

<b>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
<b>20 JULY 2023</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	John Gregg Executive Director Children and Young People's Service	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lynne Ayres - Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Chris Baird Interim Service Director Education Gary Jones Interim Service Director Targeted Support and Safeguarding	Tel. 07920 160740

**INTRODUCTORY REPORT TO WORK OF CHILDREN'S AND EDUCATION SERVICES**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> John Gregg, Executive Director	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that Children and Education Scrutiny Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider the report and agree agenda items for the committee for the 2023/24 work programme.</li> <li>2. Members request further information as required, and additional items for work programme.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report was requested by Children and Education Scrutiny Committee members at the Annual Work Programming meeting.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The report provides an overview of Children's Services which includes Education Services and some areas of focus to enable the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to determine agenda items for 2023/24.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

1. Children's Services including
  - a) Social Care of Children;
  - b) Safeguarding;
  - c) Children's Health and;
  - d) Targeted Youth Support (including youth offending).

2. Education, including
  - a) University and Higher Education;
  - b) Careers; and
  - c) Special Needs and Inclusion;

2.3 This report links into all areas of the Children In Care Promise.

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
---	-----------	----------------------------------	------------

### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 Children's Services in Peterborough includes education services, early help, children's safeguarding services, corporate parenting, and services to care leavers and Youth Offending services. 0-25 services for children and young people with disabilities sit within Adult Services, services focused on 16+ years old education and skills, including work with the University, adult and community learning sit within Economy and Place.

4.2 From 1 July 2023 John Gregg has taken up the role of Director of Children's Services for Peterborough. This coincides with many of the services separating from the shared arrangement with Cambridgeshire. Significant work is taking place to establish Peterborough's services in their own right, including making staffing appointments.

4.3 The range of services within Children's Services deliver Peterborough's statutory duties in relation to children and families, education. They include the following:

- Early Help and Targeted Support
- Safeguarding including the work of the Integrated Front Door/Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Services for children in need and children in need of protection
- Corporate parenting services focusing on children in care
- Services for care leavers
- A range of services to support work on child exploitation, contextual safeguarding, county lines and other risks to children
- Quality assurance
- Support for the local safeguarding board
- Early Years services that support the provision and quality of childcare and early years settings such as nurseries and playgroups, as well as supporting the take up of places, holiday activity opportunities
- School Admissions
- Elective Home Education
- School sufficiency of places, including planning for places and commissioning capital schemes
- Relationship with schools and academies and promotion of good education outcomes for all children, including the most vulnerable.
- Virtual School for children in care, and those with a social worker
- Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- Alternative Provision for children
- Services for inclusion including Attendance, Children Missing Education
- Music Hub

4.4 Services are delivered to meet statutory duties underpinned by legal requirements and set out in various acts including the Children Act 1989, Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Children and Young Persons Act 2008, Children and Families Act 2014, the Human Rights Act 1988, a number of Education Acts, and statutory guidance such as Working Together to Safeguard Children, SEND Code of Practice 0 to 25 years, Keeping Children Safe In Education.

- 4.5 Services for safeguarding and early help, education, SEND, Youth Justice, and including those commissioned, led, and delivered by partners are subject to inspection from Ofsted and also from the Care Quality Commission. These are significant and in-depth inspections with associated visits, reviews, and an Annual Conversation with Ofsted every year to discuss how Peterborough services are being led, developing, performing, and being supported by the whole organisation and partnerships. The role of scrutiny to support this is important to enable Peterborough services to be delivered effectively.
- 4.6 There are a number of annual or regular reports on different service areas which the local authority is required to produce. It is suggested that these are considered by scrutiny as part of its ongoing programme of work. These include:
- The annual report on the work of the Virtual School
  - Annual report for Adoption
  - Annual report for Fostering
  - Admissions code
  - Annual report of work of the Corporate Parenting Committee
- 4.7 Areas of potential focus for scrutiny committee are put forward below, informed by the current service performance, the improvement work necessary, and also the potential for inspections to take place over the next year to 18 months. These include topics set out below with suggested months:
- Peterborough's Integrated Front Door and progress against the Ofsted action plan - July 2023 with an update to come March 2024
  - Update on Clare Lodge September 2023
  - SEND overview, including area inspection framework September 2023
  - Peterborough's Early Help Offer for children and families and the delivery of this November 2023 This is to allow the permanent Head of Service to be appointed and move forward with their service plan. The experiences and progress of children who need support and protection. *date to be determined.*
  - A range of services to support work on child exploitation, contextual safeguarding, county lines and other risks to children. *date to be determined.*
  - Family Safeguarding model *date to be determined.*
  - Peterborough's self-assessment for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision - November 2023
  - Education outcomes for children in Peterborough - November 2023
  - Attendance including Peterborough's response to national guidance, children missing education, elective home education - January 2024

## 5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The topics covered through the work programme for committee contribute to the Corporate Strategy and Priorities. Each topic will be directly linked to the relevant priority areas when they are presented via a report to the committee.
1. Our Places & Communities
    - Lives and Work
    - Health and Wellbeing
  2. Prevention, Independence & Resilience
    - Educations and Skills for All
    - Adults
    - Children

There is no impact on the carbon emissions of the local authority. This report relates to BAU for the service.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 Potential agenda items for the year were discussed at an agenda setting meeting on 15 June 2023. This has informed the report.

## **7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

7.1 The forward plan for the work of the committee is established for 2023/24.

## **8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 To enable the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to have a work programme that enables the Committee to effectively carry out its scrutiny function on key areas that affect the lives of children, young people, and their families.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 None considered.

## **10. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

10.1 No financial implications resulting directly from this report.

### **Legal Implications**

10.2 No legal implications resulting directly from this report.

### **Equalities Implications**

10.3 No equalities implications resulting directly from this report.

### **Children in Care and Care Leavers**

10.4 Children in Care and Care Leavers are considered throughout this report but there are no implications.

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

11.1 N/A

## **12. APPENDICES**

12.1 N/A