

# Children's Services Overview



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# Children's Services Briefing

## May 2022



- Statutory Guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and the Lead Member for Children's Services sets out the responsibilities of the DCS as follows
  - To secure the provision of services which address the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers.
  - The DCS will work closely with other local partners to improve the outcomes and well-being of children and young people.
  - The DCS is responsible for the performance of local authority functions relating to the education and social care of children and young people.
  - The DCS should have regard to the General Principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and ensure that children and young people are involved in the development and delivery of local services.

# A BRIGHT FUTURE 2021-2026

A vision to make sure that Plymouth children and young people have the best possible start to life

Everyone who works with children and young people wants to make sure they have a Bright Future. We are ambitious for all children to live full and happy lives, receiving good quality health services, attending high quality education, and having fun while staying safe.

Our aim is that all Plymouth children and young people will have the opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of their

circumstances or childhood experiences. We also want to reduce any negative impact Covid-19 might have on your future.

We are making changes to the way we work together to support you. We will be clear about what we are doing and how it makes a difference to your lives. We want your voices to be at the heart of what we do so we can ensure that you grow up **healthy and happy, safe and able to aspire and achieve.**

## TO STAY HEALTHY AND HAPPY

We will make sure you receive the right support to help you and your friends with your mental health and wellbeing.

We will work to make improvements to help you live healthy and active lives.

## TO BE SAFE

We want Plymouth to be a place where children and young people feel safe and protected from the risks of being harmed at home and in communities.

You will be protected from all forms of exploitation

We will provide you with support from people that best suit your needs for as long as you need.

## TO ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE

We will prepare you for all stages of education through nursery, primary and secondary school to give you the skills needed for the world of employment.

We are planning to increase opportunities for children and young people with special, educational needs and disabilities within Plymouth.

If you want to know more about **A Bright Future** email [participation.youth@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:participation.youth@plymouth.gov.uk)



# A Bright Future 2021 - 2026



The partnership approach is driven by the following principles

- We are strength based
- We support the reductions of the impact of disadvantage
- We are restorative and reflective

There is a Strategic System Board supported by a Partnership Board for each of the priority areas

- Aspire and Achieve – The Plymouth Education Board
- To Be Safe – Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership
- The Healthy and Happy Partnership

# Education, Participation & Skills



## National Agenda/Drivers

- **School White Paper** - Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child
- **SEND/AP Green Paper** - Right support, right place, right time
- **Skills/FE White Paper** – Skills for jobs: Lifelong learning for opportunity and growth
- **Raising demand** – the need for service review and new ways of working
- **Changing Education Landscape** – academisation drive

# Education, Participation & Skills

## Plymouth Local Focus



### System

- Strengthen school improvement partnership system

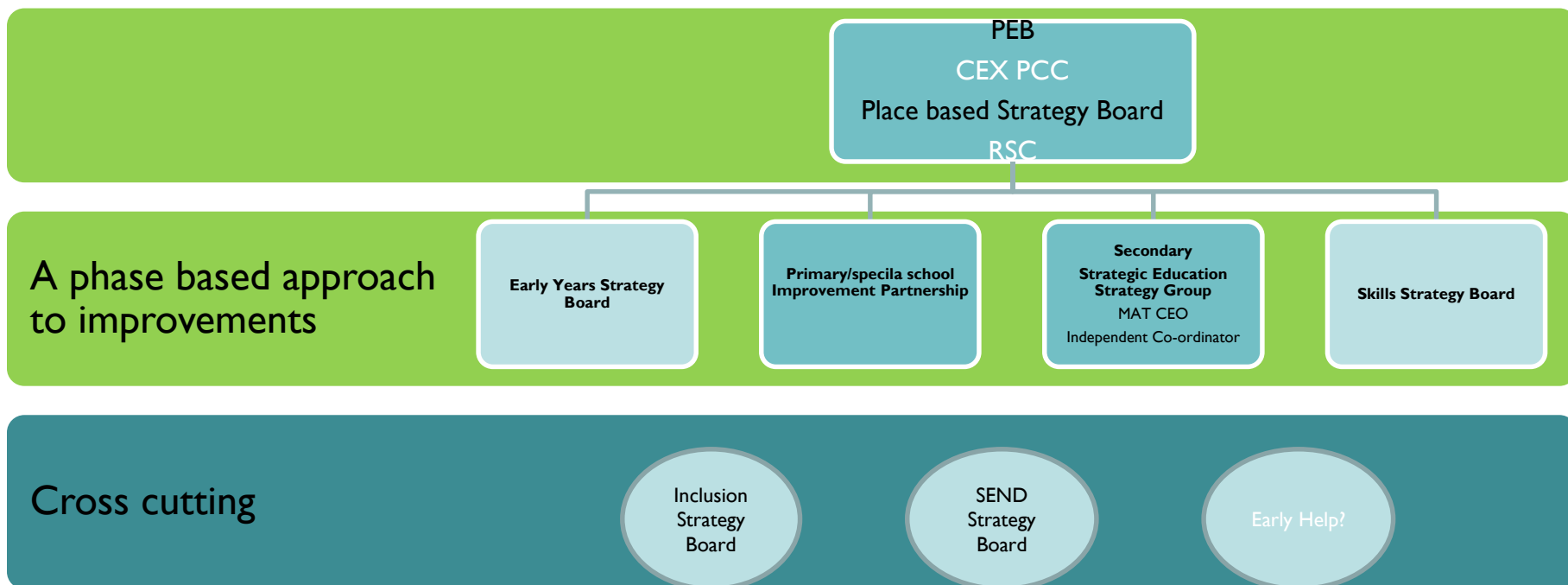
### Outcomes

- Improve outcomes across all phase groups

### Inclusion

- Refocus on vulnerable learners

# Plymouth Education Board and related partnership governance



# The Role of New PEB



- The purpose of the new PEB is **to improve educational outcomes in all schools by bringing key parts of the school improvement system together to address issues**. Specifically, the Board will:
- determine the framework and the governance of the city's education improvement partnership, in the framework of A Bright Future;
- review the performance data and other outcomes based evidence relating to the progress of schools individually and collectively;
- set school improvement priorities for Plymouth as a whole;
- commission, broker and signpost school improvement support;
- encourage and sustain robust professional challenge and support between schools/MATs;
- communicate Plymouth's school improvement offer;
- use intelligence to advise and guide on the future system planning;
- ensure that no schools are left out;
- evaluate the impact of support;
- provide up to date information to the Sub-Regional School Improvement Board.



# PEB's Phase Improvement Partnerships



## Early Years

- to improve educational outcomes for children 0-5 years, and childcare 0-14 years, as well as contributing to overall cross-phase city-wide development planning to strengthen school improvement partnership system

## Primary/Spec Schools

- to improve educational outcomes in primary and special schools specifically as well as contributing to overall cross-phase city-wide development planning

## Secondary Schools

- to achieve strategic coherence - identifying collective priorities; required action across partners and co-ordinating activity to address. Provides robust peer to peer challenge and analysis

## Skills & Post 16

- to lead interventions required to achieve the Skills 4 Plymouth Strategic Plan outcomes, closing skills gaps, growing a sustainable future talent pipeline and ensuring alignment with the Inclusive Growth agenda

# Education, Participation and Skill Service Functions



**Service Director  
(Education,  
Participation and Skills)**

**Head Of Service Access to Learning**

- Place Planning
- System Performance
- Partnership Support
- Admissions
- SEND Transport
- PIAS

**Head of Service SEND**

- SEND Service Manager
- Educational Psychology Service
- 0 – 25 Statutory Assessment Team
- Early Years Inclusion
- Occupational Therapy
- Advisory Teaching and Support
- Children's Disability Team
- Downham House Short Break Service

**Head of Service Skills and Post 16**

- Skills Programmes
- Employment and Skills delivery Plan
- Careers
- Adult and Community Learning
- Post 16 including EET

**Head of Education, Virtual School and Inclusion**

- Early Years commissioning
- School Standards
- School partnerships
- Safeguarding, Health and Well Being in Education
- Education (SEND) Improvement
- Virtual School for Looked After Children
- Inclusion, Attendance and Welfare

# Education, Participation & Skills



## Recent Achievement and Current Development

- Support for schools during Covid has been strong
- Foundation of Place-based & Phase Group Partnership
- KS4 Attainment Now Better than National Average
- More Secondary Schools Improved from RI to Good
- Higher % of EY Provision Graded Good or Outstanding (97%)
- Success in supporting residents' choice of schools
- Further Education and Skills Improved from RI to Good
- One Skills Plan for the City
- Inclusion Transformation for An Integrated Inclusion System
- School Causing Concerns System has Multi-Disciplinary Inputs

# Children Young People and Families Service - National Agenda/Drivers (1)



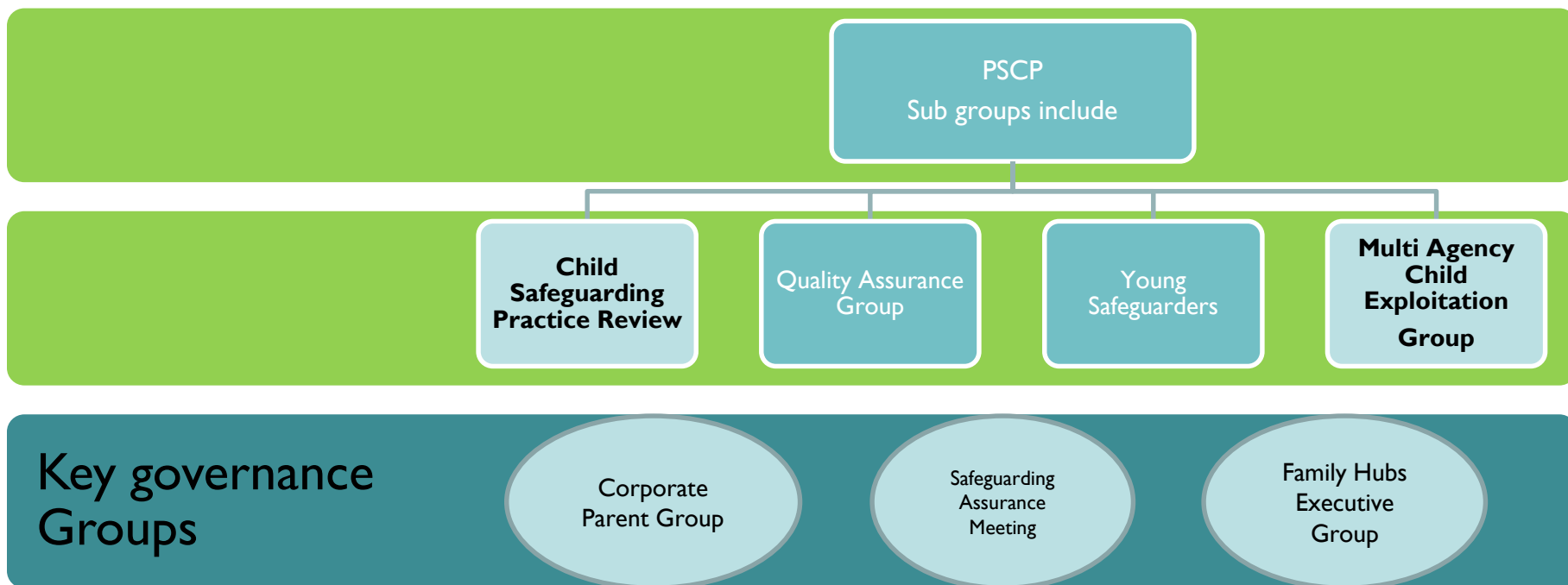
- **National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson:** published in late May 2022
  - 8 national recommendations, including:
    - Call for a new expert-led, multi agency model for child protection investigation, planning, investigation and review.
    - Establishing national multi agency practice standards for child protection.
    - Strengthening local safeguarding partners to ensure involvement of all
    - Changes to multi-agency inspection to understand local performance and drive improvements.
    - New role for the National Review panel.
    - Sharper performance focus and child protection policy in central government.
    - Using the potential of data to help professionals protect children.
    - Practice improvements in relation to domestic abuse.

## National Drivers (2)



- **The Independent Review of Children’s Social Care** led by Josh MacAllister: published in late May 2022. Some key issues from the report, include:
  - A revolution in Family Help.
  - A ‘just and decisive’ child protection system.
  - Unlocking the potential of family networks.
  - Fixing the broken care market and giving children a voice.
  - Five ‘missions; for care experienced people.
  - Realising the potential of the workforce
  - A system that is relentlessly focused on children and families.

# Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership; Corporate Parenting and the Safeguarding Assurance Meeting



# Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership



- Focus on SAFE – key priority in A Bright Future.
- Quarterly meetings reporting the Strategic Safeguarding Board
- Key subgroups:
  - Quality Assurance Group– to monitor and improve partnership performance and practice.
  - Child Safeguarding Review Group – managing all Child Safeguarding Practice Review activity and reporting to National Panel.
  - Workforce Development Group
  - Strategic MACE (missing and child exploitation) Group
  - Together For Childhood (10 partnership with NSPCC to prevent Child Sexual Abuse).
- Independent Scrutineer recently appointed to replace previous lead. This role offers critical friend challenge and independent oversight in respect of the quality of the partnership.
- Work to learn from National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinje-Hughes and Star Hobson will be driven in this partnership.

# Corporate Parenting Group



- Governance arrangements for children in care and care experienced people.
- Quarterly meeting chaired by the Lead Member for Children.
- Attended by key elected members who champion corporate parenting on behalf of all elected members.
- Officers attend to report on key issues related to children in care and care experienced young people.
- Recent focus has included:
  - Care leavers (care experienced young people) and Mark Riddell's visit to Plymouth to review our offer and impact. We invited this visit from the DfE National Implementation lead for children in care and care leavers. A return visit is scheduled on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.
  - Agreeing the Sky's the Limit Corporate Parenting Strategy
  - Agreeing the Local offer for Care experienced young people.
  - Developing a Whole Council approach to support care experienced young people.
  - Children and young people in care and their experience of the Covid-19 pandemic.



# Children Young People and Families Service Functions



**Service Director  
(CYPFS)**

**Head Of Service  
Plymouth Referral and  
Assessment Service**

Gateway  
MASH  
4 Referral and  
Assessment teams  
Youth Justice Service  
Targeted Support

**Head of Service Children's  
Social Work Service**

8 social work teams  
Children in Need  
Children subject to Child  
Protection Plans

**Head of Service Permanence**

4 social work teams for  
Children in Care  
Care leavers  
Fostering

**Head of Service Safeguarding and  
Quality Assurance**

Chairs of Child Protection  
Conferences  
Independent reviewing Officers  
Professional Development team  
Business Manager for the PSCP

# Children Young People and Families Service: Strengths and Areas for Development



- Response to challenges and crises, such as Keyham
- Youth Offending Service improvement/expansion and inspection outcome: GOOD
- Front Door Improvement Board impact on performance.
- Increase in social work capacity at all levels to meet demand issues
- Improving outcomes for care experienced young people
- PAUSE programme outcomes
- Adolescent Support Team outcomes (edge of care and reunification)
- Effective response to demand and capacity issues
- Recruitment and retention
- Reduction of repeat referrals and Child Protection plans
- Placement Sufficiency plan to further increase in-house fostering local residential and supportive accommodation options
- Embed the Adolescent Safety Framework in respect of extra-familial harm, such as exploitation.