our next staff recruitment campaign, through which we plan to fill all or most of our remaining vacancies, is imminent.

Direct contact for children in need, children looked after and children with Child Protection Plans (two weekly PI) needs to improve. This is primarily a recording issue but is still a concern. Similarly, there is significant inconsistency in supervision performance; again this is primarily (but not solely) recording. We are tracking this closely via assurance clinics. Expectations are clear, and all our practice managers are undertaking a week's core management skills training in June and July. This clearly sets out practice standards and expectations. We will monitor performance closely in our assurance clinics.

As the workforce stabilises, reducing demand is a priority. We are focusing on three areas: reunification, placement stability and threshold decision making in the Children's Resource Service. We are undertaking too many unnecessary statutory assessments and we need your help to think more creatively about what these families need from our services. In terms of practice, the quality of our child protection and pre-proceedings work is critical in promoting family stability and safety, and improving outcomes.

We are pushing hard on improving access to early local support for families; three locality events will take place in October 2022. Please promote these events within your services. Finally, from 26 September, we will be holding our second 'Love our Children Week' celebrating our looked after children. I hope you will join us.



Steph Murray
Deputy Director
Children's Social Care



What the data tells us

Indicator	Outturn type	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Target	Southampt on 19/20	Southampt on 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months	PERCENTAGE	24%	24%	27%	25%	29%	29%	22%	23%	26%	23%	28%	22%	28%	23%	N/A
Number of Early Help assessments completed	NUMBER	180	223	195	200	111	119	99	125	137	TBC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rates of Single Assessments completed per 10,000	RATE	376	436	496	540	595	653	62	116	171	700	898	672	637	554	518
Percentage of C&F assessments completed within 45 working days	PERCENTAGE	85%	92%	88%	91%	93%	90%	79%	82%	86%	90%	79%	77%	74%	70%	69%

Analysis

Re-referrals have risen in June above target and from a lower figure in April and May. The service are reviewing if this indicates that the changes to Brief Intervention Teams are having a positive impact. Provisional data for single assessments per 10k at year end are below Southampton's 20/21 performance, below target and moving closer to SN activity despite a 25% increase in contacts during the year. Performance on assessments completed within timescale has been strong all year and has been above target and the performance of our statistical neighbours.

Action/next steps

Re-referral audit is still required to understand any relevant trends and this has now being included in the annual audit schedule. BIT teams are holding a high number of cases, with a high % not going on to statutory support. We will be focusing on CRS decision making, and interface with Early Help, in the coming months. There is a significant partnership challenge here, we collectively need to focus our statutory resource on the families who need this most.

What the data tells us

Indicator	Outturn type	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Target	Southampt on 19/20	Southampt on 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan for whom a visit has taken place within last 2 weeks (10 Working Days)	PERCENTAGE	58%	62%	71%	45%	44%	65%	71%	67%	86%	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan for whom a visit has taken place within last 4 weeks (20 Working Days)	PERCENTAGE	78%	91%	92%	93%	76%	84%	91%	94%	97%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within statutory timescales (6 weeks or less visits)	PERCENTAGE	96%	90%	73%	83%	71%	74%	78%	84%	83%	90%	95%	TBC	97%	53%	67%
CIN on a plan visited within 4 weeks	PERCENTAGE	70%	73%	66%	68%	62%	42%	85%	76%	88%	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Analysis

The recording of visits to children on a Child Protection Plan within 10 working days has improved in June. This is closely scrutinised by managers using their Power BI dashboards and Assurance Clinics and these are seeing a positive impact on recording in a timely manner on Care Director. A performance culture is developing in the safeguarding service with a strong commitment to improvement. CLA visits within the statutory 6 weeks are much improved. Many of the children who are not being visited every 6 weeks have 3-monthly visiting patterns, agreed by managers and IROs. Visits to Children in Need on a plan have also improved, we need to sustain this improvement moving forward.

Action/next steps

Managers continue to receive regular reports on visiting frequency and our assurance clinics are supporting the focus on improving performance. However, the level of demand upon the service remains high, with a resulting impact upon caseloads. To provide clear expectations for better practice and management oversight, revised practice standards were launched in our practice week in June 2022. Staffing stability is a particular risk in this area due to the loss of a number of experienced agency social workers. Case holding capacity will increase from September 2022 and we will need to continue to focus on practitioner confidence, skill and the quality of practice.

What the data tells us

Indicator	Outturn type	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-21	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Target	Southampt on 19/20	Southampt on 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of CIN who have had their supervision and within timescale	PERCENTAGE	67%	66%	72%	62%	50%	51%	81%	50%	69%	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CPP who have had their supervision and within timescale	PERCENTAGE	71%	63%	65%	64%	54%	60%	87%	53%	88%	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA who have had their supervision and within timescale	PERCENTAGE	58%	70%	50%	53%	46%	59%	76%	73%	81%	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of Care Leaver who have had their supervision and within timescale	PERCENTAGE	82%	70%	59%	27%	25%	25%	78%	39%	44%	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Analysis

Performance with supervisions continues to fluctuate. This is an ongoing focus for all service areas and at assurance clinics. The supervision form has been reviewed to be systemically focused and much quicker and easier to populate on Care Director. This is in test and will go live very soon. This will support the improvement and timeliness of recording supervisions across all services. It is reassuring to see supervision for children on CPP and CLA are significantly higher.

Actions / next steps

Managers are increasingly demonstrating that they have a clear understanding of performance vs recording and are supporting/challenging individual practice managers as required. Performance, particularly the recording of supervision, is affected by demand across the service and practice managers ‘stepping down’ to support casework. The service launched a bespoke management induction programme in June 2022 which, alongside the updated Practice Standards, sets out the service expectations in respect of good supervision. Focus on Practice days, with reflective teams discussions with managers and practitioners, have continued. To date the Practice Development Team has worked with the Children with Disabilities, Fostering and Adoption Teams, Early Help and Young People’s Services.

What the data tells us

Indicator	Outturn type	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Target	Southamt on 19/20	Southamt on 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months	PERCENTAGE	24%	24%	27%	25%	29%	29%	22%	22%	26%	23%	28%	22%	28%	23%	N/A
Number of Early Help assessments completed	NUMBER	180	223	195	200	111	119	99	125	137	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rates of Single Assessments completed per 10,000	RATE	376	436	496	540	595	653	62	116	171	700	898	672	637	554	518
Percentage of C&F assessments completed within 45 working days	PERCENTAGE	85%	92%	88%	91%	93%	90%	79%	82%	86%	90%	79%	77%	74%	70%	69%
Number of contacts	NUMBER	1,922	1,874	1,689	2,018	1,696	2,011	1,663	2,091	1,860	<17k	15657	17661	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of referrals in the month	NUMBER	391	396	366	308	300	318	259	369	344	N/A	N/A	4092	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rates of referrals per 10,000 of Under 18 Population	RATE	511	587	658	717	775	836	49	121	192	700	944	790	647	561	494
Number of CLA at the end of the month	NUMBER	525	540	544	551	560	563	566	565	555	540	486	495	615	N/A	N/A
Number of children with an active Child in Need Plan not allocated to CWD (CIN*)	NUMBER	532	523	515	528	411	421	392	414	417	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of children who are subject of a Child Protection Plan as at the end of month	NUMBER	388	413	453	472	492	483	455	414	413	406	396	310	406	N/A	N/A
Number of care leavers	NUMBER	164	171	173	209	218	226	212	221	204	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A

Right Service at the Right Time

Analysis

There was a 25% increase in the number of contacts in 21/22 compared to 20/21. The trend has continued into 22/23. Ongoing conversations are being held across the partnership, especially with Police colleagues, to focus on this increase in contacts. This translates into significant activity for CRS. A high % of assessments do not result in statutory support. The brief intervention work being undertaken alongside and just after assessment is beginning to have an impact. The YPS are now undertaking assessments in line with our trajectory model. We will report on this more fully in September. We have seen a plateau and now considerable reduction in numbers of children on a child protection plan and a reduction in numbers of children entering care. End of June activity shows we had 540 children looked after, a net reduction of 15 children in the past 6 weeks and current projections are that new entrants will reduce by 20% in comparison with previous 12m. We need to sustain this reduction in numbers of children coming into care.

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Action/next steps

A meeting has taken place with HIPS and police colleagues, with a plan for the four LAs to maintain close oversight of the appropriateness of police contacts. Southampton specific discussion will take place with police in September 2022.

Decision making by the Children's Resource Service will be an area of focus. This is to provide assurance and challenge about threshold decision making and to ensure that demand is at the correct level.

The plan to address the high number of children subject to child protection planning has been launched and partners were briefed at the Safeguarding Children's Partnership in June 2022.

What the data tells us

Indicator	Outturn type	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Target	Southampt on 19/20	Southampt on 20/21	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of CLA at the end of the month	NUMBER	525	540	544	551	560	563	566	565	555	540	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rate of CLA per 10,000 under 18 population	RATE	101	104	105	106	108	108	109	109	107	100	95	TBC	100	53	67
Number of CLA at the end of the month who are UASC	NUMBER	25	24	27	25	25	26	25	26	24	<37	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within statutory timescales (6 weeks or less visits)	PERCENTAGE	96%	90%	73%	83%	71%	74%	78%	84%	83%	97%	95	TBC	97	53	67
Percentage of CLA children with an up to date review	PERCENTAGE	97%	96%	96%	96%	97%	98%	99%	98%	95%	95%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of children in care for at least 12 months for whom health assessment up to date.	PERCENTAGE	81%	78%	72%	88%	94%	67%	63%	55%	65%	95%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of initial health assessment delivered within 20 working days of date child became looked after.	PERCENTAGE	17%	40%	89%	35%	20%	28%	64%	36%	TBC	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA at end of month with 3 or more placements during the year	PERCENTAGE	17%	18%	17%	7%	11%	8%	14%	13%	15%	<10%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of CLA allocated to CWD	NUMBER	29	29	29	31	31	32	32	31	31	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Voluntarily Accommodated Section 20s (520) at period end excluding UASC	NUMBER	54	51	55	26	28	30	31	40	29	N/A	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Percentage of Looked after Children (LAC) with a permanence plan in place within 6 months of BLA	PERCENTAGE	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Looked after Children placed for adoption at period end	NUMBER	13	12	12	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of CLA placed with IFAs at end of period	PERCENTAGE	31%	30%	31%	43%	51%	50%	47%	43%	46%	<36%	37%	N/A	36%	38%	36%

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Robust Corporate Parenting

Analysis

Visiting to children in care continues to improve. Performance for Initial and Review Health Assessments is inconsistent. Several partnership meetings and workshops have been held to review and improve processes and access to health assessments. There are two major challenges, one is capacity from CLA Nurses to undertake reviews in a timely manner as our CLA numbers have increased, the 2nd main challenge is for children in care placed outside of Southampton.

Undertaking the Initial Health Assessment then becomes the responsibility of the Local Authority in which the child resides. Due to delays in required paperwork being completed, capacity of the responsible LAs' CLA health team and the timeliness of completing paperwork it is the children in care who live outside of the LA who are most affected by resource challenges. We are performing above target for the number of children with 3 or more placement moves within a rolling 12 month period, also there has been a service wide focus on the review and recording of permanence plans for all children in care. Accurate reporting it is anticipated will be available from next month onwards.

We are concerned about the number of placements that are at risk of breakdown and the summer is likely to be a challenging period in relation to placement availability, locally and nationally.

Actions / Next Steps

The recent peer review of looked after children and care leavers was timely and supports the service focus on the quality of management oversight (which needs to improve), staff stability and recruitment.

For looked after children, the areas of focus continue to be around senior level oversight of unregulated placements and unplanned entries into care (alongside planned activity through the Legal Gateway Panel). Better tracking by managers is also a priority to ensure the completion of chronologies and case summaries, follow through on IRO challenge and outcome resolutions, more timely responses to children where SGO or reunification is the plan and a focus on children where specific aspects of life story work are needed.

For care leavers, the priorities are: improving access to emotional and mental health support, links with adult services, housing pathways and commissioning arrangements, improving ETE outcomes and communicating the service offer to post 21 young people who are closed to the service. In addition, the service is going to audit and speak to the last 15 leavers in August to consider what their experience has been of leaving care and what we can learn from this to include to what extent they feel prepared, aware of their entitlements etc.

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Abuse

Abuse is the act of violation of an individual's human or civil rights. Any or all types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance. Different types of abuse include: Physical abuse, Neglect/acts of omission, Financial/material abuse, Psychological abuse, Sexual abuse, Institutional abuse, Discriminatory abuse, or any combination of these.

Advocacy

Advocacy helps to safeguard children and young people, and protect them from harm and neglect. It is about speaking up for children and young people and ensuring their views and wishes are heard and acted upon by decision-makers. LAs have a duty under The Children Act to ensure that advocacy services are provided for children, young people and care leavers making or intending to make a complaint. It should also cover representations which are not complaints. Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) should also provide a child/young person with information about advocacy services and offer help in obtaining an advocate.

Agency Decision Maker

The Agency Decision Maker (ADM) is the person within a fostering service and an adoption agency who makes decisions on the basis of recommendations made by the Fostering Panel (in relation to a fostering service) and the Adoption Panel (in relation to an adoption agency). The Agency Decision Maker will take account of the Panel's recommendation before proceeding to make a decision. The Agency Decision Maker can choose to make a different decision.

The National Minimum Standards for Fostering 2011 provide that the Agency Decision Maker for a fostering service should be a senior person within the fostering service, who is a social worker with at least 3 years post-qualifying experience in childcare social work and has knowledge of childcare law and practice (Standard 23).

The National Minimum Standards for Adoption 2011 provide that the Agency Decision Maker for an adoption agency should be a senior person within the adoption agency, who is a social worker with at least 3 years post-qualifying experience in childcare social work and has knowledge of permanency planning for children, adoption and childcare law and practice. Where the adoption agency provides an inter country adoption service, the Agency Decision Maker should also have specialist knowledge of this area of law and practice. When determining the disclosure of Protected Information about adults, the Agency Decision Maker should also understand the legislation surrounding access to and disclosure of information and the impact of reunion on all parties (Standard 23).

Assessment

Assessments are undertaken to determine the needs of individual children; what services to provide and action to take. They may be carried out:

- To gather important information about a child and family;
- To analyse their needs and/or the nature and level of any risk and harm being suffered by the child;
- To decide whether the child is a Child in Need (Section 17) and/or is suffering or likely to suffer Significant Harm (Section 47); and
- To provide support to address those needs to improve the child's outcomes to make them safe.

With effect from 15 April 2013, Working Together 2013 removes the requirement for separate **Initial Assessments** and **Core Assessments**. One Assessment – often called Single Assessment - may be undertaken instead.

CAFCASS

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) is the Government agency responsible for Reporting Officers, Children's Guardians and other Court officers appointed by the Court in Court Proceedings involving children. Also appoints an officer to witness when a parent wishes to consent to a child's placement for adoption.

Care Order

A Care Order can be made in Care Proceedings brought under section 31 of the Children Act if the Threshold Criteria are met. The Order grants Parental Responsibility for the child to the local authority specified in the Order, to be shared with the parents.

A **Care Order** lasts until the child is 18 unless discharged earlier. An **Adoption Order** automatically discharges the Care Order. A **Placement Order** automatically suspends the Care Order, but it will be reinstated if the Placement Order is subsequently revoked.

All children who are the subject of a Care Order come within the definition of Looked After and have to have a Care Plan. When making a Care Order, the Court must be satisfied that the Care Plan is suitable.

Categories of Abuse or Neglect

Where a decision is made that a child requires a Child Protection Plan, the category of abuse or neglect must be specified by the Child Protection Conference Chair.

Child in Need and Child in Need Plan

Under Section 17 (10) of the Children Act 1989, a child is a Child in Need (CiN) if:

- He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him/her of services by a local authority;
- His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services; or
- He/she is disabled.

A **Child in Need Plan** should be drawn up for children who are not Looked After but are identified as Children in Need who requiring services to meet their needs. It should be completed following an Assessment where services are identified as necessary.

Under the Integrated Children's System, if a Child is subject to a Child Protection Plan, it is recorded as part of the Child in Need Plan.

The Child in Need Plan may also be used with children receiving short break care in conjunction with Part One of the Care Plan.

Child Protection

The following definition is taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010, paragraph 1.23.:

Child protection is a part of Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, Significant Harm.

Child Protection Conference

Child Protection Conferences (Initial – **ICPC** and review – **RCPC**) are convened where children are considered to be at risk of Significant Harm.

Children's Centres

The government is establishing a network of children's centres, providing good quality childcare integrated with early learning, family support, health services, and support for parents wanting to return to work or training.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Corporate Parenting

In broad terms, as the corporate parent of looked after children, a local authority has a legal and moral duty to provide the kind of loyal support that any good parent would provide for their own children.

Criteria for Child Protection Plans

Where a decision is made that a child requires a Child Protection Plan, the Conference Chair must ensure that the criteria for the decision are met, i.e. that the child is at continuing risk of Significant Harm.

Director of Children's Services (DCS)

Every top tier local authority in England must appoint a Director of Children's Services under section 18 of the Children Act 2004. Directors are responsible for discharging local authority functions that relate to children in respect of education, social services and children leaving care. They are also responsible for discharging functions delegated to the local authority by any NHS body that relate to children, as well as some new functions conferred on authorities by the Act, such as the duty to safeguard and protect children, the Children and Young People's Plan, and the duty to co-operate to promote well-being.

Designated Teacher

Schools should all appoint a Designated Teacher. This person's role is to co-ordinate policies, procedures and roles in relation to Child Protection and in relation to Looked After Children.

Discretionary Leave to Remain

This is a limited permission granted to an Asylum Seeker, to stay in the UK for 3 years - it can then be extended or permission can then be sought to settle permanently.

Duty of Care

In relation to workers in the social care sector, their duty of care is defined by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) as a legal obligation to:

- Always act in the best interest of individuals and others;

- Not act or fail to act in a way that results in harm;
- Act within your competence and not take on anything you do not believe you can safely do.

Early Help

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

- Identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
- Undertake an assessment of the need for early help;
- Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child.

Local authorities, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, have a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of children.

Every Child Matters

Every Child Matters is the approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19, which is incorporated into the Children Act 2004. The aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy;
- Stay safe;
- Enjoy and achieve;
- Make a positive contribution and;
- Achieve economic well-being.

This means that the organisations involved with providing services to children are teaming up, sharing information and working together, to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve what they want in life.

Health Assessment

Every Looked After Child (LAC or CLA) must have a Health Assessment soon after becoming Looked After, then at specified intervals, depending on the child's age.

Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)

When an Asylum Seeker is granted ILR, they have permission to settle in the UK permanently and can access mainstream services and benefits.

Independent Reviewing Officer

If a Local Authority is looking after a child (whether or not the child is in their care), it must appoint an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) for that child's case.

From 1 April 2011, the role of the IRO is extended, and there are two separate aspects: chairing a child's Looked After Review, and monitoring a child's case on an ongoing basis. As part of the monitoring function, the IRO also has a duty to identify any areas of poor practice, including general concerns around service delivery (not just around individual children).

IROs must be qualified social workers and, whilst they can be employees of the local authority, they must not have line management responsibility for the child's case. Independent Reviewing Officers who chair Adoption Reviews must have relevant experience of adoption work.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) are specialist caseworkers who focus on working predominantly with high risk victims (usually but not exclusively with female victims). They generally are involved from the point of crisis and offer intensive short to medium term support. They work in partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies and mobilise multiple resources on behalf of victims by coordinating the response of a wide range of agencies, including those working with perpetrators or children. There may be differences about how the IDVA service is delivered in local areas.

Initial Child Protection Conference

An Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) is normally convened at the end of a Section 47 Enquiry when the child is assessed as either having suffered Significant Harm or to be at risk of suffering ongoing significant harm.

The Initial Child Protection Conference must be held within 15 working days of the Strategy Discussion, or the last strategy discussion if more than one has been held.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

A designated officer (or sometimes a team of officers), who is involved in the management and oversight of allegations against people that work with children.

Their role is to give advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations; liaise with the Police and other agencies, and monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible consistent with a thorough and fair process. The Police should also identify an officer to fill a similar role.

Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

LSCBs have to be established by every local authority as detailed in Section 13 of The Children Act 2004. They are made up of representatives from a range of public agencies with a common interest and with duties and responsibilities to children in their area. LSCBs have a responsibility for ensuring effective inter-agency working together to safeguard and protect children in the area. The Boards have to ensure that clear local procedures are in place to inform and assist anyone interested or as part of their professional role where they have concerns about a child.

The functions of the LSCB are set out in chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children.

See <http://southamptonlscb.co.uk/> for Southampton LSCB.

Looked After Child

A Looked After Child is a child who is accommodated by the local authority, a child who is the subject to an Interim Care Order, full Care Order or Emergency Protection Order; or a child who is remanded by a court into local authority accommodation or Youth Detention Accommodation.

In addition where a child is placed for Adoption or the local authority is authorised to place a child for adoption - either through the making of a Placement Order or the giving of Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement - the child is a Looked After child.

Looked After Children may be placed with family members, foster carers (including relatives and friends), in Children's Homes, in Secure Accommodation or with prospective adopters.

With effect from 3 December 2012, the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 amended the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 to bring children who are remanded by a court to local authority accommodation or youth detention accommodation into the definition of a Looked After Child for the purposes of the Children Act 1989.

Neglect

Neglect is a form of Significant Harm which involves 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 or development. Neglect can occur during pregnancy, or once a child is born.

Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement

Parental consent to a child's placement for adoption under section 19 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 must be given before a child can be placed for adoption by an adoption agency, unless a Placement Order has been made or unless the child is a baby less than 6 weeks old and the parents have signed a written agreement with the local authority. Section 19 requires that the consent must be witnessed by a CAFCASS Officer. Where a baby of less than 6 weeks old is placed on the basis of a written agreement with the parents, steps must be taken to request CAFCASS to witness parental consent as soon as the child is 6 weeks old. At the same time as consent to an adoptive placement is given, a parent may also consent in advance to the child's adoption under section 20 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 either with any approved prospective adopters or with specific adopters identified in the Consent Form.

When giving advanced consent to adoption, the parents can also state that they do not wish to be informed when an adoption application is made in relation to the child.

Parental Responsibility

Parental Responsibility means all the duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which a parent has by law in relation to a child. Parental Responsibility diminishes as the child acquires sufficient understanding to make his or her own decisions.

A child's mother always holds Parental Responsibility, as does the father if married to the mother.

Unmarried fathers who are registered on the child's birth certificate as the child's father on or after 1 December 2003 also automatically acquire Parental Responsibility. Otherwise, they can acquire Parental Responsibility through a formal agreement with the child's mother or through obtaining a Parental Responsibility Order under Section 4 of the Children Act 1989.

Pathway Plan

The Pathway Plan sets out the route to the future for young people leaving the Looked After service and will state how their needs will be met in their path to independence. The plan will continue to be implemented and reviewed after they leave the looked after service at least until they are 21; and up to 25 if in education.

Permanence Plan

Permanence for a Looked After child means achieving, within a timescale which meets the child's needs, a permanent outcome which provides security and stability to the child throughout his or her childhood. It is, therefore, the best preparation for adulthood.

Wherever possible, permanence will be achieved through a return to the parents' care or a placement within the wider family but where this cannot be achieved within a time-scale appropriate to the child's needs, plans may be made for a permanent alternative family placement, which may include Adoption or by way of a Special Guardianship Order.

By the time of the second Looked After Review, the Care Plan for each Looked After Child must contain a plan for achieving permanence for the child within a timescale that is realistic, achievable and meets the child's needs.

Personal Education Plan

All Looked After Children must have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) which summarises the child's developmental and educational needs, short term targets, long term plans and aspirations and which contains or refers to the child's record of achievement. The child's social worker is responsible for coordinating and compiling the PEP, which should be incorporated into the child's Care Plan.

Person Posing a Risk to Children (PPRC)

This term replaced the term of 'Schedule One Offender', previously used to describe a person who had been convicted of an offence against a child listed in Schedule One of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

'Person Posing a Risk to Children' takes a wider view. Home Office Circular 16/2005 included a consolidated list of offences which agencies can use to identify those who may present a risk to children. The list includes both current and repealed offences, is for guidance only and is not exhaustive - subsequent legislation will also need to be taken into account when forming an assessment of whether a person poses a risk to children. The list of offences should operate as a trigger to further assessment/review to determine if an offender should be regarded as presenting a continued risk of harm to children. There will also be cases where individuals without a conviction or caution for one of these offences may pose a risk to children.

Placement at a Distance

Placement of a Looked After child outside the area of the responsible authority looking after the child and not within the area of any adjoining local authority.

This term was introduced with effect from 27 January 2014 by the Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013.

Principal Social Worker - Children and Families

This role was borne out of Professor Munro's recommendations from the Munro Review of Child Protection (2011) to ensure that a senior manager in each local authority is directly involved in frontline services, advocate higher practice standards and develop organisational learning cultures, and to bridge the divide between management and the front line. It is typically held by a senior manager who also carries caseloads to ensure the authentic voice of practice is heard at decision-making tables.

Private Fostering

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 (or 18 if disabled) who is cared for by an adult who is not a parent or close relative where the child is to be cared for in that home for 28 days or more. Close relative is defined as "a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of the full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step-parent". A child who is Looked After by a local authority or placed in a children's home, hospital or school is excluded from the definition. In a private

fostering arrangement, the parent still holds Parental Responsibility and agrees the arrangement with the private foster carer.

A child in relation to whom the local authority receives notification from the prospective adopters that they intend to apply to the Court to adopt may have the status of a privately fostered child. The requirement to notify the local authority relates only to children who have not been placed for adoption by an adoption agency. On receiving the notification, the local authority for the area where the prospective adopters live becomes responsible for supervising the child's welfare pending the adoption and providing the Court with a report.

Public Law Outline

The Public Law Outline: Guide to Case Management in Public Law Proceedings came into force on the 6th April 2010. An updated Public Law Outline (PLO) came into effect on 22nd April 2014, alongside the statutory 26-week time-limit for completion of care and supervision proceedings under the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Public Law Outline sets out streamlined case management procedures for dealing with public law children's cases. The aim is to identify and focus on the key issues for the child, with the aim of making the best decisions for the child within the timetable set by the Court, and avoiding the need for unnecessary evidence or hearings.

Referral

The referring of concerns to local authority children's social care services, where the referrer believes or suspects that a child may be a Child in Need, including that he or she may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, Significant Harm. The referral should be made in accordance with the agreed LSCB procedures.

Relevant Young People, Former Relevant, and Eligible

- **Relevant Young People** are those aged 16 or 17 who are no longer Looked After, having previously been in the category of Eligible Young People when Looked After. However, if after leaving the Looked After service, a young person returns home for a period of 6 months or more to be cared for by a parent and the return home has been formally agreed as successful, he or she will no longer be a Relevant Young Person. A young person is also Relevant if, having been looked after for three months or more, he or she is then detained after their 16th birthday either in hospital, remand centre, young offenders' institution or secure training centre. There is a duty to support relevant young people up to the age of 18, wherever they are living.
- **Former Relevant Young People** are aged 18 or above and have left care having been previously either Eligible, Relevant or both. There is a duty to consider the need to support these young people wherever they are living.
- **Eligible Young People** are young people aged 16 or 17 who have been Looked After for a period or periods totaling at least 13 weeks starting after their 14th birthday and ending at least one day after their 16th birthday, and are still Looked After. (This total does not include a series of short-term placements of up to four weeks where the child has returned to the parent.) There is a duty to support these young people up to the age of 18.

Review Child Protection Conference

Child Protection Review Conferences (RCPC) are convened in relation to children who are already subject to a Child Protection Plan. The purpose of the Review Conference is to review the safety, health and development of the child in view of the Child Protection Plan, to ensure that the child continues to

be adequately safeguarded and to consider whether the Child Protection Plan should continue or change or whether it can be discontinued.

Section 20

Under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, children may be accommodated by the local authority if they have no parent or are lost or abandoned or where their parents are not able to provide them with suitable accommodation and agree to the child being accommodated. A child who is accommodated under Section 20 becomes a Looked After Child.

Section 47 Enquiry

Under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, if a child is taken into Police Protection, or is the subject of an Emergency Protection Order, or there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer Significant Harm, a Section 47 Enquiry is initiated. This enables the local authority to decide whether they need to take any further action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. This normally occurs after a Strategy Discussion.

Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Neglect are all categories of Significant Harm.

Section 47 Enquiries are usually conducted by a social worker, jointly with the Police, and must be completed within 15 days of a Strategy Discussion. Where concerns are substantiated and the child is judged to be at continued risk of Significant Harm, a Child Protection Conference should be convened.

Separated Children

Separated Children are children and young people aged under 18 who are outside their country of origin and separated from both parents, or their previous legal/customary primary caregiver. Some will be totally alone (**unaccompanied**), while others may be accompanied into the UK e.g. by an escort; or will present as staying with a person who may identify themselves as a stranger, a member of the family or a friend of the family.

Special Guardianship Order

Special Guardianship Order (SGO) is an order set out in the Children Act 1989, available from 30 December 2005. Special Guardianship offers a further option for children needing permanent care outside their birth family. It can offer greater security without absolute severance from the birth family as in adoption.

Special Guardianship will also provide an alternative for achieving permanence in families where adoption, for cultural or religious reasons, is not an option. Special Guardians will have Parental Responsibility for the child. A Special Guardianship Order made in relation to a Looked After Child will replace the Care Order and the Local Authority will no longer have Parental Responsibility.

Strategy Discussion

A Strategy Discussion is normally held following an Assessment which indicates that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer Significant Harm. The purpose of a Strategy Meeting is to determine whether there are grounds for a Section 47 Enquiry.

Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)

From 1 September 2014, Statements of Special Educational Needs were replaced by Education, Health and Care Plans. (The legal test of when a child or young person requires an Education, Health and Care Plan remains the same as that for a Statement under the Education Act 1996).

Staying Put

A Staying Put arrangement is where a Former Relevant child, after ceasing to be Looked After, remains in the former foster home where they were placed immediately before they ceased to be Looked After, beyond the age of 18. The young person's first Looked After Review following his or her 16th birthday should consider whether a Staying Put arrangement should be an option.

It is the duty of the local authority to monitor the Staying Put arrangement and provide advice, assistance and support to the Former Relevant child and the former foster parent with a view to maintaining the Staying Put arrangement (this must include financial support), until the child reaches the age of 21 (unless the local authority consider that the Staying Put arrangement is not consistent with the child's welfare).

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker

A child or young person under the age of 18 who has been forced or compelled to leave their home country as a result of major conflict resulting in social breakdown or to escape human rights abuse. They will have no adult in the UK exercising Parental Responsibility.

Virtual School Head

Section 99 of the Children and Families Act 2014 imposes upon local authorities a requirement to appoint an officer to promote the educational achievement of Looked After children - sometimes referred to as a 'Virtual School Head'.

Working Together to Safeguard Children

Working Together to Safeguard Children is a Government publication which sets out detailed guidance about the role, function and composition of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), the roles and responsibilities of their member agencies in safeguarding children within their areas and the actions that should be taken where there are concerns that children have suffered or are at risk of suffering Significant Harm.

Young Offender Institution (YOI)

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is responsible for the commissioning and purchasing of all secure accommodation for under 18-year-olds ('juveniles'), whether sentenced or on remand. Young offender institutions (YOIs) are run by the Prison Service (except where contracted out) and cater for 15-20 year-olds, but within YOIs the Youth Justice Board has purchased discrete accommodation for juveniles where the regimes are specially designed to meet their needs. Juvenile units in YOIs are for 15-17 year-old boys and 17-year-old girls.

Youth Offending Service or Team

Youth Offending Service or Team (YOS or YOT) is the service which brings together staff from Children's Social care, the Police, Probation, Education and Health Authorities to work together to keep young people aged 10 to 17 out of custody. They are monitored and co-ordinated nationally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Sources

Tri.x live online glossary: <http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/> - a free resource, available to all which provides up to date keyword definitions and details about national agencies and organisations.

Southampton Local Safeguarding Board <http://southamptonlscb.co.uk/>

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS
DATE OF DECISION:	21 JULY 2022
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Director of Legal and Business Services	
	Name:	Richard Ivory	Tel: 023 8083 2794
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
This item enables the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to monitor and track progress on recommendations made at previous meetings.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the Panel considers the responses to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To assist the Panel in assessing the impact and consequence of recommendations made at previous meetings.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	Appendix 1 of the report sets out the recommendations made at previous meetings of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel. It also contains a summary of action taken in response to the recommendations.
4.	The progress status for each recommendation is indicated and if the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel confirms acceptance of the items marked as completed they will be removed from the list. In cases where action on the recommendation is outstanding or the Panel does not accept the matter has been adequately completed, it will be kept on the list and reported back to the next meeting. It will remain on the list until such time as the Panel accepts the recommendation as completed. Rejected recommendations will only be removed from the list after being reported to the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	

<u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u>	
5.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
6.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
7.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
8.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
9.	None

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 21 July 2022

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 21 July 2022

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
16/06/22	Children and Learning Service – Peer reviews	1) That the Panel are provided with a copy of the final Ofsted Engagement Letter.	Southampton's Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting letter was circulated to the Panel on 13/07/22	Completed
16/06/22	Children and Learning - Performance	1) That the Performance Manager circulates the May 2022 performance data to the Panel when it has been verified.	May and June performance data is appended to the July 2022 meeting papers.	Completed
		2) That, reflecting the importance of early intervention and diverting children away from statutory safeguarding services, the Panel consider the developing Early Help Service at a future meeting of the Panel.	Early Help is on the July 2022 agenda for the Panel and the Head of Service has prepared a presentation for the meeting.	Completed

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