



Oversight and Governance

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EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 19 September 2018
2.00 pm
Warspite Room, Council House

Members:

Councillor Mrs Beer, Chair
Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair
Councillors Buchan, Goslin, Mrs Johnson, Samantha Leaves, R Smith, Tuohy and Winter.

Parent Governor Representative:

Mrs Nicky Williams

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

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Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 July 2018.

4. Chair's Urgent Business

To receive reports on business which in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

5. Report regarding Support for Young People with Autism Spectrum Condition and SEND in Transition to Adulthood (Pages 7 - 12)

6. Headline Performance Data TO FOLLOW

7. Torbay Children's Services Update (Pages 13 - 16)

8. Work Programme (Pages 17 - 20)

9. Tracking Resolutions (Pages 21 - 22)

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee**Wednesday 18 July 2018****PRESENT:**

Councillor Mrs Beer, in the Chair.

Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Bowyer (substitute for Rebecca Smith), Derrick, Goslin, Mrs Johnson, Samantha Leaves and Winter.

Co-opted Representatives: Nicky Williams (Parent Governor Representative)

Apologies for absence: Councillor Rebecca Smith

Absent from meeting: Councillor Touhy

Also in attendance: Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation), Councillor McDonald (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Judith Harwood (Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills), Neelam Bhwardwaja (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families), David Bowles (Head of Education), Nicky Walters (Early Years Advisory Teacher), Jayne Gorton (Head of Access and Planning) and Amelia Boulter (Democratic Support Adviser).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.55 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

7. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the code of conduct the following declarations of interest were made –

Member	Subject	Reason	Interest
Councillor Sam Leaves	Minute 12	Husband works in the transport business but does not have a school contract.	Personal

8. MinutesThe minutes of 20 June 2018 were agreed.**9. Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

10. **Appointment of Co-opted Representatives**

In respect of overview and scrutiny committees which deal with education functions there was a legal requirement to appoint parent governor representatives from maintained schools to sit on the panel. The Chair on behalf of the committee would like to appoint Mrs Nicky Williams as the Parent Governor Representative for a term of 4 years.

Agreed the appointment of Mrs Nicky Williams as the Parent Governor Representative onto the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a term of 4 years.

11. **School Readiness**

Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation), Judith Harwood (Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills), David Bowles (Head of Education) and Nicky Walters (Early Years Advisory Teacher) were present for this item. Councillor Jon Taylor stated that the report highlights serious concerns and recommends that this committee regularly monitor this issue. It was further reported that work on this had been initiated by the Maternity, Early Years System Optimisation Group (MEYSOG).

Judith Harwood further reported that MEYSOG had recently met and the group were using intelligence to look for a citywide definition on school readiness by looking at patterns and trends. A survey would be undertaken with schools and early year's settings to pull together the quantitative information around ensuring that children were receiving good nutrition, support with sleeping patterns and ensuring school readiness. However, there were parent groups that look at these types of issues and this was an opportunity to review the effectiveness of these groups to gain a citywide and holistic view to start planning the interventions that would have an impact.

In response to questions raised, it was reported that -

- (a) as an authority they benchmark against other authorities on data such as whether the rise in premature births and survival rates were having an impact on school readiness and the data showed that we were behind our comparators. Performance data around children centres would need to be looked at in more detail;
- (b) the support provided to families would depend on the level of need. Children centres, early years setting and schools advise families on how they might improve a situation and/or signpost to a wide range of services. However, for a statutory assessment to be undertaken the family must meet the eligibility threshold. A number of different agencies can put forward a family for an assessment such as health, social care, police, GP and the assessment of the family would be approached in a multi-agency way;

- (c) there were mechanisms in place to ensure children were school ready such as a transition plan from nursery to school and an enhanced transition where additional support would be more beneficial to the family;
- (d) good level of development (GLD) test was undertaken in reception year and the phonics test was undertaken in year one. By the time children undertook the phonics test they had a year to progress and this was a good news story. However, the testing methods for these measures were different;
- (e) a lot of schools were still visiting preschools and it was a joint decision on the baseline of the child when they start school.

It was agreed –

1. that the committee regularly reviews the measures in place to ensure children are school ready;
2. that the findings from the first meeting of the Maternity, Early Years System Optimisation Group (MESOG) are shared with the committee;
3. that the questions received from Youth Parliament are sent to the relevant officers for a full response.

12. **Transport - Home to School Contract**

Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation), Judith Harwood (Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills) and Jayne Gorton (Head of Access and Planning) were present for this item.

In response to questions raised, it was reported that –

- (a) they were made aware of this issue on the Friday and contact was made with the provider over the weekend and no children were being transported or were at risk over the weekend. On the Monday they saw the documentation which formed part of the investigation and at that point it was clear that they did not need to suspend the contract;
- (b) no school runs were undertaken with that vehicle whilst under investigation;
- (c) the vehicle was covered by insurance;
- (d) since the incident they had reviewed the contract and would continue to undertake spot checks to ensure drivers' licences against the appropriate public service vehicle licence (PSV). There was always a possibility when a contract was outsourced that the provider could run into a problem and as a local authority need to have the confidence in quality of our contracts;

- (e) the contractor concerned would be undertaking reviews on a monthly basis to ensure that MOT's were up to date on all vehicles. They had also sent communications and had meetings with all contractors and we made it very clear on what was expected and that the safety of children was paramount;
- (f) private companies were used to provide a range of vehicles and all credentials including DBS (disclosure and barring service), the right licences in place and vehicles were roadworthy were checked;
- (g) there were a range of measures in place if a contractor did not fulfil the contract under the agreed terms. Termination of the contract was a consideration and fines were issued if a contractor breaches the contract. The contractor concerned was fined;
- (h) back up plans were in place, so if an incident occurred whereby a vehicle was unavailable, then contact would be made to other contractors to provide the service and to transport children.

It was agreed that the committee are provided -

1. with the process for monitoring a transport contract and the sanctions in place when contractors do not meet the agreed standards.
2. with the current guidance for all schools when they hire coaches for school trips.
3. with a briefing paper on whether Plymouth City Council undertake competency tests for drivers carrying passengers and if not who provides this service and how this was monitored.

13. **OFSTED Focussed Visit to Children Young People and Families service**

Councillor Sue McDonald (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) and Neelam Bhardwaja (Service Director for Children and Young People) were present for this item. Councillor Sue McDonald reported that as Lead Member had a very active role when Ofsted visited and this was acknowledged in the subsequent report.

In response to questions raised, it was reported that -

- (a) with regard to parental consent it was highlighted that a social worker had been making the decision to override consent and this was not good practice. Changes had been made within the hub for a Team Manager to be make those decisions rather than a practitioner;
- (b) when a referral for a child at risk was highlighted then a strategy discussion would take place to plan the joint enquiry. Historically, this discussion only took place between the police and social services which was the minimum requirement. However, practice had evolved and what was now expected was that all partner agencies involved

with the child and all have a contribution to make should attend the meeting;

- (c) with regard to social workers not being able to access case files, it was reported that the information had been inputted onto the electronic system but the information could not be retrieved. This was rectified while inspectors were on site;
- (d) a number of placements had been tried and rejected resulting in these young people being put into bed and breakfast type accommodation. However, round the clock staffing suitable for their needs was put in place and this was evidenced to Ofsted. This was still not acceptable and an issue that affects the whole country but they were working with different agencies to look at possible options such as setting aside accommodation for our care leavers in a more organised and planned way.

Agreed that Safeguarding Hub and Gateway Integration Project Plan to be shared with the committee.

14. **Work Programme**

Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation) put forward a request to the committee to scrutinise behaviour and low level disruption within schools. Councillor Jon Taylor asked the committee to explore the different approaches across the schools, the evidence base and whether the interventions in place were working or leading to exclusions or children being isolated. It was also highlighted to the committee, the 'Ready to Learn' approach undertaken by All Saints Academy and asked scrutiny to come up with recommendations to formulate a policy.

The committee noted the work programme and welcomed the request from Councillor Jon Taylor to add to the work programme the approach undertaken by schools to deal with behaviour and low level disruption in class.

15. **Tracking Resolutions**

The committee noted that tracking resolutions which were either progressing or complete.

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PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	Report regarding support for young people with Autism Spectrum Condition and SEND in transition to adulthood
Committee:	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 September 2018
Cabinet Member:	Councillor McDonald (Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families) Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member, Education, Skills and Transformation)
CMT Member:	Alison Botham (Director of Children's Services)
Author:	Jo Siney (Head of SEND)
Contact details	Tel: 01752 308744 jo.siney@plymouth.gov.uk
Ref:	
Key Decision:	No
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

The following report has been prepared at the request of the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide members with a briefing on the support received by families with children and young people with high functioning autism and SEND, in particular, exploring housing support and transition into adulthood as requested by Scrutiny.

Corporate Plan

'A Caring Plymouth – 'Improved schools where pupils achieve better outcomes' and 'Focus on prevention and early intervention'.

This document provides an overview of the support offered to young people with autism spectrum condition in Plymouth, with a focus on the period of transition into adulthood.

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land**

Not directly applicable as this report sets out an overview of the current offer.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

None for the purpose of this briefing report.

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Not completed for the purpose of this briefing report.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

For the Education and Children’s Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive the report for consideration.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

This is a briefing report only.

Published work / information:

None for the purpose of this report.

Background papers:

None for the purpose of this report.

Sign off:

Fin	djn18 .19.8 7	Leg	It/31 176/ 100 9	Mon Off		HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: Judith Harwood													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													

1.0 BACKGROUND

The following document provides a detailed report on the support received by families with children and young people with high functioning autism and SEND, in particular, exploring housing support and transition into adulthood as requested by Scrutiny.

The range of support and provision described is for young people aged from 14 – 25 years old. The report includes the work planned for the next 12–24 months through the Preparing for Adulthood Project Executive Group chaired by the Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills (Children’s Services). The Project Executive working group was established September 2017 following agreement by the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Board of the Commissioning and Development Plan to develop effective services to support transition to adulthood.

Integrated Commissioning Strategies identified that the differences between thresholds for support and models of care between adult and children’s services can often cause confusion for vulnerable young people and their families as they move into adulthood. We identified:

- Some vulnerable young people whose development has had significant disruption can struggle under an adult services response.
- Some 16 year olds have needs that can be met by adult services response.
- If transition planning begins early it can mitigate some of the difficulties of transition through the identification and promotion of additional life skills and independence skills and early planning between adult and children’s services of how to help young people and their families adjust.

Ideally the young person’s need should determine which service supports them. Integrated Commissioning Strategies highlighted the need to think flexibly across children’s and adults provision to ensure young people were enabled to access the right services to meet their needs

Plymouth uses the [Preparing for Adulthood framework](#) to plan and deliver all support services with our partners¹. The framework uses four key areas to plan for adulthood; these are Friends, Relationships and community; Employment; Good Health and Independent Living. Our vision for all young people, including those with SEND, is that we provide the right support to enable them to become productive, participating members of the community, with choice about their career, education, social life and where they are going to live as they become adults.

For a successful transition to adult care and support, the young person, their family and professionals need to work together. The Care Act 2014 gives the local authority a legal responsibility to cooperate both internally and externally “to ensure a smooth transition” i.e. that the appropriate stakeholders work together to get the transition right.

2.0 DATA ANALYSIS

a. Data regarding children and young people in Plymouth schools (School Census data)

There are 1196 young people with SEND who are 15–18 years old (NCY 10-14) attending Plymouth schools. Of this group, 434 young people have Education, Health and Care Plans and therefore will have support with transition planning. Within this group, we would expect that approximately 100 of the young people to require support to transition into adult social care services or be in receipt of NHS continuing care support.

¹ Framework and additional information can be found at <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/>

Our data indicates that 54% of the young people with SEND who are 15-18 years old, attending Plymouth schools, present with either Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) or Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) as their primary SEND need.

b. Data regarding young people in Education, Employment or Training

When considering data regarding participation in Employment, Education and Training, we can see that 86.6% of young people with SEND aged 16-18 years old are in education, employment or training. 11.32% young people are not engaged in education, employment and training, with 2.07% young people with a status of 'not known'. The participation rate figure of 86.6% compares favourably with the same time in 2017 where 85.2% were participating in education employment or training.

3.0 PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS

A coordinated multi-agency response is required to enable all vulnerable young people to achieve good life outcomes, this includes providing information, advice and support on preparing for adulthood, what adult social care is, transitions assessments, and what support they can expect.

SEND Strategy Steering Group

All planning is undertaken using a multiagency approach, attendance at the SEND Strategy Steering Group reflects this approach with representation from across all agencies including schools, Health, Adult services and Commissioning. Parents are represented by the [Plymouth Parent Carer Voice](#) group and young people by representatives from the [Youth Ascends](#) group.

Autism Partnership Board

The adult autism strategy ([Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives](#) (2010) and updated [Think Autism](#) (2014) state that it is essential that adults with autism and parents/carers are involved in the development of local services. It therefore recommends the setting up of local Autism Partnership Boards (APBs), or a similar mechanism, that "brings together different organisations, services and stakeholders locally and sets a clear direction for improved services. APBs are an integrated strategic planning forum that is responsible for developing autism provision across health and social care. These multi-agency forums bring together different agencies and stakeholders to identify local commissioning priorities and enable a more strategic approach to developing better outcomes for people with autism.

Plymouth Autism Partnership Board (APB) is made up of people with autism, parents and carers, statutory agencies and the private and voluntary sector.

The APB meets quarterly and all individuals attending the board work together to improve the lives of people with autism in the city. This involves being involved in achieving specific actions and pieces of work. Individual members are expected to provide progress reports to the board. All members' feedback information from the Partnership Board to their own networks. The APB consults, when required, with all relevant groups about its plans.

The APB uses other established networks to talk about the work of Partnership Board and make sure that the needs of the people with autism and their carers have a high priority.

4.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THIS COHORT

The Preparing for Adulthood Executive Working Group (which reports to SEND Strategy Steering Group) has developed a pathway process for all those with SEND. It sets out a process of planning that starts at 14 (Year 9) and joins education; care and health planning in line with Preparing for Adulthood agenda.

Preparing for adulthood planning should include support to:

- Prepare for further/higher education and/or employment
- Preparing for independent living
- Maintaining good health in adult life

- Participating in society, including support in developing and maintaining friendships and relationships.

For all children the following generic outcomes from the planning should be achieved through the pathway planning process:

- **Employment:** Young people engaged in education, employment or learning (including supported employment or bespoke learning for children with complex needs)
- **Independent Living:** Young people are in stable accommodation (including at home with families where appropriate), and have practical life skills appropriate to their level of ability
- **Community Inclusion:** Young people are engaged positively in their community
- **Health and Care:** Young people with complex needs are enabled to navigate the system and access the right short or long term support in adulthood²

Under the SEND Strategy Steering Group, work to date has included a review of the 16+ education market and the expansion/remodelling of the number of placements that can meet the actual rather than the perceived demand. Work has been carried out to develop the marketplace to bring new providers into the city to raise the quality and value for money of the placements.

A full review of the Post 16 offer from special schools is taking place between September and December 2018. The review will consider how young people with SEND can be supported appropriately on through their chosen employment pathway.

There are several emerging models for the delivery of housing options for children and young people with SEND who are not able to live at home. For young people in foster care “reach up” models of staying put allows them to remain with foster carers until they are ready to leave. Supported Living providers are now commissioned to develop “reach down” of packages of support to complex 16 year olds.

The adult services Supported Living Framework provides flexible and individually tailored support to people in a family supported living environment. The work is centred on interventions that improve each person’s ability to function in the community whilst taking responsibility for themselves and others. This service is available to young people with high functioning autism and SEND.

The Community Connections Team is a multi-disciplinary team, working across localities, with and in communities, to support and empower citizens to make sustainable change in their lives. The team provides information and advice about support services, housing options, improving people’s homes to help them live safely and independently and providing youth services and helping people into work and volunteering, to enrich their lives.

In addition there are a number of services that will provide interventions and support for young people with a diagnosis of autism or SEND. These include:-

- Young Person’s early intervention, homeless floating support service
- Supported temporary accommodation, the George Hostel and the Housing Information, Signposting and Support Services for People With More Complex Needs
- Advice Plymouth
- Working Well with Autism Hub (open Tuesday and Saturday)
- Caring for Carers (holistic carers assessment to include housing needs)

² NDTi Preparing for Adulthood
OFFICIAL

Considerable work has been undertaken to improve the transition from children's to adult support services. Workers have been identified in both the Children's Disability Team (SEND) and Adult Social Care to work specifically to support transitions. For disabled young people, care packages meeting the children's care plans do not cease until eligibility for adult services is determined or the adult support plan is authorised.

In addition there are improvements to the offer from NEW Devon CCG commissioned services. A transitions protocol in all Health Services has been agreed (e.g. CAMHS to AMHS). Clear guidance is being developed around what services are available to young people will ensure expectations are appropriate as they move into adult health services.

Adult and children's community nursing teams are working together to develop processes for transition alongside the long term conditions team to ensure a smooth transition regardless of team. An internal review of the offer in Personality Disorder Service for 16-25 year olds is being undertaken alongside the development of an all age pathway for Early Intervention in Psychosis.

The "[Ready Steady Go](#)" process is in place which allows for the transfer of children and young people requiring specialist services transfer from paediatrician to adult specialities

5.0 SUMMARY

Further work is required to continue to improve the experience of young people with a diagnosis of Autism or SEND as they prepare for and then move across to adult services. The existing mechanisms to deliver the required changes are in place in the SEND Steering Group and the Autism Partnership Board.

Building on achievements and best practice identified to date work will focus on developing services with partners and stakeholders that will provide ongoing support using a model of service delivery that will provide the right level of support, at the right time, in the right place as young people move across into adult life.

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	Torbay Children's Services Update
Committee:	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 September 2018
Cabinet Member:	Councillor McDonald (Cabinet Member of Children and Young People) Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet for Education, Skills and Transformation)
CMT Member:	Alison Botham (Director of Children's Services)
Author:	Alison Botham, Director Children's Services
Contact details	Tel: 01752 307311 email: Alison.botham@plymouth.gov.uk
Ref:	Torbay Children's Services update
Key Decision:	No
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

This report provides an update on the outcome of the Torbay Ofsted Re-inspection published in August 2018.

Corporate Plan

This is an update in relation to Torbay's Children's Services, and as such does not relate specifically to Plymouth's Corporate Plan.

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land**

No Financial implications for Plymouth.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

- Risk Management the briefing itself how the outcome will be managed in Torbay with no current direct implications for Plymouth.
-

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Published work / information:

List (and include a hyper link) to published work / information used to prepare the report
Link to the Torbay Ofsted re-inspection report published 24th August 2018

https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/torbay/071_Torbay_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20childrens%20services.pdf

Background papers:

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off: None as information only re another authority.

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Originating SMT Member Alison Botham Director of Children's Services													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? For info only will be briefed before scrutiny.													

Re-inspection

The inspection was undertaken between 11 June and 5 July 2018 by a team of six inspectors. The inspectors focussed on reviewing direct work with children in need of help and protection; children looked after; adoption performance, and the experiences and progress of care leavers. They interviewed staff from Torbay Council and a number of partner agencies, including Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon and Cornwall Probation Service, and the voluntary and community sector. Inspectors also interviewed elected members from Torbay Council as well as children, young people, carers and family members.

Inspectors concluded that overall, Torbay's children's services remains inadequate.

1 Children who need help and protection	Inadequate
2 Children looked after and achieving permanence	Requires improvement
2.1 Adoption performance	Good
2.2 Experiences and progress of care leavers	Requires improvement
3 Leadership, management and governance	Inadequate

In the 2016 Single Inspection report the findings had been that children's services were inadequate.

1 Children who need help and protection	Inadequate
2 Children looked after and achieving permanence	Requires improvement
2.1 Adoption performance	Requires Improvement
2.2 Experiences and progress of care leavers	Requires improvement
3 Leadership, management and governance	Inadequate

As a result of the 2016 judgement Torbay Council has been under the direction of the Secretary of State and a commissioner from Hampshire County Council appointed by the Department for Education. The focus of the commissioner was to advise on the fundamental structures and leadership that needs to be in place to enable Torbay to make and sustain improvement. As a result of the commissioner's review and recommendations, Torbay and Plymouth Councils entered into a contractual arrangement with a joint Director of Children's Services. The arrangement was established in April this year and the joint Director of Children's Services, Alison Botham, took responsibility for Torbay on Friday 6 July 2018.

Re-inspection 2018 Key Findings

link to the report. – see above.

Overall the pace of change means that not enough improvement has been made since 2015, and there are some areas showing serious weakness. These include:

- There has been significant delay and drift for some children, particularly those in need of protection.
- Timeliness remains a weakness in relation to assessment work and visits to children
- Management oversight and supervision remain weak.
- 16/17 year old young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness have not always been responded to appropriately.
- Frequent changes of social worker combined with the complexity of work impacts negatively on the quality of practice particularly for children in need of help and protection.
- Until recently there have been delays in effective decision making where legal action is required.

- Arrangements in the fostering service mean that reviews of carers are not up to date for 50% of carers; however the inspectors found no evidence that this had impacted on the care of children placed.

Significant improvements in some areas were recognised by the inspectors and these include:

- Early help demonstrates strong focused work
- Decisions making in the MASH has improved and thresholds are appropriate and consistently applied
- In the disabled children's team.
- Placement stability is good for most children in care.
- Adoption has improved from Requires Improvement in 2015 to Good.
- Care leavers value the support from their personal advisers, the service is in touch with all care leavers, and most live in suitable accommodation.
- In the emergency duty team that mean that there are robust responses to immediate safeguarding concerns.
- Corporate parenting has strengthened, the board is energetic and advocates strongly for children and young people.
- Governance arrangements are clear with strong links between the chief executive, lead member and DCS. Lines of accountability are well established.

There are sixteen recommendations with three of them identified as needing immediate actions. Work has already begun to address these three recommendations.

Improvement Plan, governance and the role of Ofsted.

In continuing to build on all the hard work that has been done to achieve the improvements to date the focus will be on stabilising the leadership team, recruitment and retention, and achieving consistent and sustainable change at pace.

A meeting is scheduled in early October with the Department for Education, the Children's Commissioner to agree the intervention arrangements and how to support the joint arrangements with Plymouth. This will ensure the right framework is in place for the improvement plan to increase the pace and consistency of change and achieve sustainable improvement.

The governance arrangements to oversee the revised improvement plan will also be considered so that these are established before the plan is agreed and submitted to the DfE and Ofsted at the end of November.

A meeting is also in place for early October with Ofsted, including one of the inspectors on the team that undertook the re-inspection that will consider the outcome of the re-inspection and consider the monitoring arrangements and re-inspection schedule.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2018 - 19



Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice.

For general enquiries relating to the Council's Scrutiny function, including this committee's work programme, please contact Amelia Boulter, Democratic Support Officer, on 01752 304570.

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
20 June 2018	Education and Children's Social Care Landscape		To give the committee a better understanding of the two service areas.	Alison Botham/ Judith Harwood/ Neelam Bhardwaja
18 July 2018	Ofsted Report 'Front Door Services'		To provide the committee with an update on the recent inspection.	Neelam Bhardwaja
	School Transport		The Committee to be assured that all school transport is safe for children and young people following the recent article in the Plymouth Herald of an untaxed vehicle.	Judith Harwood
	School Readiness		The Committee to receive a report around assessments undertaken in early years and reception to ascertain speech and language levels and the support provided to the child and family.	Judith Harwood

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
19 Sept 2018	Headline Performance data		To enable the Committee to scrutinise more effectively, headline performance data going back 2 - 3 years to be provided with the caveat that data received was not comparable year on year	Judith Harwood
	SEND Transition		To receive a report on the support received by families with children and young people with high functioning autism and SEND, in particular, exploring housing support and transition into adulthood	Judith Harwood
	Torbay Children's Services – monitoring		To be kept informed	Alison Botham
28 Nov 2018	Children Services Business Plans including action plans			Alison Botham/ Neelam Bhardwaja/ Judith Harwood
	Plymouth Education Board		A report on the Plymouth Education Board to include overview of the board, membership and terms of reference	Judith Harwood
	Social workers/ thresholds/ recruitment			Alison Botham/ Neelam Bhardwaja
20 Jan 2019	Plymouth Challenge/attainment levels		To monitor the progress of the Plymouth Challenge.	Judith Harwood
	High Cost Placements		To receive a report on high cost of placements and how the scrutiny committee can effectively monitor these placements	Alison Botham/ Neelam Bhardwaja

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
13 March 2019	Regional School Commissioner		Understanding of the role of the Regional Schools Commissioner	Judith Harwood
	Monitoring of the NSPCC Together for Childhood		To receive a report outlining the NSPCC's Together for Childhood project and how progress of the project is monitored over the next 10 years	Alison Botham/ Neelam Bhardwaja

Items to be scheduled				
	Agenda item	Date to go to Committee	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
	Plymouth Children Safeguarding Board	TBC	Update form the Plymouth Children Safeguarding Board	Andy Bickley
	School Readiness Review			
	How schools deal with behaviour and low level disruption			
Select Committee Reviews				
Cross Scrutiny Items				
	Mental Health/ CAMHS			
Scrutiny Visits				

	Gateway and Hub		The Committee to meet the team and gain a better understanding of the 'front door'	Alison Botham/ Neelam Bhardwaja
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Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minute No.	Resolution	Target Date, Officer Responsible and Progress
20 June 2018 Overview of the Children's Directorate Minute 5	It was <u>agreed</u> – 5. Visit to the Gateway for the Committee to meet the team and gain a better understanding of the 'front door'.	Date: July 2018 Officer: Amelia Boulter/Sarah Allum Progress: The service is undergoing quite a lot of change. The service is trying to bring the Gateway and the hub together so towards the end of September or early October would be the best and a more realistic time to visit.
18 July 2018 School Readiness Minute 11	It was <u>agreed</u> – 1. that the Committee regularly reviews the measures in place to ensure children are school ready. 2. that the findings from the first meeting of the Maternity, Early Years Systems Optimisation Group (MESOG) are shared with the Committee. 3. that the questions received from Youth Parliament are sent to the relevant officers for a full response.	Date: Sept 2018 Officer: Amelia Boulter Progress: Added to the Work Programme. Progressing Questions and responses sent to Youth Parliament
18 July 2018 Transport – Home to School Contract Minute 12	It was <u>agreed</u> that the committee are provided – 1. with the process for monitoring a transport contract and the sanctions in place when contractors do not meet the agreed standards. 2. with the current guidance for all schools when they hire coaches for school trips. 3. with a briefing paper on whether Plymouth City Council undertake competency tests for drivers carrying passengers and if not who provides this service and how this was monitored.	Date: Sept 2018 Officer: Amelia Boulter Progress: Progressing

Education and Children’s Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minute No.	Resolution	Target Date, Officer Responsible and Progress
18 July 2018 OFSTED Focussed Visit to Children and Young People and Families Service Minute 13	<u>Agreed</u> that Safeguarding Hub and Gateway Integration Project Plan to be shared with the Committee.	Date: Sept 2018 Officer: Amelia Boulter Progress: Progressing
18 July 2018 Work Programme Minute 14	The Committee <u>noted</u> the work programme and welcomed the request from Councillor Jon Taylor to add to the work programme the approach taken by schools to deal with behaviour and low level disruption in class.	Date: Sept 2018 Officer: Amelia Boulter Progress: Added to the Work Programme.