

Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Monday 17 July 2017 at 10.00 am

To be held at the Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Membership

Councillors Mick Rooney (Chair), Cliff Woodcraft (Deputy Chair), Andy Bainbridge, Lisa Banes, John Booker, Craig Gamble Pugh, Kieran Harpham, Karen McGowan, Mohammad Maroof, Abtisam Mohamed, Josie Paszek, Vickie Priestley, Bob Pullin, Jim Steinke and Alison Teal

Education Non-Council Members

Gillian Foster, Alison Warner, Waheeda Din, Sam Evans, Joanna Heery and Peter Naldrett

Healthwatch Sheffield

Alice Riddell (Observer)

Substitute Members

In accordance with the Constitution, Substitute Members may be provided for the above Committee Members as and when required.

Sheffield

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

The Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee exercises an overview and scrutiny function in respect of the planning, policy development and monitoring of service performance and other general issues relating to learning and attainment and the care of children and young people within the Children's Services area of Council activity. It also scrutinises as appropriate the various local Health Services functions, with particular reference to those relating to the care of children.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Scrutiny Committee meetings and recording is allowed under the direction of the Chair. Please see the website or contact Democratic Services for further information regarding public questions and petitions and details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings.

Scrutiny Committee meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Committee may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last. If you would like to attend the meeting please report to the First Point Reception desk where you will be directed to the meeting room.

If you require any further information about this Scrutiny Committee, please contact Diane Owens, Policy and Improvement Officer on 0114 27 35065 or [email diane.owens@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:diane.owens@sheffield.gov.uk)

FACILITIES

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SUPPORT SCRUTINY AND POLICY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA
17 JULY 2017**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
 - 2. Apologies for Absence**
 - 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public
 - 4. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 1 - 4)
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting
 - 5. Minutes of Previous Meetings** (Pages 5 - 14)
To approve the minutes of meetings of the Committee held on 3rd April and 17th May, 2017
 - 6. Public Questions and Petitions**
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public
 - 7. Consultation on the Future Commissioning and Delivery of Young People's Services - Investing in Young People** (Pages 15 - 30)
Report of the Executive Director, People Services
 - 8. Looked After Children and Care Leavers - Annual Report**
The Executive Director, People Services, to report
 - 9. Draft Work Programme 2017/18** (Pages 31 - 38)
Report of the Policy and Improvement Officer
- For Information Only**
- 10. Adoption Service Annual Report 2016/17** (Pages 39 - 50)
Report of the Executive Director, People Services
 - 11. Fostering Service Annual Report 2016/17** (Pages 51 - 58)
Report of the Executive Director, People Services
 - 12. Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, 11th September, 2017, at 10.00 am, in the Town Hall

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ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses 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.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - 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, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Audit and Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal and Governance on 0114 2734018 or email gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk.

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**Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee**

Meeting held 3 April 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Ian Saunders (Chair), Andy Bainbridge, Olivia Blake, John Booker, Terry Fox, Kieran Harpham, Karen McGowan, Mohammad Maroof, Abtisam Mohamed, Josie Paszek, Colin Ross, Alison Teal, Cliff Woodcraft and Adam Hanrahan (Substitute Member)

Non-Council Members in attendance:-

Waheeda Din, (Parent Governor Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)
Peter Naldrett, (Parent Governor Representative - Non-Council Voting Member)

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Ayris and Craig Gamble Pugh, and from Gillian Foster (Diocese Representative – Non-Council Voting Member), Joanna Heery (Parent Governor Representative – Non-Council Voting Member), Alice Riddell (Healthwatch Sheffield – Observer) and Alison Warner (School Governor Representative – Non-Council Non-Voting Member).

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 In relation to Agenda Item 7 (Sheffield Children’s Safeguarding Board – Annual Report 2015/16), Councillor Colin Ross declared a personal interest in his capacity as Deputy Chair of Aldine House Governing Body.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

4.1 There were no questions raised or petitions submitted by members of the public.

5. SHEFFIELD CHILDREN’S SAFEGUARDING BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

5.1 The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, attaching the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board – Annual Report 2015/16.

- 5.2 In attendance for this item were Jane Haywood (Independent Chair, Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)) and Victoria Horsefield (Assistant Director and Quality Assurance Professional Adviser to the SSCB).
- 5.3 Jane Haywood referred to the introductory report, which outlined the progress that had been made during the year, together with the key challenges ahead for the City to ensure that its children were safe from harm, abuse and neglect. Ms Haywood, who had taken the role of Independent Chair in April 2016, referred to multi-agency partnership working in Sheffield in terms of safeguarding children and young people, with all partner agencies being very supportive of each other, and each other's agendas. She stated that there had been excellent work undertaken in a number of key areas. In terms of challenges for the coming year, she referred to proposed changes in legislation, specifically the removal of the legal requirement for Safeguarding Boards, and a move to more localised, and possibly regional, working.
- 5.4 Victoria Horsefield referred to some of the specific initiatives during 2016/17, including the emphasis on preventative work in order to stop incidences of abuse, harm or neglect in families escalating. She also made reference to the work undertaken in connection with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), the Youth Suicide Prevention Pathway and the Hidden Harm (Substance Misuse) Strategy. Ms Horsefield reported on the proposed Business Plan for 2017/18. Two of the key priorities included looking at the issues regarding the transition of children and young people as they approached adulthood into adult services, and a project looking specifically at Teenage Partner Abuse. On 22nd May 2017, the Board, in conjunction with the NSPCC, would be launching the 'It's Not OK' campaign in connection with sexual abuse and exploitation.
- 5.5 Members of the Committee raised questions and the following responses were provided:-
- One of the roles of the Independent Chair of the SSCB was to hold all partners to account and, as part of this role, the Chair would meet with the Chief Executives of the Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group and the City Council, and the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, to discuss progress, or any issues of concern. The Board has the power to ask questions of all the partner agencies.
 - The Board was happy with the current policies, which were constantly being reviewed and updated, if required. If there were any issues with the policies, the Board would raise these with the Chief Executives of the relevant agencies, although there had been no cause for this action to date.
 - The partner agencies held their own budgets in terms of their safeguarding responsibilities, and although all the agencies had, and continued to face, reductions in their budgets over the last few years, they remained fully committed in terms of their individual responsibilities. The Board and the partner agencies were constantly reviewing their budgets in the light of such reductions. The Board had built up some reserves, which were held as a

contingency for Serious Case Reviews, but was not using such reserves as part of its core service. A further review of its funding formula would have to be reviewed in the light of the expected changes in the next few years.

- Children and Families Services and the partner agencies would work with all families where it was identified there could be potential safeguarding issues, with a strong emphasis on prevention. Whilst no specific targeted work was aimed at single parents, the agencies would adopt a similar approach as with any other family.
- It was accepted that there could be specific concerns regarding the vulnerability of care leavers and, although relevant help and support should be included as part of their care plans, a full assessment would be undertaken in those cases where concerns had been raised. Resources were concentrated on the early intervention and prevention stage, and there was considerable work undertaken in universal services, including schools and GP practices.
- Although there was no reference within the SSCB Annual Report to work regarding the radicalisation of children and young people, there was a specific officer dealing with this area of work, who worked closely with the partner agencies. Training was also provided on this issue.
- In terms of issues regarding alcohol and substance misuse, there was a Substance Misuse Worker, who worked very closely with Children and Families Services and drug and alcohol services. There had been recent changes in the City, where there had been an increase in the number of parents using legal highs, cannabis and steroids. The partner agencies continued their work in looking at the effects of this on children and young people within households. Issues with regard to alcohol misuse were historically more difficult to identify, with alcohol being prevalent in many households. It was easier to identify issues in those households where parents were receiving treatment for alcohol or substance misuse, as questions would be raised in terms of whether they had any children, or were in contact with children, who could be affected. Such cases would then be referred to a Health Visitor or Family Liaison Officer.
- Whilst there was no clear evidence at this time, to show that there was an increase in cases of teenage abuse in households where alcohol and substance misuse was prevalent, there was a likelihood that there would be a better understanding of any such links next year.
- It was accepted that there were difficulties in terms of what questions to ask when trying to identify cases of abuse, harm or neglect, and to aid this process, the Independent Chair of the Board had begun a programme of meetings with those officers of the partner agencies on the front-line, including social workers and representatives of the MASTs, as well as meeting children and young people deemed at risk. The Board acknowledged that there was a clear protocol in terms of the safeguarding of

children and young people, and that the Board and partner agencies all worked within such a protocol. If Members had any concerns about children and young people, they should alert officers to these.

- It was accepted that, due to the nature of the work involved, such partnership working arrangements would never be perfect, but Sheffield worked hard to keep children safe. Efforts were continuously made to improve, including learning from other areas in the country, and there was a considerable level of information-sharing between different Safeguarding Children Boards.
- Officers were not aware of any increased concerns about street child sexual exploitation, or any link between an increase in such action and the reduction in the budgets of the partner agencies. Whilst the budget reductions had forced the agencies to review their working practices, it was not believed that such budget cuts had affected activity in this area. If there were reports of a possible increase in such activity, this issue would be raised with the police.
- Although the change in terms of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) now treating children and young people up to the age of 18 had helped in terms of their transition to the Adult Mental Health Service, it was accepted that there were still a number of issues in terms of such transition. The Transition Sub-Group would continue to monitor this issue, and such work would include thinking about the transition at an earlier stage. One of the issues identified as being a contributing factor to this problem may be that the threshold in terms of children and young people accessing the CAMHS was much lower in comparison to accessing the Adult Mental Health Service.
- Cases regarding young carers were referred to the Hidden Harm Group to be put in the Hidden Hard Strategy Action Plan.
- It was difficult to comment on the implications of any proposed new arrangements for the Board at this point. The Committee would be kept informed as the new arrangements developed.

5.6 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, and the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16, together with the responses to the questions raised;
- (b) highlights the importance of a Sheffield focus to any new arrangements;
- (c) expresses its thanks to Jane Haywood and Victoria Horsefield for attending the meeting and responding to the questions raised; and
- (d) requests that Members be (i) informed of the changes to local Safeguarding Children Boards and (ii) sent information on (A) the "It's Not OK" campaign and (B) the launch of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

6. SHEFFIELD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SERVICE - ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

- 6.1 The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive Officer of Sheffield Futures, attaching the Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service Annual Report 2015/16.
- 6.2 In attendance for this item were Janine Dalley (Senior Programme Manager for Targeted Service, Sheffield Futures) and Jane Fidler (Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service Manager, Sheffield Futures).
- 6.3 Janine Dalley referred to the introductory report, which contained information on the service user profile for 2015/16, key achievements in 2015/16, developments in 2016/17 and priorities for the Service for 2017/18.
- 6.4 Members of the Committee raised questions and the following responses were provided:-
- There was no threshold as such in terms of accessing the Service. Any level of need and risk would be assessed and receive an intervention. The Service had worked in schools, with staff and parents, to help them recognise the signs of grooming, and to help parents protect their own children. The Service placed an emphasis on prevention and intervention work.
 - Whilst lessons had been learnt, and policies and procedures changed or amended, where required, following recent high profile child sexual exploitation cases, there were concerns regarding changes in the manner children and young people were being targeted, as well as changes to the cohort, mainly relating to online exploitation. The Service team would be trained in Asset Plus, the assessment tool used by Community Youth Teams and the Youth Justice Service, which ensured that young people's needs and vulnerabilities were assessed holistically, thereby identifying strengths and risks.
 - The City Council had commissioned a review from the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) in 2014, reflecting the findings of the Jay Report, which had included scrutiny of Sheffield's systems with regard to sexual exploitation, with such a review identifying key strengths with regard to governance arrangements and service configuration. In addition to this, the CSE Operational Board and the CSE Strategic Board continued to monitor progress with regard to the City's sexual exploitation procedures, through a CSE Delivery Plan.
 - The national evidence base suggested that there was under-reporting of CSE by a specific ethnic group. There was no local evidence base to support this.
 - There was a dedicated officer in the Local Authority who worked closely with schools across the City to deliver training on e-safety. By working with Community Youth Teams, more targeted e-safety training was able to be

delivered, covering all aspects of the dangers of on-line exploitation for vulnerable groups. Discussions centred around school exclusions, but there were no statistics on hand to further explore any correlations. There was a reliance on schools to inform Community Youth Teams of cases where pupils had been excluded, as they worked with young people with two or more fixed-term exclusions to prevent them becoming permanently excluded. There was centre-based youth provision and open access youth provision, which was available for all children and young people. In addition to this, and with regard to those more vulnerable children and young people, there was targeted detached youth provision in particular hotspot areas. Due to the numbers involved, and reducing budgets, it was very difficult for the Community Youth Teams and partner agencies to meet demand all the time, but there were a number of examples of effective intervention work, which had resulted in a reduction in levels of anti-social behaviour.

- In line with best practice, training had been targeted at taxi drivers, with the aim of empowering them to report concerns of a safeguarding nature.
- The role of the Specialist Nurse attached to the Service was to ensure that all young people identified as being vulnerable were given a health assessment, and could be referred quickly to other services, such as sexual health or the Child Assessment Unit. The Nurses were responsible for identifying those young people whose health needs had not been identified. There was a link between vulnerable young people and unmet health needs, for example, more risk of criminal, financial and sexual exploitation.
- Of the 136 referrals to the Service in 2015/16, 63.2% of the 19 children in care, who were in foster care, were already in foster care at the point of referral.
- The Service was very satisfied with the support it received from South Yorkshire Police. There was a dedicated team of police officers, comprising a Detective Sergeant and seven Detectives working solely in connection with child sexual exploitation, Sheffield Futures had assisted in investigations and provided a direct link with the police. The police had representatives on both the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic and Operational Boards.

6.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service Annual Report 2015/16, and the responses to the questions raised; and
- (b) expresses its thanks and appreciation in terms of the excellent work undertaken by all staff in the Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service, and all partner agencies involved in tackling sexual exploitation in Sheffield.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

7.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th February 2017, were approved as a correct record.

8. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17 DRAFT CONTENT AND WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

8.1 The Policy and Improvement Officer (Diane Owens) submitted a report providing a summary of the Committee's activities during the Municipal Year 2016/17, together with a list of topics which it is recommended be put forward for consideration as part of its 2017/18 Work Programme.

8.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted; and
- (b) in the light of the information now reported, and further to the Work Programme for 2017/18, requests that (i) SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) and approaches to co-production be added to the list of topics to be considered in 2017/18, and (ii) arrangements be made for Sam Martin, Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning and Skills, to run a separate Task Group session for interested Members to look at the draft proposals for Youth Services.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on a date to be arranged in the next Municipal Year.

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

**Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee**

Meeting held 17 May 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Andy Bainbridge, Terry Fox, Craig Gamble Pugh, Kieran Harpham, Mohammed Maroof, Abtislam Mohamed, Josie Paszek, Bob Pullin, Mick Rooney, Alison Teal and Cliff Woodcraft

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Booker, Karen McGowan and Vickie Priestley.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

2.1 RESOLVED: That Councillor Mick Rooney be appointed Chair of the Committee and Councillor Cliff Woodcraft be appointed Deputy Chair for the Municipal year 2017/18.

3. DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS

3.1 RESOLVED: That meetings of the Committee be held on a bi-monthly basis, on dates and times to be determined by the Chair, and as and when required for called-in items.

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Report to Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Report of: Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, People Portfolio

Subject: Consultation on the future commissioning and delivery of young people's services – *Investing In Young People*

Author of Report: Sam Martin, Assistant Director, Integrated Commissioning Unit, People Portfolio

Summary:

The Council needs to recommission services for Young people in 2018, because current contracts are ending. A set of draft strategic proposals have been drafted, and are currently open to consultation and views from a wide range of stakeholders are invited.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	x
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Consider the proposals and make comments and recommendations as necessary, in order to help shape any final proposals that will go forward for a cabinet decision in the Autumn of 2017.

Background Papers:

None

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Director of the People Portfolio
Consultation on the future commissioning and delivery of
young people's services: *Investing in Young People*

Introduction/Context

1. The Council needs to recommission services for Young people in 2018, because current contracts are ending. A set of draft strategic proposals have been drafted, and are currently open to consultation and views from a wide range of stakeholders are invited.
2. The consultation proposals are available to the public on the Council's *Citizenspace* website at:

https://sheffield.citizenspace.com/performance-research/young-peoples-services/consult_view
3. This report sets out the same consultation proposals and provides opportunity for the Committee to respond to the proposals whilst the consultation is open.
4. The views and responses provided by the committee will be considered along with other responses from a range of other stakeholders and focus groups, including young people themselves, to shape final proposals which will be considered by the Council Cabinet in the Autumn of 2017.

Section 1: Background – why are we consulting on this?

5. This consultation document sets out Sheffield City Council's (SCC) proposals for the future commissioning of services to young people and the reasons for the proposed changes. We want to hear the views of as many people as possible, including young people, parents and carers, and those involved in the delivery of young people's services.
6. SCC's ambition is that *all young people in Sheffield achieve their full potential, and should be active, informed, healthy, engaged and ready for life and work in the twenty-first century*. Young people are supported in this aim by a wide range of people and services: their families and friends; schools; health services; voluntary groups; and others. The council has a role to play in providing services to young people that help them make a successful transition to independence, especially for those young people who need a bit more help, or who are at risk of poor outcomes, such as getting involved in crime or disengaging from learning and work.
7. SCC has, since 2002, commissioned the delivery of services to young people through a contract with a Sheffield-based charity called *Sheffield Futures*. This contract ends in shortly, and as it cannot be automatically renewed the council is taking this opportunity to refresh its strategy for the commissioning of services to young people beyond that point.
8. In considering future options, the council needs to take into account:
 - the impact that the repetitive cuts to its budget since 2010 have had on its provision of services to young people. Since 2010 the council has had an overall budget cut of over £350m and the budget for young people's services has reduced from just over £12m in 2010 to just under £4m in 2016
 - the further funding reductions that are likely to take place – another cut of £123k in the youth budget is planned for 2017/18 as part of over £40m further cuts to council budgets.
 - changes in government policy that have moved the emphasis from councils providing universal provision for young people to targeted support for the most vulnerable
 - the changing needs of young people themselves.

Financial and Policy Background

9. In the last three years alone, the impact of the government's austerity programme has been to reduce the council's budget by more than £100m. Further reductions are anticipated, including the need to reduce SCC's budget by a further £40m in 2017-18. The national austerity programme has seen a significant scaling back of youth services across the country with some closing down altogether. However, SCC has continued to prioritise its services to young people and, whilst these have inevitably reduced since 2010, the council has sought to find innovative ways of protecting its youth provision, particularly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

10. At the same time, the council's responsibilities for young people services have changed. For example the government transferred responsibility for the provision of careers guidance from local authorities to individual schools & colleges in 2012; policy making for youth services transferred first from the Department for Education to Cabinet Office and, more recently, to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; the organisation of Youth Justice Services is under review; and DfE has narrowed its focus to one of requiring local authorities to improve the education, employment and training (EET) outcomes for 16-18 year olds in line with their obligations under the Raising of the Age of Participation legislation. As a consequence, the council needs to review how it commissions young people services from 2017.
11. The Council still has a number of *statutory duties* to provide services to young people, notably:
 - to support young people to make a successful transition from school in to further education, training or employment at 16
 - to make its best efforts to ensure that all teenagers remain in education, training or employment between the ages of 16 and 18
 - to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour among young people
 - to enable access to positive activities for all young people.

What have we done to meet these challenges up to now?

12. Targeted Support to Young People: in response to these financial and policy challenges, the council has, over the last six years, managed down the budget for services to young people by two thirds to a current spend this year of just under £4m. In so doing, SCC has stopped directly commissioning both universal school-based careers advice and universal positive activities and has, instead, increasingly targeted its resources towards vulnerable young people.
13. Community Youth Teams: SCC has, by working with partners and through its contract with Sheffield Futures, created multi-agency *Community Youth Teams*, which successfully bring together youth workers, youth crime prevention staff and careers advisors, alongside police officers and health workers, to deliver, more efficiently, a range of services to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.
14. Youth Work: although provision has inevitably reduced, SCC has continued to invest in a core youth work offer based on a mix of centre-based activities and street-based work, in specific areas and with the most vulnerable young people.
15. Youth Voice: SCC has continued to champion the voice of young people in influencing the issues and services that affect them through its support for the Sheffield Youth Cabinet and the Young Advisors.
16. Volunteering: SCC has developed volunteering opportunities and support to community groups through the *Sheffielddr* project and enabled the wider use of buildings by community organisations.

17. External funding: As their budget has been cut SCC has encouraged Sheffield Futures to access external funding, and this activity has secured more than £6m for young people's services that would be otherwise unavailable to the city from a range of programmes and funding sources, including the Big Lottery and Children in Need.

What do we mean by 'Services to Young People'?

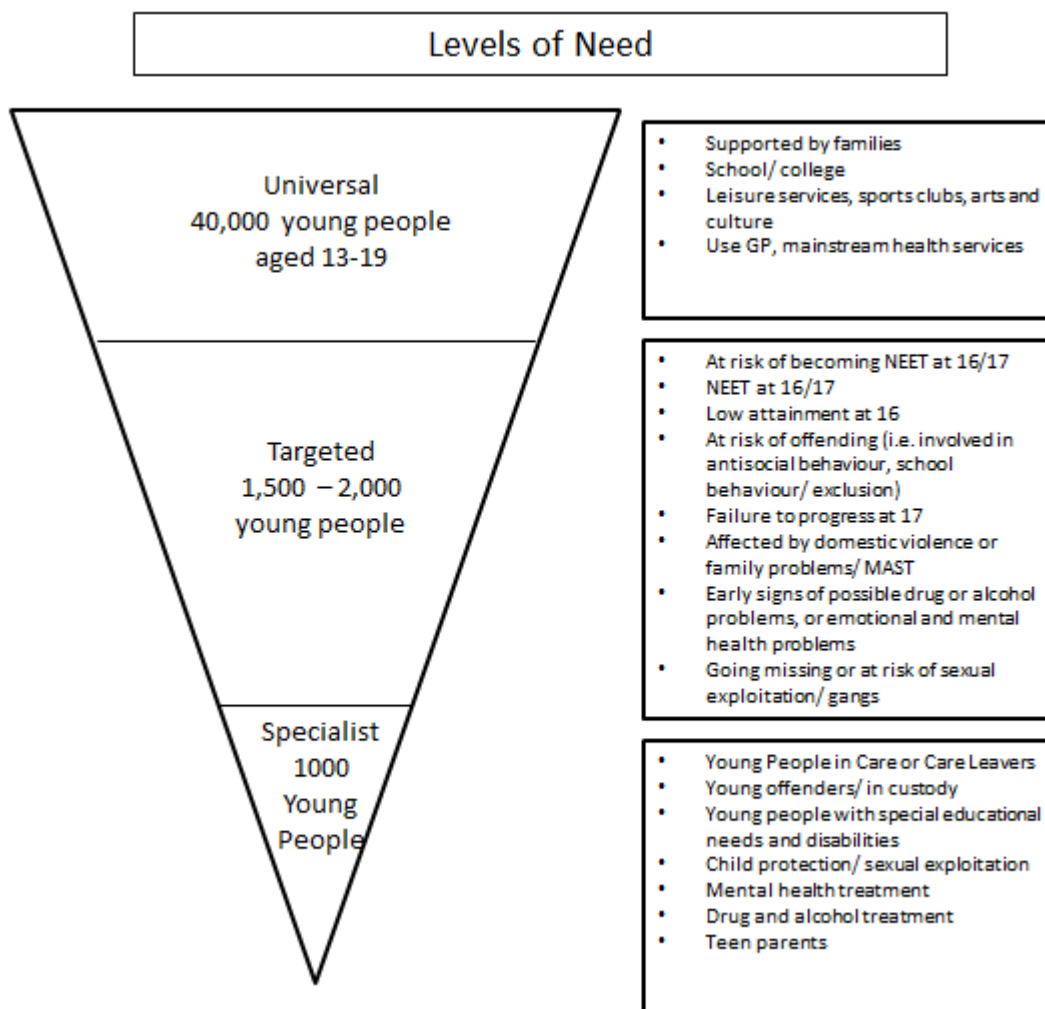
18. For the purposes of this consultation, *Services to Young People* are:
- activities delivered out of school hours for young people aged 13-19 (or up to the age of 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities) that develop their skills, confidence, health, independence and wellbeing. This includes, but is not limited to, youth clubs and street-based work with young people
 - advice and guidance for young people about post -16 education choices, jobs and careers, particularly for the most vulnerable and those most likely to disengage
 - guidance and support to young people at risk of falling out of education, or at risk of getting involved in crime, substance misuse and other risky behaviours, including sexual exploitation.
 - activities that support young people in having a say in the decisions and the services that affect them.

The following services are *not* included in this consultation:

- formal education at school or college, or work-based training
 - behaviour and learner support in schools and colleges
 - social work, child protection or family support services
 - specialist health, medical or treatment services, including mental health services
 - supervision of young offenders
 - children's residential homes and foster care
 - sports centres and leisure services, including outdoor education
 - young people's housing services, or homeless support
 - services for younger children, nurseries or early years provision.
-

Section 2: Services for Young People in Sheffield

19. There are over 40,000 young people aged between 13 and 19 years old in Sheffield. The vast majority are supported by their families, attend school or college and join in a wide range of leisure and educational activities provided by their schools, sports clubs, faith groups, private companies and voluntary groups. However, we know that a smaller number of young people each year need a bit more help to stay on the right track.



20. SCC currently commissions:

Lifelong Learning, Skills and Communities (the council service that holds the youth remit) to make available:

- Strategic leadership – shaping the city's youth strategy and services
- Youth Crime Prevention staff - employed by SCC, but managed within the Community Youth Teams where they work with around 700 young people annually who are at risk of crime and antisocial behaviour

- Contract management, data, tracking and post-16 on-line applications - the local authority still has a statutory responsibility to track and report to DfE on the education, employment and training of all 16 and 17 year olds and organises the post-16 on-line applications process on behalf of all of the city's schools and colleges.
21. Sheffield Futures, via contract, to organise:
- Community Youth Teams - targeted youth work (clubs and street-based) – 49 sessions per week in priority areas with around 2,500 young people engaged every year
 - Targeted careers guidance and NEETs (Not in Education. Employment or Training) prevention – around 2,000 young people engaged per annum
 - The voice of young people – supporting the Sheffield Youth Cabinet, UK Youth Parliament, social action projects and volunteering
 - Sexual Exploitation Service – a multi-agency service, jointly commissioned with NHS and the Police, that helps young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation. Only a small proportion of the overall budget derives from SCC's youth budget
 - One Stop Shop for Young People at Star House – provides access to everything from careers guidance to sexual health services and counselling as organised by Sheffield Futures and commissioned by a range of organisations, not just SCC.
-

Section 3: Our Vision for the Future:

22. *Our vision is that all young people in Sheffield should achieve their full potential, and should be active, informed, healthy, engaged and ready for life and work in the twenty-first century.*
23. This means giving extra help to young people, where they need it, by helping them:
- to be well prepared for adult life including being financially literate, able to form good relationships, and have self-esteem, confidence and resilience.
 - to be well prepared for work, by supporting them into the post-16 education, employment and training that best meets their skills needs and career aspirations and to get help, advice and careers guidance when they need it.
 - to play an active role in their school, college and community, and to celebrate their heritage and achievements
 - to pursue their ambitions, talents and interests through positive activities and personal development
 - to have their say in the decisions and services that affect them
 - to be healthy, feel safe and avoid risk
 - be supported in their journey to independence
24. When considering the future commissioning options for services to young people that are available to SCC, we have been guided by the following considerations:
- Resources. The pressure on council budgets is likely to persist and demand for more intensive care and support is likely to increase. This will make it harder for the council to find resources for non-statutory services. SCC therefore needs to target diminishing council resources at improving outcomes for the most disadvantaged or vulnerable young people. This means further developing wrap-around guidance and support for vulnerable teenagers who often have multiple and complex needs, to help them progress, remain in education, employment or training and steer them away from crime, gangs, anti-social and other risky and harmful behaviour.

- Integrated partnership working with statutory services and other agencies. Public services, including the council, NHS and the police, need to work with each other and with local communities to make finite resources go further and to achieve our common objectives of improving outcomes and life chances for all of the city's young people. Young people who are confident, resilient, socially active and who have aspirations, are less likely to be involved in crime and more likely to make healthy choices and to make positive progress in education and employment.
- Partnership working with the voluntary and community sector - the young people's services that are commissioned by SCC form only a small proportion of the range of opportunities that are available to young people across the city. Young people in Sheffield have access to, and take advantage of, lots of services and activities run by voluntary groups, charities, private businesses and faith groups which are not funded or delivered by the council. We need to build new partnerships and funding approaches which extend the range and reach of positive enrichment activities to allow young people to develop their talents and ambitions. We want to encourage and support innovation and to maximise the funding opportunities that are available to the city through charitable funds, grants and social investment, which when secured, properly packaged and aligned with council funding can do so much to deliver our shared ambitions for young people.
- Giving young people their voice - young people need to have a say in shaping the services and decisions that affect them and they need to be encouraged and supported to take an active role in the life of their communities and the city as informed citizens.
- A commissioning strategy that reflects the current financial and policy landscape – in the face of cuts that have seen the youth budget reduced by £8m since 2010 and in recognition of the fact that the council, by itself cannot, deliver the range and depth of services that young people in our city need and deserve, our approach to the commissioning of services to young people has three strands:
 1. In house provision - where provision is best delivered by the council, these services will be retained by the local authority, or brought 'in-house'
 2. Investing in partnership - where our objectives are best met by integrated working with other stakeholders, then we will seek partnerships with external agencies and organisations with a shared interest and resources allocated to improving outcomes for young people with a view to creating an investment partnership that allows scarce resources to be stretched further and additional external funding to be won for the city

3. Tendered contracts - where services to young people are best delivered by others, the council will use its open, fair and transparent commercial framework to procure services for our young people by open tender from those providers that can demonstrate that they represent best value, are best placed and have the capacity and capability to deliver SCC's objectives. In some cases this will involve the transfer, under TUPE regulations, of staff who currently deliver council-run provision.

Section 4: Commissioning Proposals

25. SCC needs to re-commission its provision for young people in 2017. Over the last 18 months, SCC has considered different approaches to delivering services to young people and the council has spoken to a wide range of stakeholders about the options available to it. To ensure that essential services for young people are in place by the end of the year, the council is proposing the following discrete commissions:



Investing in Young People Partnership

26. At the centre of the new model is the creation of an investment partnership between the council and a range of stakeholders including statutory agencies such as South Yorkshire Police and the NHS, as well as those voluntary, community and faith organisations that can commit significant resources to improving outcomes for young people and that are able to accept the performance-related risks associated with a social investment model. The partners would, through a three-year investment strategy for the city, commit to aligning the resources that they have allocated to relevant services for young people with a view to increasing impact, improving efficiency and securing best value through the joint commissioning of provision.
27. The investment partnership will be shaped by, and work to achieve, the objectives and stretching targets set out in a strategic plan for Sheffield's young people - particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged that face the greatest challenges and the greatest risk of poor life chances. The partnership will use its collective, strategic influence to draw in additional external funding to the city in the pursuit of these goals, including the potential use of a social impact bond model and it will champion a Sheffield Pledge to Young People where the local authority, employers, schools, providers and youth organisations commit to helping improve the outcomes of the city's young people through a range of initiatives.

Community Youth Team

28. It is proposed that SCC commissions, along with other agencies in the investment partnership, a new Targeted Community Youth programme to connect with those teenagers and young adults most at risk of behaviour that harms themselves or the communities in which they live, who are more likely to disengage from education, employment and training and, who need extra support to progress to independence and work. The service will be charged with building the necessary trust and relationships that these young people need and encouraging and supporting them in their chosen progression routes.
29. This service will bring together, in a single commission, the highly successful engagement and intervention work of the existing Community Youth Teams. Delivery will be community-based and offer a range of approaches to support the progression of an estimated 1,500-2000 young people every year through a combination of group work, street-based interventions, engagement activities and one-to-one mentoring. SCC will invest in a five-year contract with the proviso that the partnership and its delivery agent will, together, secure external funds and social investment to match the council's investment in targeted support.

30. The new service will be subject to open tender using an outcomes-based approach that is informed by local intelligence, performance data and strategic priorities. The commission is likely to have TUPE implications relating to some staff that are currently part of the Community Youth Teams. TUPE regulations require that staff transferring from one employer to another have their existing terms and conditions protected in law. Any changes affecting existing staff in, or associated with, the Community Youth Teams would be subject to further detailed consultation with the affected employees and their representative trade unions.

One Stop Shop for Young People

31. Star House has been grown successfully as a city-centre location for advice, help and support to the city's young people, particularly those who need these services most. A wide range of services for young people organised by the voluntary and community sector, the city council, health and South Yorkshire Police are delivered from what has become a one stop shop for young people's support that includes careers advice and information, counselling, sexual health services, youth justice, support for care experienced young people, youth volunteering and youth voice. The council does not directly commission, or provide all the services in the one stop shop, but plays a key role in commissioning the infrastructure that enables it to operate, such as triage services. The building is wholly owned by Sheffield Futures.
32. SCC wishes to maintain this valuable multi-agency approach and the co-location of the services associated with this. Going forward, SCC has an aspiration to extend the range of support to young people offered through this one stop shop facility to such things as signposting and support services for unemployed and homeless young people. SCC has sought to examine the available estate and has concluded that Star House offers the only realistic option, within the current financial limitations, for a city-centre venue offering this wide and expanding range of provision. Therefore, SCC proposes to maintain and further develop the existing one stop shop arrangements at Star House by negotiating a memorandum of understanding, a rental agreement and a service charge with the owner.

Encouraging the Voice of Young People

33. SCC is committed to supporting genuine engagement with young people and to ensuring that they play an important role in shaping the decision and services that affect them. SCC's current youth services contract includes the provision of a range of support to young people to elicit their voice and influence. This includes support for the Sheffield Youth Council and the UK Youth Parliament. SCC proposes to re-commission this provision by open tender. This commission is likely to have TUPE implications for the successful contractor.

Successful Young People Team.

34. SCC proposes the creation of a new team focused on securing the progression to further education, training and employment and independent living of those cohorts of vulnerable young people who are NEET or need extra support, including those for whom the council is the corporate parent, teenagers and young adults with special educational needs and disabilities, young offenders and teenage parents. The support needed to help these young people progress and achieve is currently uncoordinated and dispersed. The proposal is to forge this support into a single team capable of reaching in to dedicated council services, such as the SEND team, Youth Justice Service or Care Leavers, with a view to helping young people to choose and sustain the progression pathway most suitable to their abilities, interests and aspirations. SCC proposes to establish this service within the Children, Young People and Families portfolio. The Targeted Careers Guidance Staff that are currently commissioned by the council to carry out functions to be adopted by this new team will be brought 'in-house'. This is likely to have TUPE implications.

Young People's Enrichment Fund

35. Cuts in funding to the council since 2010 have meant that the local authority has been forced to focus ever diminishing resources for young people's services on statutory and targeted provision needed to protect the most vulnerable with the result that positive activities for young people have been hit hardest by budget reductions. There remains, however, a diverse network of voluntary groups that, with some support and investment, could expand their offer and come up with innovative activities that can enrich the lives, raise the aspirations and broaden the horizons of young people. We propose, therefore, to build a sustainable Young People's Enrichment Fund to support voluntary groups to introduce or expand the range of activities available to young people wherever there are significant gaps in provision across the city.
36. To establish the Fund the Council would seek to enter into a partnership with a voluntary and community organisation with a strong track record in securing and managing a portfolio of grant funds from a range of sources. Through this partnership, the council would invest in positive activities as match for funding secured by the partner organisation and other arts and sports organisations, for the purposes of enriching the life experiences of young people, particularly those that would not, as a matter of course, have access to these. In this way, the partners will create an Enrichment Fund that will award community grants for projects that support the delivery of a range of positive activities for young people, with themes such as Arts and Culture, Sport and Leisure, Environment and Social Action.

37. The fund will aim specifically to create or extend provision where gaps are identified across the city by stimulating innovation supporting grass roots activity, strengthening community resilience and building capacity among voluntary groups and young people themselves. The Fund will support the wider work of the Investing in Young People Partnership in opening access to the wide range of leisure, arts and cultural opportunities that Sheffield has to offer, through working with our theatres, galleries, museums and sports clubs.

Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service

38. Protecting young people from sexual exploitation is a priority for the council and we have had for many years a successful and effective multi-agency sexual exploitation service based at Star House and managed by Sheffield Futures that incorporates police officers, nurses and social workers.
39. We want this successful service to continue. We recognise that the service is supported by investment from the NHS, the police and Sheffield Futures, as well as the council and we therefore propose to make no significant changes to the service at this point. The council will, however, undertake a future and separate consultation, following liaison with our funding partners, about the commissioning arrangements most likely to deliver continuous improvement in this service.

What will we do next following the consultation?

40. SCC will consider all submissions with a view to finalising its proposals for the re-organisation of our services to young people. The final proposals will be submitted to Cabinet for approval.
41. Subject to Cabinet approval, work would then begin to establish the Investing in Young People's Partnership and the Young People's Enrichment Fund. At the same time, formal consultations with staff and trade unions will commence in the negotiation of teams to be reorganised and relocated. Those commissions subject to open tender will be subject to the council's standard procurement processes and timescales. It is anticipated that new service provision will be in contract and operational by the end of the year.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Scrutiny Committee consider the proposals and make comments and recommendations as necessary, in order to help shape any final proposals that will go forward for a cabinet decision in the Autumn of 2017.

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Report to Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Monday 17th July 2017

Report of: Policy & Improvement Officer

Subject: Work Programme 2017/18

Author of Report: Diane Owens, Policy and Improvement Officer
diane.owens@sheffield.gov.uk
0114 273 5065

A draft Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for the Committee's consideration and discussion

The proposed work programme aims to focus on a small number of issues, in depth. This means the Committee will need to prioritise issues to be included on formal meeting agendas. In doing this, the Committee may wish to reflect on the prioritisation principles attached at Appendix 2, to ensure that scrutiny activity is focussed where it can add most value.

Where an issue is not appropriate for inclusion on a meeting agenda, but there is significant interest from Members, the Committee can choose to request a written briefing paper.

The Work Programme will remain a live document and will be brought to each Committee meeting.

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Consider and discuss the committees Work Programme for 2017/18
- Provide comment / feedback on the draft Work Programme
- Identify priority topics for inclusion in the Work Programme

**Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee
Draft Work Programme 2017-18**

Chair: Cllr Mick Rooney

Vice Chair: Cllr Cliff Woodcraft

[Meeting Papers on SCC Website](#)

Meeting day/ time: Monday 10am – 1pm

Please note: the Work Programme is a live document and so is subject to change.

Topic	Reasons for selecting topic	Lead Officer/s	Agenda Item / Briefing paper
Monday 17th July 2017			
Consultation on the future commissioning and delivery of young people's services – Investing In Young People, a report of the Executive Director of People Portfolio	To receive a report on the proposals for youth services, during the consultation period and provide feedback / comment.	Sam Martin, Assistant Director - Lifelong Learning and Skills	Agenda Item
Looked After Children and Care Leavers: Annual Report, a report of the Executive Director of People Portfolio	To enable the committee to consider priorities and performance over the past 12 months as well as future plans for services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.	Joel Hanna, Assistant Director, Provider Services Other attendees tbc.	Agenda Item
Draft Work Programme 2016-17, a report of the Policy & Improvement Officer	To consider and discuss the committees Work Programme for 2017/18.	Diane Owens, Policy & Improvement Officer	Agenda Item
Briefing Paper Adoption Annual Report	To provide the committee with an update on priorities and performance over the past 12 months, as well as future plans for Adoption Services in the city.	Joel Hanna, Assistant Director, Provider Services	Briefing Paper
Briefing Paper Fostering Annual Report	To provide the committee with an update on priorities and performance over the past 12 months, as well as future plans for Fostering Services in the city.	Joel Hanna, Assistant Director, Provider Services	Briefing Paper

Monday 11th September 2017

<p>Learn Sheffield and the School Improvement Strategy, a report of the Chief Executive of Learn Sheffield</p>	<p>Learn Sheffield are commissioned by Sheffield City Council to deliver the statutory duties relating to school improvement.</p> <p>This report will provide an update on the work of Learn Sheffield and the current School Improvement Strategy 2016-18, including a specific section on work to identify and support young carers.</p>	<p>Stephen Betts, Chief Executive - Learn Sheffield</p> <p>Other attendees tbc</p>	<p>Agenda Item</p>
<p>Other Agenda Items - tbc</p>			<p>Agenda Item</p>

Monday 13th November 2017

Attainment 2016-17 – citywide attainment outcomes in schools & academies - headline results

The Committee may wish to receive a report outlining headline attainment results. The Committee could then receive a more detailed report in January 2018 when validated data is available, this could include further analysis in terms of national data / comparators.

Jayne Ludlum, Executive Director of People Portfolio

Stephen Betts, Learn Sheffield, Chief Executive

Pam Smith, Head of Primary & Targeted Intervention

Kate Wilkinson, Service Manager - Performance & Analysis Service

Agenda Item

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Other agenda items - tbc

Agenda Item

Monday 11th December 2017			
Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report	<p>This report will provide an update on the work of the Safeguarding Board, including current priorities and any challenges.</p> <p><i>The Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2016/17 and Business Plan 2017/18 could be sent as background documents for the session.</i></p>	<p>Jane Haywood, Chair of the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board</p> <p>Carly Speechley, Director, Children and Families</p> <p>Victoria Horsefield, Assistant Director, Children and Families</p> <p>Other attendees tbd.</p>	Agenda Item
Page 35 Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service Annual Report	<p>This report will give an update on the work of the Sexual Exploitation Service and partner agencies working to address child sexual exploitation, including current priorities and any challenges.</p> <p><i>The Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service Annual Report 2017-18 could be sent as a background document for the session.</i></p>	<p>Jane Haywood, Chair of the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board</p> <p>Victoria Horsefield, Assistant Director, Children and Families</p> <p>Janine Dalley, Senior Programme Manager for Targeted Service. Sheffield Futures</p> <p>Other attendees tbd</p>	Agenda Item
Other Agenda Items - tbc			Agenda Item

Monday 15th January 2018

2016 Final Results: City Context and School Performance

To receive a further report on citywide attainment (following the report the committee receive in November 2017). This report will reflect validated data and can include further analysis in terms of national data / comparators.

Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director of People Portfolio

Pam Smith, Head of Primary & Targeted Intervention

Kate Wilkinson, Service Manager - Performance & Analysis Service

Stephen Betts, Learn Sheffield, Interim Chief Executive

Agenda Item

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Agenda Item - tbc

Monday 12th March 2018			
Sheffield's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation Programme, in response to Future in Mind	In December 2016 the committee received a report regarding the "Future in Mind Programme" and Sheffield's Transformation Plan. It outlined the impact on prevention and early intervention services, partnership working and upcoming challenges as well as a specific focus on work being undertaken through schools. The Committee requested a further update in around 12 months' time to update on progress with this work.	Bethan Plant, Health Improvement Principal - Public Health Team Matthew Peers, Commissioning Manager – EWBMH, CCG Other attendees tbc	Agenda Item
Other Agenda Items - tbc			Agenda Item
Other Possible Topics			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Development for 16-19's in Sheffield • SEND and Education Health Care Plans (EHCP's) • SEND Services and approaches to Co-production • Child Poverty • Lifelong learning and alternative provision • Home education and alternative provision 			

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Selecting Scrutiny topics

This tool is designed to assist the Scrutiny Committees focus on the topics most appropriate for their scrutiny.

- **P**ublic Interest
The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
- **A**bility to Change / Impact
Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically have an impact on, and that will influence decision makers;
- **P**erformance
Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other organisations (public or private) are not performing well;
- **E**xtent
Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the city (geographical or communities of interest);
- **R**eplication / other approaches
Work programmes must take account of what else is happening (or has happened) in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort. Alternatively, could another body, agency, or approach (e.g. briefing paper) more appropriately deal with the topic

Other influencing factors

- **Cross-party** - There is the potential to reach cross-party agreement on a report and recommendations.
- **Resources**. Members with the Policy & Improvement Officer can complete the work needed in a reasonable time to achieve the required outcome



Report to CYP & FS Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 27 June 2017

Report of: Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, People Services Portfolio

Subject: Adoption Service

Author of Report: Suzanne Whiteley, Adoption Service Manager,
Tel: 35155

Summary:

- Update on the Adoption Service in line with adoption services statutory regulations and guidance

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report and its contents

Background Papers:

List any background documents (e.g. research studies, reports) used to write the report. Remember that by listing documents people could request a copy.

- Adoption Service Dataset 2016/17
- An Action Plan for Adoption: tackling delay
- Further Action for Adoption: Finding More Loving Homes
- Adoption Scorecard Data
- Yorkshire & Humber Adoption Consortium Reform Plan
- Yorkshire & Humber Adoption Consortium Performance Reports
- Adoption Passport: a support guide for adopters

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Director of Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, People Services Portfolio

1. Introduction/Context

- 1.1 In line with statutory guidance and regulation, all Adoption Services have to report to the executive side of the local authority in regard to the outcomes of the adoption service. The Senior Leadership Team and other Boards within Children, Young Peoples and Families Service have received regular updates in relation to adoption performance.
- 1.2 This report will provide an overview of the main developments and priorities relating to the Adoption Service during the period April 2016 to March 2017 and sits in the context of changes within adoption services over recent years.

2. The National Adoption Agenda and Sheffield Adoption Service

2.1 National Agenda

- 2.1.1 Adoption has seen a number of central government initiatives and policy changes over the last five years aimed to improving timeliness of adoption assessments and performance in relation to Adoption Scorecard.
- 2.1.2 The Adoption Support Fund (ASF) became available nationwide in May 2015; the intention of the Adoption Support Fund is to provide greater access to services for adopted children who often have complex needs. The ASF is available for children up to and including the age of 18 (or 25 with an Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health & Care Plan) who have been placed with their adoptive family and were previously in Local Authority care in England (or from Local Authority care in Wales but living in England).
- 2.1.3 In June 2015 the Department for Education published a Regionalising Adoption paper which set out the proposals to move to regional adoption agencies with the intention of speeding up matching and 'markedly improving the life chances of neglected and damaged children; improve adopter recruitment and adoption support; and reduce costs'. The Department for Education supports local authorities in the regionalisation agenda. Further Action for Adoption: Finding More Loving Homes set out that fewer organisations recruiting and assessing adopters were needed with most of them operating at a much greater scale. Since that time there has been a growth in regional consortia and more collaborative working relationships between local authorities. The Regionalising Adoption paper strives for these steps to become more innovative and on a larger scale and sets down that by the end of this Parliament they want to see all local authorities being part of regional agencies. It also sets out that the pace of change is to be accelerated to ensure those children, for whom adoption is the right

path, are given the best chance of finding a loving, forever family as quickly as possible.

2.1.4 In July 2015 The Department for Education (DfE) implemented a £30 million scheme to reimburse the money Local Authorities spend on inter-agency fees for the following categories of 'hard-to-place' children:

- children who waited 18 months or longer to be placed with a family
- children who are aged five or older at the time they are placed with a family
- children who are in a sibling group of two or more children, and are placed with a family as siblings
- black or minority ethnic children
- disabled children

The scheme ran for placements Local Authorities make between 8 July 2015 and 31 July 2016. The grant was intended to encourage Local Authorities to consider all possible matches for across the whole country for children who are 'hard to place' with a family

2.1.5 In January 2016 Nicky Morgan, Education Secretary announced an additional £200 million investment in the adoption system over the next four years. This investment was implemented due to the number of adoptions and the number of children being placed falling. In addition this funding will support the development of regional adoption agencies, strengthen voluntary adoption agencies and increase the number of adoptions for harder to place children by continuing to pay the inter-agency fee and to increase funding for the Adoption Support Fund each year.

2.1.6 In October 2016 a 'fair access limit' was introduced to the Adoption Support Fund with the exception for a small number of children and families where there is the provision for an exception to the 'fair access limit'. There is additional funding for these children, but only where a local authority agrees to provide match funding. The Government additional contribution will have a maximum limit of £30k (including the £5k fair access limit).

2.1.7 In November 2016 the criteria for claiming Interagency Fees was amended, claims for the grant can only be made for placements that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- children who, at 1st November 2016, have waited 18 months or longer to be placed with a family (this means 18 months or longer from the point of entering care)
- children who are in a sibling group placed in a family, where at least one child has waited 18 months or longer for their placement at 1st November 2016

Placements where the child reaches the 18-month threshold after 1 November 2016 are no longer eligible for the grant.

- 2.1.8 In February 2017 it was announced that from April 2017, there will be two separate Fair Access Limits in relation to the Adoption Support Fund. A £5,000 limit per child for therapy and a separate limit of up to £2,500 per child for children who require a specialist assessment. The match funding approach will apply to both limits.

2.2 Sheffield Response

- 2.2.1 Sheffield has continued to take a number of actions to ensure that the agency has the ability to meet the challenges ahead in improving timeliness, respond to the regionalisation agenda and improve adoption support provision. This has been balanced with continuing to ensure quality for each child and maintain the number of children being placed for adoption. Regular tracking meetings take place on each of the fieldwork sites and these utilise the adoption milestones forms to enable tracking and monitoring of individual cases and in turn inform performance monitoring and projections in relation to the Adoption Scorecard.
- 2.2.2 51 children were adopted during 2016/2017; this equates to around 1 in 5 children leaving care through adoption. At the end of the year 36 children were in placement with their adoptive families but did not have the adoption order in place.
- 2.2.3 In regard to the assessment of adopters, 26 new adopters have been approved during 2016/17. This overall number includes both couples and single adopters.
- 2.2.4 The Adoption Service continues to work in partnership with Yorkshire and Humber Adoption Consortium. The Consortium consists of 15 local authorities across the region and a number of voluntary adoption agencies. The Consortium has used funds from the Adoption Reform Grant, at a regional and sub-regional level over a 3 year period using the regional adoption consortium contract and network as the framework; the regionalisation agenda will reframe this contract and there have been recent revisions to this contract with each local authority contributing to the regional consortium. The purpose of this is to improve the quality of service for children and adopters through faster delivery, sharing best practice, development of processes, for example early permanence placements and improved performance management and data reporting.
- 2.2.6 The structure of the regional adoption bid is for three sub-regional adoption agencies with a central coordinating regional framework which will be jointly owned by local authorities, voluntary adoption agencies and adoption support agencies. Within the South region which includes Sheffield, Doncaster, Barnsley and Rotherham, there is on-going consultation around the final constitution of a regional adoption agency however it is anticipated that Doncaster Children's Trust will be utilised as a vehicle for change due to their unique position as an existing Children's Trust and the adoption service being delivered as a voluntary adoption agency.

- 2.2.7 It is anticipated that the South Regional Adoption Agency will be launched in April 2018.
- 2.2.8 A sub-regional strategic and operational project board is in place and meet on a monthly basis. A project manager is based within Doncaster Children's Trust and is coordinating the work streams within the sub region. There is on-going work within Sheffield with identified leads in key areas such as finance, performance, legal and HR.
- 2.2.9 Sheffield Adoption Service has accessed the Adoption Support Fund to support the delivery of adoption support to families where therapeutic support is required. During the financial year 2016/17 Sheffield City Council claimed and received £345,974 which is expenditure that is committed or incurred in respect of therapeutic intervention.
- 2.2.10 The Adoption Support Fund has a list of approved providers nationwide. The Yorkshire and Humber Consortium also completed a tendering process and there is a local list of providers.
- 2.2.11 The application process involves a FACT (Families, Adopters and Carers Team) assessment which focusses on the adoption support needs of the therapeutic needs of the children. Where therapeutic needs are identified either by the worker or the adopters (but agreed by the worker) an appropriate provider is approached and an application submitted to the Adoption Support Fund, work does not commence until approval is granted from the Fund and applications are approved or declined in a timely manner. Application can also be made for funding prior to an Adoption order being made to ensure that any package of support is in place from the point of placement.
- 2.2.12 Sheffield Adoption Service has applied for funding for a number of groups run for children and adopters as well as individual work with children adopters. The types of support that come under the remit of the Adoption Support Fund include training for adoptive parents (e.g. therapeutic parenting courses), further complex assessments, direct work for children including drama therapy, dyadic developmental psychotherapy and therapeutic life story work. The Adoption Support Fund is available until 2020.
- 2.2.13 The Family, Adopters and Carers Team (FACT) continue to provide extensive support to families. This support includes direct work with children and their families, Theraplay group work and individual sessions. The group work is a ten week Theraplay programme which is delivered twice a year. Theraplay is aimed at promoting the attachment between adopters and their children. The provision delivered by FACT also includes children who have been placed on alternative permanence court orders, for example, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's). There is on-going consultation with adopters to further enhance the service provision.
- 2.2.14 Robust tracking and monitoring systems continue to be developed and reviewed in regard to children that have an adoption plan or a permanence plan. This includes city wide tracking meetings at each

area site and agency prioritisation meetings that include the medical advisors to the local authority. There is on-going work with Fieldwork Service Managers to improve the timeliness of adoption with the aim of a positive impact on the Adoption Scorecard.

- 2.2.15 The use of Early Permanence Placements (EPP) continues and these placements can be used for children where the local authority's permanence plan is likely to be adoption but where other outcomes such as rehabilitation to birth family are still under consideration.
- 2.2.16 In such cases, the Local Authority will place the child with the adopters who are also temporarily approved as foster carers. The carers may be dually approved as foster carers and adopters from the outset or might be approved prospective adopters who have been temporarily approved as foster carers for a named child under Regulation 25A of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 ("2010 Regulations").
- 2.2.17 Early Permanency Placements are without doubt more risky for adopters. Some prospective adoptive parents positively choose this as a possible route to adoption. There are a number of advantages of EPP for children which are linked to the stability of the one placement for the child for the duration of care proceedings and then if adoption is agreed by the courts, for life.
- 2.2.18 In relation to inter agency fees in respect of adoption placements Sheffield City Council has submitted claims for £140,000 in relation to children who have been placed for adoption with other Local Authority and Voluntary Adoption Agencies. This is a reduction on previous years due to a change in the criteria. Sheffield City Council spending on interagency fees for the financial year is £489,300. fees.
- 2.2.19 The funding in relation to Interagency fees ceased on 31st March 2017. The costs for Interagency placement again sit with local authorities and will impact on spending in relation to adoption provision moving forward. Having access to the fund has meant that we are able to look at all potential adoptive families whether they have been assessed by the local authority or not in a relatively short timescale.

2.3 Statistics

2.3.1 Children made subject to a 'Should Be Placed for Adoption' (SHOBPA) decision and outcomes.

Year	Total no of children with SHOBPA	Children linked/placed with adopters	No of SHOBPA rescinds	No of children disrupted	No of children adopted
2008/09	48	41	9	0	55
2009/10	44	45	5	3	41
2010/11	55	37	7	2	45
2011/12	60	40	11	0	45
2012/13	102	40	15	0	50
2013/14	165	101	15	0	53
2014/15	136	57	18	0	43
2015/16	62	40	1	2	75
2016/17	76	51	5	3	51

In relation to SHOBPA, the figure for 12/13, 13/14, 14/15 includes the children that are already placed with adopters.

2.3.2 Children may have SHOBPA decision/link/adoption in different years the figures above are taken as at end of March each year and will fluctuate throughout the year as the plan for children may change from adoption for various reasons, for example, family rehabilitation or Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) with extended family or foster carers, long term foster placement.

2.3.3 The monthly panel prioritisation meetings to ensure timely decision making in relation to SHOBPA decisions and adoption panel submissions.

2.3.4 During 2016/17 there were two placements that disrupted (a siblings group of 2 and a single child who was placed with their sibling), in line with procedures where an agency adoptive placement breaks down prior to the granting of an Adoption Order, a Disruption Meeting must be held to identify the reasons for the breakdown and to inform lessons learned from the events surrounding the breakdown. One disruption meeting has been commissioned independently and the outcome of this will be used to inform practice and enable the agency to implement the lessons learned. A disruption meeting has not been commissioned as yet in relation to the other child as there are on-going assessments.

2.3.5 The service has two well established adoption panels which aim to meet monthly. Both panels have the same independent chair who has significant knowledge and experience of adoption issues. All panels have been quorate which reflects the excellent commitment of the panel members.

2.3.6 A dedicated Agency Advisor has been in place since February 2013. This provides consistency across both panels and provides independence to the post. The Agency Advisor plays a key role in the quality assurance of all documents that are to be presented to

panel and manages activity in regard to prioritisation of the panel agenda and SHOBPA decisions.

2.3.7 Adoption Panels held each month

Month	Number of Panels	Link	Approval
April 2015	2	5	1
May 2015	1	1	2
June 2015	2	1	2
July 2015	2	4	1
August 2015	2	3	1
September 2015	2	3	4
October 2015	3	9	2
November 2015	3	7	5
December 2015	2	5	1
January 2016	1	3	3
February 2016	2	5	2
March 2016	2	7	2

2.3.9 A total of 24 panels were held during 2016/17. Additional panels have been convened during two of the months due the number of links required during those months.

2.3.11 The Agency Decision Maker (ADM) for 2016/17 has been Christine Bennett, Assistant Director, Fieldwork. The ADM's role is to consider the adoption panel's recommendation to make the final decision. The ADM is a nominated person within the adoption agency who has the legal responsibility to make an approval decision. In most circumstances this ADM accepts the adoption panel's recommendation and is supported by advice from the Agency Advisor.

2.4 Adoption Scorecard

2.4.1 The two main indicators in the adoption scorecard are both published as a three year average. The Adoption Leadership Board has continued to collect information on a quarterly basis; however, adoption scorecard indicators have not been published for any adoptions since March 2014.

2.4.2 Indicator A1 – Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days).

2.4.3 51 children were adopted in 2016/17 with an in-year average of 438 days between entering care and being matched to an adoptive family (2015/16 A1 was 520 days); this gives a three year average of 499 days which remains over the three year target as set by the DfE of 426 days. We remain over the in-year target of 426 days however we have significantly reduced the overall average number of days and anticipate that this target will be met at the end of 2017/18. This has not been achieved due to a small number of children's

timescales exceeding the average number of days due to their individual needs. As this indicator is calculated by performance over a three year period we don't expect to achieve the DfE target until March 2019.

2.4.4 Indicator A2 – Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days).

2.4.5 All 51 children adopted are included in A2 with an average of 223 days between placement order and matching with prospective adopters; this should mean a three year average of 275 days. There has been a reduction in the in-year average from 289 days and for the three year calculation from 282 days.

2.4.6 The reports below outline the adoption scorecard outturns and projections for A1 and A2



Adoption Scorecard -
Outturns (170604 v1 F)

3. What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

3.1 Sheffield continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to permanence placements for children through adoption. Children thrive in stable and loving families. Sometimes birth parents are unable to care for their children themselves. Getting the best possible care for these children is one of the Local Authority's most important corporate parent responsibilities.

3.2 The Local Authority has responded to the Government's changes and initiatives for adoption and continues to do so. The Local Authority will continue to drive forward the adoption agenda to ensure that the child's journey is undertaken in a timely manner whilst ensuring the best outcome. We have continued to make improvements in the A1 indicator and with further work being undertaken to ensure that we have achieved the thresholds set during 2017/18. The priority for all children is to secure permanence. Adoption is therefore a key and vital choice in any decision making that secures a child's future within a stable family environment.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee are asked to note the contents of the report and provide challenge to the service in respect of service activity.

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Adoption Scorecard - Outturns and Projections

Sheffield Adoption Scorecard - Average Time Indicators

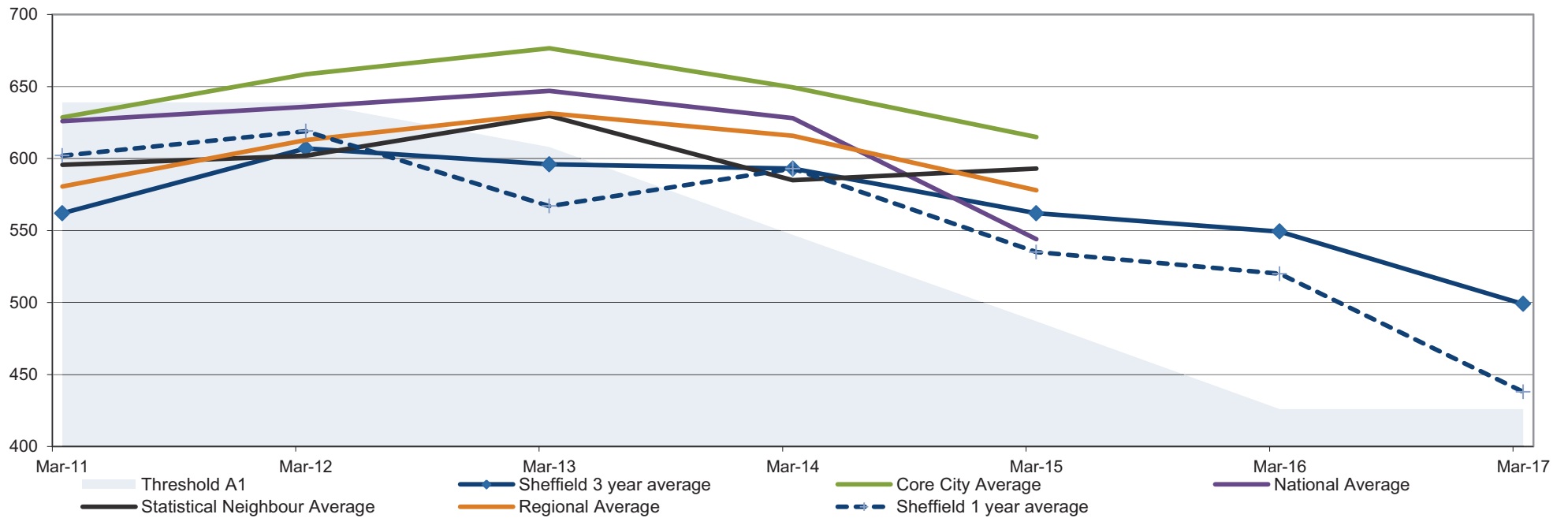
Outturns for Adoption Scorecard Indicator A1

A1 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)

	Mar-11	Mar-12	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17
	Outturns						
Sheffield 1 year average	602	619	567	593	535	520	438
Sheffield 3 year average	562	607	596	593	562	549	499
Threshold A1	639	639	608	547	487	426	426
Sheffield	562	607	596	593	562		
Core City Average	629	659	677	649	615		
National Average	626	636	647	628	544		
Statistical Neighbour Average	596	602	630	585	593		
Regional Average	581	613	631	616	578		

Averages

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Adoption Scorecard - Outturns and Projections

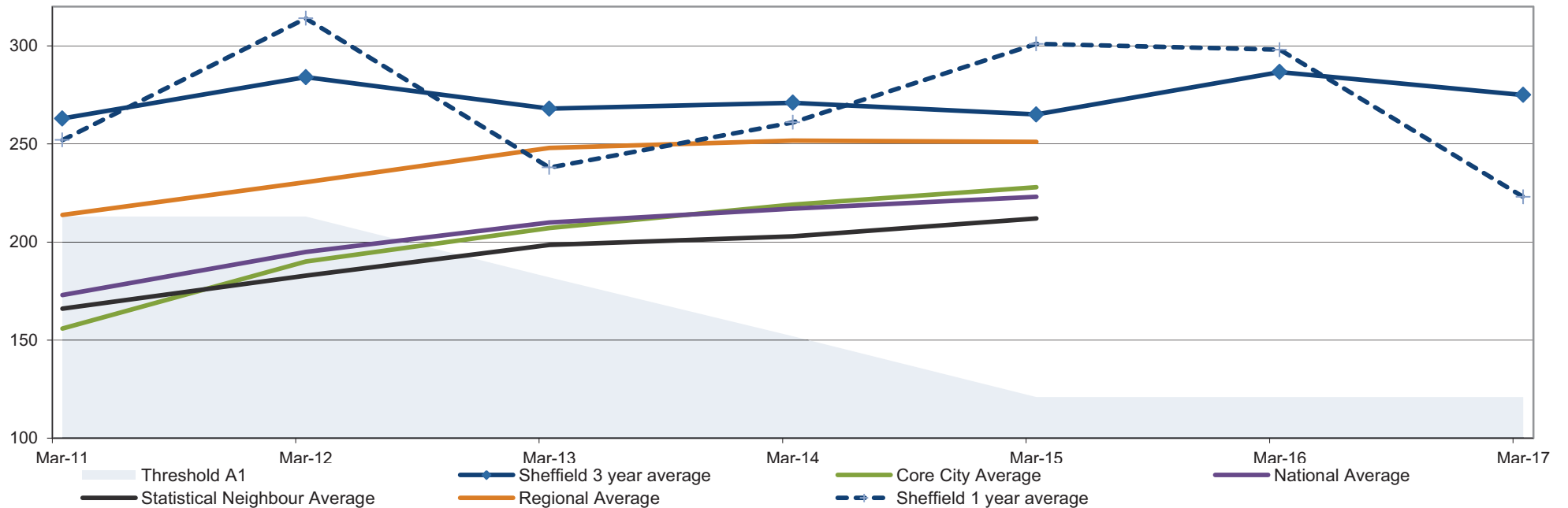
Sheffield Adoption Scorecard - Average Time Indicators

Outturns for Adoption Scorecard Indicator A2

A2 - Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)

	Mar-11	Mar-12	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17
	Outturns						
Sheffield 1 year average	252	314	238	261	301	298	223
Sheffield 3 year average	263	284	268	271	265	287	275
Threshold A1	213	213	182	152	121	121	121
Sheffield	263	284	268	271	265		
Core City Average	156	190	207	219	228		
National Average	173	195	210	217	223		
Statistical Neighbour Average	166	183	199	203	212		
Regional Average	214	231	248	252	251		

Averages
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Report to CYP & FS Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 17 July 2017

Report of: Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, People Services Portfolio

Subject: Fostering Service

Author of Report: Stephanie Kerr Fostering Service Manager,
Tel: 37785

Summary: Update on Fostering Service in line with fostering services statutory regulations and guidance

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report and its contents

Background Papers:

List any background documents (e.g. research studies, reports) used to write the report. Remember that by listing documents people could request a copy.

- Fostering Service Dataset 2015/2016
- Fostering Service Communications Strategy 'You can foster 2016-17'
- Fostering panel annual review 2016/2017
- Sheffield sufficiency assessment and placement strategy 2017-2020

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, People Services Portfolio

Sheffield City Council Fostering Service

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In line with statutory guidance and regulation, all Fostering Services have to report to the executive side of the local authority in regard to the outcomes of the service. The Senior Leadership Team and other Boards within Children, Young Peoples and Families Service have received regular updates in relation to fostering performance.
- 1.2. Under the Ofsted Inspection Framework for 'the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers', fostering services are now incorporated in to the single framework inspection process.

2. Sheffield Fostering Service

The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015 - 2017 highlights the importance of the right permanent placement for children, including foster care.

The Sheffield sufficiency assessment and placement strategy 2017-2020 identified that the current accommodation offer for our looked after children is not sufficient to meet the current needs both in numbers and also in types of care provisions.

The sufficiency assessment identifies an increase of the number of children in care since August 2015. At the same time the local authority has experienced a reduction in the number of foster carer approvals.

- 2.1. The Fostering Service is currently refreshing and re-investing in its communications plan and strategy to increase the recruitment of foster carers. The current Fostering Recruitment Campaign was launched in January 2011 and since then there have been a series of bespoke recruitment drives for the Fostering Service these are reviewed and updated annually. Fostering recruitment is identified as a key priority for Children and Families and the city council and as such, the Foster Service has 20 days of communication support allocated to it per financial year, as part of the key campaigns agreement for Children, Young People and Families services.

The campaign's target remains to support the Fostering Service to recruit 40 new foster placements and maintain the above national conversation rate. The focus of the communications plan is to generate good quality enquiries by targeting the right people through the right channels and in the right areas, fitting the profile for successful foster carers.

2.2. The overarching message to potential applicants is 'Fostering – do something special'. Key marketing recruitment campaigns have focused on the recruitment of foster carers for children aged 10 + and sibling groups. Other key messages have included:

Could you foster a child aged 10+?
Fostering – be proud of your very own champ
Fostering – making new memories

Marketing channels are selectively chosen to specifically target our chosen demographics. Channels have included:

- **Advertising:**
Bus and tram adverts, clear channel digital sites throughout the city, Facebook advertising, Intranet leader board advert
- **Digital engagement:**
Social media on existing Facebook and Twitter accounts (both via Fostering and Sheffield City Council accounts), short videos of real foster carers on our YouTube account, Foster Forum
- **Events and face to face:**
Local events and information displays (including the Town Hall, central library), and local events such as Crosspool Festival, Pride and Firth Park Fun Day. We have also had stalls at Aviva, supermarkets across the city and in the Moor market.
- **Media:**
Media coverage specifically during foster fortnight based on case studies of existing carers (16-29th May 2016).
- **Internal communications:**
In addition we have also used our own internal communications channels to target our 8,000 employees.
- **Other**
We have engaged large employers across the city such as the universities in order to target their employees. Spencers Estate Agents targeted their mailing list with information on Fostering.

2.3. Information evenings continue to be scheduled every 6 weeks.

2.4. The retention and recruitment of foster carers remains a key priority: The service is currently revising and refreshing a number of initiatives to enhance and incentivise foster carer recruitment. These include:

- Exploring the financial support offered to our carers
- Reviewing potential for priority re-housing initiatives
- Increasing our 'refer a friend' fees

- Reviewing the Skill Level progression scheme
- Offering further learning & development opportunities for foster carers
- Expanding the events for children in care, foster carers and birth children
- Reviewing our Support Groups/and support for peer groups
- Improving engagement with carers through Foster Forum
- Establishing 'Voices Of Foster Carers' as a service reference group
- Expanding our Foster Carers Open Forums
- Developing a Kids of Foster Carers 'R' Us Group
- Encouraging greater engagement of foster carers in strategic initiatives
- Encourage foster carers involvement in recruitment of Fostering Service staff
- Engage Foster carers in the training and development of staff and prospective foster carers
- Develop experienced foster carers supporting them to become mentors/buddies to newly approved foster carers.

2.3 The Fostering Service and its foster carers continue to provide a high level of care and promote the health, welfare and safety of children and young people. Foster carers receive support from qualified workers in line with statutory regulations and guidance. A robust training and development package enables foster carers to develop their understanding and skills to support children and young people and promote positive outcomes for them.

In the first year following approval and within 12 months of their first placement each foster carer completes a training and development portfolio this links to their personal learning and development plan which is reviewed annually.

Our Foster Carers core training programme has been refreshed placing the main areas of focus on:-

- Principles and values
- Roles and responsibilities
- Recording (record keeping?)
- Safe caring
- Equality and diversity
- Effective communication
- Safeguarding Children
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Moving and Handling of Children
- Paediatric 1st Aid
- Caring for BME Children
- Allegations

- E-learning

The service appointed to a training and development post in April 2016 to oversee the coordination of training delivered to foster carers. In addition to the extensive training programme for foster carers set out above, the service also provides training on issues such as; managing difficult behaviour, introduction to safeguarding, introduction to child development and attachment, understanding Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

In 2016/17 there were 2 courses provided to foster carers by the South Yorkshire Empower and Protect Child Sexual Exploitation Innovation Project ('CSE' and 'Working with Teens with Multiple & Severe Vulnerabilities'). Workshops provided on Solution Focussed Brief Intervention Therapy, Micro Counselling, Autistic Spectrum Disorders, the Importance of the Foster Carer's Role in Transitions, Closer in Play (levels 1&2), Enhanced Teen Triple P Parenting Course, and a new course on Supporting Children with Attachment Difficulties.

Support from the Multi-Agency Psychological Service (MAPS) is also made available they provide advice to foster carers in relation to individual children supporting carers in their role with specialist advice on issues such as transition to adoption.

2.4 The service has two established fostering panels which aim to meet monthly. Both panels have the same Chair and Vice-Chair, enabling the panel to remain consistent in its leadership and in the recommendations they make. The Vice-Chair assumes the chairing role four times per year in order to develop and maintain their chairing skills.

2.5 Since 2015 our Adoption Agency Advisor took on the responsibility as Agency Advisor to the Fostering Panel. This post is currently filled by two part time staff each of whom hold a primary role for the Fostering and Adoption Panel's respectively which allows for appropriate agency advice for all Fostering and Adoption Panel's.

2.6 Fostering Panels held each month

April 2016	0
May 2016	1
June 2016	1
July 2016	1
August 2016	0
September 2016	2
October 2016	1
November 2016	2
December 2016	1
January 2017	1
February 2017	1

There were a total of 14 panels held between April 2016-March 2017, with capacity to hold 2 panels per month dependent on service need. Where necessary additional panels can be arranged.

- 2.7 From April 2016 – March 2017 the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) has been Christine Bennett Assistant Director, Fieldwork Services. The ADM is a nominated person within the fostering agency who has the legal responsibility to make an approval decision. The ADM's role is to consider the fostering panel's recommendation to make the final decision. In most circumstances this ADM accepts the fostering panel's recommendation; the Panel Advisor offers advice and support to enable this process. The ADM for Fostering was changed in May 2017 and is now Joel Hanna Assistant Director, Provider services.
- 2.8 The Fostering Service has continued to experience a number of vacancies partly due to the retirement of experienced long standing staff members and the service is currently recruiting to a number of existing and newly established posts.
- 2.9 There were 18 new approvals of foster carers between April 2016-2017, which translated to 24 new placements being available for children.
- 2.10 The table below shows the number Foster Care families and the number of placements in these for the last two years. From this we can see that although the number of Foster Families has remained consistent the number of placements within these families has increased.

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. Foster Families</u>	<u>No. Placements</u>
<u>31/03/16</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>292</u>
<u>30/04/17</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>315</u>

As at 30th April 2017 there was an overall capacity of 414 beds meaning that the service was running at an occupancy level of 76%. These additional beds remained vacant for a variety of reasons including beds being blocked, holidays, task carers and the foster carer being approved to care for younger children.

- 2.11 Where appropriate young people remain living with their foster carers after the age of 18 years. These arrangements are known as 'Staying Put', and seek to ensure that young people can continue to remain part of their foster family and progress to more independent living at a

time, and pace, that is based both on their assessed needs, as detailed within their Pathway Plan, and in accordance with their wishes and feelings. As of the 31st March 2016 there were 16 young people aged 18 years older remaining in placement with their foster carer. The current indication is that of the current 16/17 year old cohort in LA foster placements (27 individuals) 85% or 23 individuals will potentially stay put. This will place further pressure on the fostering services capacity in providing placements which needs to be factored into the service recruitment and retention strategy.

2.12 At present the area of highest demand for placements is for older children, this is one of the most challenging areas of foster carer recruitment as such we are currently reviewing the package of support available to these foster carers.

2.13 As the number of Children in Care has continued to increase over the past 18 months, the number of local authority foster carers has decreased through retirement, deregistration and conversion to staying put. Therefore the need to increase our pool of carers has become more acute. In order to address this Children and Families have agreed an investment in the fostering services which is anticipated to be offset by the saving realised through reducing the number of independently purchased placements.

The investment will enhance our fostering services through establishing a temporary project manager role to undertake a comprehensive in-service review including benchmarking, developing the In Service Education and Training (INSET) programme, undertake a comprehensive analysis of the service's foster carers' training and support needs and, support our marketing and recruitment strategy over the next three years.

The investment will also allow the service to establish and embed a specialist psychologist within the fostering service to support carers and supervising social workers embedding a delivery model underpinned by evidence based child psychological understanding and principles.

Additionally the investment will support the creation of new specialist fee paid support carers and allow implementation of a new skill level 4, these carers will support our most vulnerable and at risk young people.

2.14 During 2016/2017 19 foster carers either withdrew from fostering or were deregistered. The service aims to review the reasons for all foster carers exiting the service ensuring that we continuously improve and develop our practice supporting efforts to retain carers.

'The Assessment and approval of foster carers: Amendments to the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations: Volume 4: Fostering Services July 2013' details a change in practice regarding the resignation of foster carers. This means that where a foster carer gives their resignation in writing, this becomes final 28 days later without exception.

In circumstances where there were concerns or an allegation is made in respect of a foster carer that leads to deregistration, this is reported to panel and information is retained on file. This may prevent the carer being registered as foster carer in the future. Records are used to inform practice and support the prevention of future allegations.

To help with continued development of the fostering service exit questionnaires are sent to every foster carer that resigns from the service. Within the current year and as part of our service development the service is establishing a more robust leaver's process to capitalise on learning and enhance service development.

3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

- 3.1 It is important that Sheffield children in care are cared for within the city. Local Authorities have a legislative duty to ensure that children are placed locally and that we have sufficient accommodation within the city to meet the needs of our children.
- 3.2 The sufficiency duty requires local authorities to do more than simply ensure that accommodation be 'sufficient' in terms of the number of beds provided. They must have regard to the benefits of securing a range of accommodation through a number of providers. The accommodation must also meet the needs of children. The Fostering Service remains our primary source of carers for our Children in Care.
- 3.3 Increasing and retaining the number of foster carers within the city ensure that outcomes for children in care are enhanced and that we are able to maximise the resource in the city to support our children.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee are asked to note the content of the report and provide challenge to the service in respect of service activity.