

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 30 September 2021

| Date | Title | Action proposed | Action Taken | Progress Status |
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| 17/06/21 | Children's Services - Performance | 1) That the Executive Director provides the Panel with an overview of the key actions, developments and milestones that are fundamental to delivering the stated ambition to realign the focus of our services from assessment to intervention. | The recommendation is that the overview is shared with the Panel in November 2021, alongside the refreshed improvement plan. ** The revised improvement plan is scheduled for discussion at Improvement Board on 20 th September 2021. So, presentation to Scrutiny Panel in November will be achievable. | Recommend presentation at Panel in November 2021. |
| 17/06/21 | Ofsted Focused Letter | 1) That the Cabinet Member for Education lobbies the Government, on behalf of the Council, to give local authorities additional powers with regards to the oversight of elected home educated children. | The Cabinet Member has received a briefing from the Head of Education and Early Years on Elected Home Education. | Partially complete |
| 22/07/21 | Placement Sufficiency | 1) That, following the identification of a suitable property to accommodate a children's home, ward councillors and planning officers are engaged prior to the start of the planning application process to help facilitate a positive discussion with the local community. | A cross departmental process for acquiring and adapting properties is in place. This requires the property service design team to consult with the planning department early in the process and prior to the planning application being made. The cabinet member is advised and consulted on the identification of a property to facilitate early conversations with ward councillors on any property acquisition. | COMPLETE |
| | | 2) That data relating to the number and percentage of looked after children aged 16+ accommodated in semi-independent provision is circulated to the Panel. | As of 30.8.21 there were 21 looked after children aged 16+ placed in semi-independent provision. This equates to 4% of our looked after children cohort. Regarding quality assurance, the majority of provision is quality assured through the local and regional commissioning frameworks. | COMPLETE |
| 22/07/21 | CareDirector | 1) That, following the CareDirector system going live, the Panel are provided with the following information: | Care director implementation is being put back until the beginning of 2022, for the following reasons: | Recommend presentation to Panel in May 2022. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of Children’s Services and Learning staff who have undertaken training on CareDirector, where it is deemed appropriate for them to do so. • Staff satisfaction levels with the new system | <p>We need to take a later version of Care Director to fix some issues found in testing. These fixes will improve key processes and the quality of printed versions of forms.</p> <p>We need to carry out additional work so our supplier, Advanced, can monitor the performance of CareDirector once we go live.</p> <p>We’ve also been asked to review some of the changes identified for Phase 2 to see whether these can be included without significantly delaying go live.</p> <p>The Panel will be updated on training roll out and staff satisfaction, as per the request once implementation has been successfully achieved.</p> | |
| 22/07/21 | Children’s Services - Performance | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That commentary for CP8-QL, the percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 15 days, includes additional detail on the reasons why visits are not at 100%. 2) That, reflecting concerns about the increase in numbers and the associated risks to the children, the Panel consider in detail the position with regards to missing children at the 31 March 2022 meeting. | <p>Recorded contact within 15 days, with children subject to child protection plans, has reduced to 74% in August. We know that the protection and court (PACT) service has been particularly affected by staff shortages during this period. This is being proactively addressed and new starters are joining the service.</p> <p>The service is launching assurance clinics in September 2021 which should help to improve performance. Chaired by the Deputy Director and supported by the Performance Manager and Head of Service for QA, the clinics will scrutinise performance at team and individual level. Managers from PACT will attend to discuss performance in their teams.</p> <p>Issue scheduled for consideration at 31 March 2022 meeting of the Panel.</p> | <p>COMPLETE</p> <p>Recommend presentation to panel in March 2022.</p> |