

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024
7.00 PM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall
Contact: Madia Afzal, Democratic Services Officer
Madia.afzal@peterborough.gov.uk, 01733 452509

AGENDA

Page No

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations**

At this point Members must declare whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, or other interest, in any of the items on the agenda, unless it is already entered in the register of members' interests or is a "pending notification " that has been disclosed to the Solicitor to the Council. Members must also declare if they are subject to their party group whip in relation to any items under consideration.
- 3. Minutes of the Children and Education Scrutiny Meeting Held on 15 January 2024** **3 - 10**
- 4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions**

The decision notice for each decision will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision may then be implemented on the expiry of 3 working days after the publication of the decision (not including the date of publication), unless a request for call-in of the decision is received from any three Members of a Scrutiny Committee. If a request for call-in of a decision is received, implementation of the decision remains suspended for consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.
- 5. Forward Plan of Executive Decisions** **11 - 30**
- 6. Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022-2023** **31 - 54**
- 7. Outcome of Ofsted ILACS Inspection of Peterborough Children's Services** **55 - 70**

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8. Date of Next Meeting - 15 July 2024

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Committee Members:

Councillors: A Shaheed (Chair), Hemraj (Vice Chairperson), Allen, Asif, Cole, Fenner, S Lane, D Over, Rangzeb, B Rush and Skibsted

Substitutes: Councillors: A. Bond, Fox, Ray and Sabir

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Madia Afzal on telephone on 01733 452509 or by email on: madia.afzal@peterborough.gov.uk

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 7.00PM, ON
MONDAY, 15 JANUARY 2024
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Shaheed (Chair), Allen, Asif, Cole, Coles (sub), Rangzeb, Rush, Sabir – Vice Chair (sub) and Skibsted.

Co-opted Members: Sameena Aziz, Katie Howard and Dr Andy Stone.

Youth Councillors: Abigail Adebayo and Daisy Blakemore-Creetdon.

Officers Present: Madia Afzal, Democratic Services Officer
Chris Baird, Interim Director of Education
Jon Chapman, Chair of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
Safeguarding Children Partnership Board
John Gregg, Executive Director for Children’s Services
Zoe Lattimer, Headteacher, Peterborough Virtual School
Angela Wellings, Interim Head of SEND and Inclusion

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Hemraj, Fenner, Over, Lane, Co-opted Member Peter French and Gary Jones, Interim Service Director for Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

Councillor Skibsted declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 8 - An Overview of Special Needs and Disabilities: Progress, Priorities and Challenges in that she is Chair of the Trustees of Family Voice Peterborough. Due to the personal nature of the declaration, the Member was able to take part in the debate and vote.

32. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 06 NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 06 November 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

33. CALL-IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISION

None were received for this meeting.

34. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Chair introduced the report which included the latest version of the Council’s Forward Plan of Executive Decisions containing decisions that the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the forthcoming month. Members were invited to comment on the plan and where appropriate, identify any

relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme.

- Clarification on the Peterborough Sufficiency Strategy was sought. The plans for the local authority fostering service were outlined and Members were advised that a council led service would limit the use of independent fostering agencies.
- In terms of children's homes, it was noted that these were commissioned by the private sector.
- Clarification on the abandonment of the Werrington Fields and Ken Stimpson Secondary School decision was sought, with the Committee querying its impact on schools and sporting facilities. Members were advised that the application to the Secretary of State around the release of land had been rejected and the plans to fence the whole area were outlined.
- Furthermore, Members were assured that the children's playing areas would remain open.
- Further clarification on the decision was sought with one Member querying its impact on the Save Werrington Fields Group. The Committee were advised that the implications would be detailed in writing and circulated to members of the Committee and to members of the Werrington Fields Group.
- Councillor Brian Rush reserved his right to speak on this item having taken part in the initial discussions as a member of the Planning Committee.
- In terms of the Committee's queries on the right of appeal, Members were advised that the Secretary of State's decision was conclusive. However, the Interim Director of Education agreed to follow this up with colleagues in Legal Services.
- A query on the Approval to enter into a Section 75 Partnership Agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust decision was raised, with one Member querying the support for Peterborough further to the separation from Cambridgeshire.
- In response, it was confirmed that arrangements had been made for Peterborough to receive a fair share and for assurance purposes, the Executive Director for Children's Services agreed to review the operation of the Agreement.

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and RESOLVED to note the report. The Committee also requested that Officers:

- Provide a written response on the impact of the abandoned Werrington Fields and Ken Simpson Secondary School decision and consult with the legal team to provide clarification on the right of appeal.
- Revisit the approval to enter into a Section 75 Partnership Agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust in light of the Ofsted inspection.

35. ANNUAL REPORT OF PETERBOROUGH VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the work undertaken by Peterborough Virtual School (PVS) for the academic year 2022-2023.

The report sought to provide the Committee with an update on the work and outcomes of the eligible cohort (children in the care of Peterborough City Council for a year or more as of March 2023).

The Headteacher of PVS introduced the report and key points raised included:

- Children and young people were recognised as the Virtual School's (VS) largest stakeholder.
- Members were advised of the retirement of Dee Glover, the appointment of Zoe Lattimer as the new headteacher of the VS and the appointment of 6 new members of staff.
- The new ways of working including the collaboration with schools, carers and social workers were outlined.
- The Committee were advised that the VS had noticed a shift in the population of children they were supporting including an increase in Separated Migrant Children (SMC).
- The work in relation to training was highlighted and Members were advised that training materials were being accessed by a significant number of people.
- The different channels of communication including eLearning materials and podcasts were relayed to the Committee.
- The changes in respect to the content and language of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) were noted.
- The gap around careers advice and guidance for young people was acknowledged and Members were advised that work in relation to this was underway.
- Last year's collaborative work with Peterborough College and City College Peterborough around ESOL provision (English for speakers of other languages) was relayed to Members of the Committee.
- Members were advised that the school's migrant children had successfully enrolled onto courses.
- The Committee were informed that over a 1,000 PEPs had been assessed and quality assured.
- Members' attention was drawn to People Premium Plus – the grant that is offered to children in care through the VS.
- The Committee were advised that the grant had funded a variety of initiatives including specialist support from an educational psychologist.
- The new grant for children over the age of 16 was also noted.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members queried whether assessments had been carried out to verify learning outcomes and whether the changes were being delivered to children in care.
- A query was also raised on the ESOL provision and whether the VS had revisited Compass.
- In terms of the offer, it was noted that the VS had considered the universal offer for every child and reference was made to the new self-evaluation tool.
- Members were further advised that the VS was looking to move away from every child being case held to impact a wider number of people.
- The target support for different groups of children was noted.
- In terms of the question on training and assurances on the impact moving forward, the hierarchical training offer was noted as well as the evaluation of PEPs.
- One Member requested an overview on PEPs and EHC Plans. It was confirmed that a PEP (Personal Education Plan) was the statutory care plan for children in care whereas an EHC was the statutory Education Health and Care Plan for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Furthermore, Members were advised that children in care often qualified for both.
- The Committee requested further clarification on the background of children in care. Members were advised that currently, many of the children were of a Syrian or Iranian background.
- A query was raised on faith-based provisions and whether these had been

explored. In response, the Committee were advised that the responsibility for such lied with colleagues in Social Care.

- In terms of the increasing number of unauthorised absences, the Committee were advised that these were being addressed at a national level and by the Children's Commissioner.
- The Committee queried whether the VS had the remit to support parents who homeschool their children. It was advised that the VS did not support the delivery of such education for children in care.
- A further query was raised on the delivery of education for homeschooled children. It was confirmed the responsibility for such lied with the local authority, however only for those children who had previously attended state schools.
- In terms of the eligibility criteria for the Pupil Premium Grant, it was confirmed that children in care were automatically eligible after 24 hours of being in care.

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and RESOLVED to:

- Note the content of the report and make comments as they see fit.

36. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board.

The report sought to provide the Committee with a summary of both the work of the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board and the work of the sub committees and highlight the significant events from April 2022- March 2023.

The Chair of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board introduced the report and key points raised included:

- The three key priorities and responsibilities were outlined.
- Reference was made to the Cambridgeshire reviews and the three ongoing safeguarding practice reviews for Peterborough.
- It was noted that the Safeguarding Board covered both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire despite decoupling.
- The Partnership's scrutiny functions were outlined, and reference was made to the Section 11 audit.
- Attention was drawn to the Quality and Effectiveness Subgroup which met on a monthly basis to consider emerging themes.
- The training responsibility was highlighted as well as the safeguarding conference which focused on child exploitation in 2022-2023.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- In terms of the support for South Asian, female survivors of domestic abuse and whether the Safeguarding Partnership had the capacity to fund South Asian support workers, the Committee were advised that the Partnership did not have the budget to offer financial support.
- However, the Partnership offered to promote the initiative through their various channels of communication.
- Members were also referred to the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board.
- A query was raised on page 89 of the report - the Cambridgeshire and

Peterborough Child Death Overview Panel and whether children within this category had died in unusual circumstances or not from natural causes.

- The Committee were advised that the Panel was required to review every death – even those from natural causes as it enabled them to gather themes around illnesses.
- Comparative data was requested on the Panel and clarification on the common links between suicide was sought.
- The Partnership agreed to circulate the Regional Report on the National Child Mortality Database to members of the Committee.
- In terms of the Member's query on page 91 of the report and the data on successful Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation prosecutions, the Board agreed to liaise with police colleagues to fulfil this request.
- A question on concerns was raised. It was confirmed that the Partnership had experienced difficulties, especially since the separation from Cambridgeshire. However, Members were assured that the Board had learnt from experiences and were in a stronger position.
- With respect to the Partnership's approach to identifying and dealing with problems, it was noted that in such instances the Board encouraged employees to escalate.
- The developments in respect to this area were also highlighted and the need for a coherent set of data across the Partnership around risks and threats was noted.
- The Committee requested comparative data on the number of completed single assessments as the data on page 80 of the report did not draw any comparisons.
- Members felt it would be useful to have the existing data compared to the national average or similar sized areas. The Partnership Board agreed to provide this data.
- Clarification on page 95 of the report was sought, with one Member querying the next steps for training and whether any lessons had been learned from this.
- It was advised that the Board would look to amend the training following a review and that amendments to the programme enabled the Partnership to incorporate feedback.
- However, it was noted that historically, the Board had struggled with the training, but the virtual sessions had seen an increasing number of people access training materials.

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and RESOLVED to:

- Note the contents of the annual report.

The Committee also requested that Officers:

- Provide comparative data around the Child Death Overview Panel - regional and national figures and provide clarification on the common links between suicide and whether these were prevalent year on year.
- Provide comparative data on the number of completed single assessments.
- Liaise with police colleagues to provide data on successful Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation prosecutions within the past 12 months.

37. AN OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES: PROGRESS, PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to Special Educational Needs (SEND).

The report sought to provide Members with an update on key areas including the current performance in SEND.

The interim Director for Education accompanied by the interim Head of SEND and Inclusion introduced the report and key points raised included:

- The Interim Director for Education welcomed the recently appointed Interim Head of SEND and Inclusion to the Committee who provided an overview of the current performance.
- SEND'S statutory 20-week target with respect to the completion and dissemination of Education and Health Care (EHC) plans was noted.
- However, Members were advised that Peterborough performed well in respect to this challenging measure.
- The challenges around annual reviews were noted.
- Reference was made to the costly transport and out of city provision where children were sent out of Peterborough due to the lack of sufficient local school places or due to complex needs.
- The Accelerated Progress Plan was highlighted.
- Ofsted's recently established framework was outlined, and the 25 inspections were noted.
- An emphasis was placed on the impressive 20-week target and how this was being met.
- In terms of the annual review, the complexities with respect to timescales were noted.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- A query was raised on the 20-week target and the effectiveness of the plans if no reviews were being undertaken.
- In response, it was advised that a number of partners were involved in ensuring that needs were being met and that the team had made significant progress to mitigate delays and make improvements.
- In terms of the increasing need for EHC plans, Members were advised that these arose from the increasing complexity of children's needs especially social/emotional behavioural challenges and autism as well as greater awareness and coverage of such plans.
- In terms of the query on 4.5 of the report, it was advised that comparisons could not be drawn until the publication of SEND 2 in the summer of 2024.
- It was further advised that the budget proposals for 2024-25 had included additional funding for the Social Care Team to support the delivery of the increasing caseloads.
- The work in respect to the review of the quality of plans was noted.
- One Member queried how Peterborough City Council was planning to support secondary schools with the influx of SEND starting in the new academic year.
- Concerns were also raised around the assessment and guidance in terms of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and how the child minder provision failed to adequately identify SEND needs.
- Furthermore, the importance of liaising with Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) was emphasised.
- In response, the need for additional support was recognised and it was advised that the new area SENCO role was in place to make contact with the service area and where necessary, to take their advice on board.

- Moreover, the Committee were assured that their concerns would be explored in further detail.
- A question was raised on the membership of the SEND Best Value Scheme. It was confirmed that Peterborough wasn't a member.
- Reference was made to the discussions around expanding Peterborough's specialist provision and the national recoupment system.
- A query was raised on the appointment of substantive, permanent key roles within Peterborough City Council's Children's Services.
- The Committee were advised that an appointment had been made to the Head of SEND and that Chris Baird would continue as the Interim Director for Education until the new Director of Education was in place.
- In terms of recruitment, it was hoped that the Director for Education's position would be listed in the coming months.
- In terms of the additional classrooms for SEND and the work in relation to this, it was confirmed that work had been undertaken and was ongoing.
- Furthermore, the importance of expansion and local provision was acknowledged.
- A question on the alleviation of transportation costs was raised.
- The Committee were advised that the service area was looking into local transport contractors, the National Statutory Guidance for Transport and the transport arrangements for children who were placed in other areas were detailed.
- The Committee queried the national government's role in meeting the increasing demand for EHCps and whether there was any scope for the service area to lobby the government for additional funding.
- In response, the importance of lobbying government for resources was recognised and reference was made to the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan – a plan which enabled children and young people with SEND or in alternative provision to access the help and support they required.
- However, it was noted that resources were limited.
- In terms of the resourcing for the team responsible for EHCp's, it was advised that funding had been considered as part of the budget proposals for 2024-2025 and that Peterborough was a member of the national funding formula.

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the report and RESOLVED to:

Note the report, make comments and seek clarification where appropriate.

38. COMMITTEE START TIME REPORT 2024/2025

This item was pulled at the request of the Monitoring Officer until discussions with Group Leaders had taken place.

39. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024

The Democratic Services Officer presented the report which considered the relevant items presented in 2023/2024 of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and looked at the work programme for the new municipal year 2023/2024 to determine the Committees priorities.

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the Work Programme for

2023/2024 and RESOLVED to note the report.

40. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being the 11th of March 2024.

CHAIR

Meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.50pm

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
11 MARCH 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adesuwa Omoregie, Interim Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Madia Afzal, Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 01733 452509

FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Democratic Services Officer	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considers the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme or request further information. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The report is presented to the Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference as set out in section 2.2 of the report.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This is a regular report to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee outlining the content of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph 3.3:

The Scrutiny Committees will:

(f) *Hold the Executive to account for the discharge of functions in the following ways:*

ii) *By scrutinising Key Decisions which the Executive is planning to take, as set out in the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.*

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The latest version of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions is attached at Appendix 1. The

Forward Plan contains those Executive Decisions which the Leader of the Council believes that the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member(s) can take and any new key decisions to be taken after 25 March 2024.

4.2 The information in the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions provides the Committee with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these executive decisions, or to request further information.

4.3 If the Committee wished to examine any of the executive decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated within the work programme.

4.4 As the Forward Plan is published fortnightly any version of the Forward Plan published after dispatch of this agenda will be tabled at the meeting.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Details of any consultation on individual decisions are contained within the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 After consideration of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions the Committee may request further information on any Executive Decision that falls within the remit of the Committee.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The report presented allows the Committee to fulfil the requirement to scrutinise Key Decisions which the Executive is planning to take, as set out in the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions in accordance with their terms of reference as set out in Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph 3.3.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 N/A

Legal Implications

9.2 N/A

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – Forward Plan of Executive Decisions

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

PUBLISHED: 23 FEBRUARY 2024

PART 1 – FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

KEY DECISIONS FROM 25 MARCH 2024

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
<p>Award of Contract for Traffic Signals 2024 - 2032 – KEY/25MAR24/01</p> <p>1. Authorise the award of a 'Call Off' contract for the Traffic Signals Supply, Installation and Maintenance from 2024 for an initial period of 5 years; and</p> <p>2. Authorise the award of an extension to the 'Call Off' contract period by a further 3 years.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change - Councillor Gavin Elsey</p>	<p>May 2024</p>	<p>Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholder processes</p>	<p>Martin Brooker, Highway Maintenance and Schemes Commissioning Manager, martin.brooker@peterborough.gov.uk</p> <p>Report Author - Amy Pickstone.</p>	<p>Place and Economy</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>
<p>Peterborough Housing Strategy 2024-2029 - KEY/25MAR24/02 - Recommendation of the Housing Strategy for adoption to Council for adoption</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>17 June</p>	<p>Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>All Wards</p>	<p>Six-week period of public consultation from 22nd January until 4th March 2024</p>	<p>Anne Keogh, Housing Strategy and Implementation Manager Email: anne.keogh1@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Place and Economy</p>	<p>Final version of the Housing Strategy 2024-2029</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p>

PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED KEY DECISIONS

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
1. PCC/CCC Delegation Agreement for jointly procured Floating Support service - KEY/27FEB23/08 - Approval of Delegation Arrangements to allow CCC to implement and manage this contract on behalf of PCC.	Cllr Saqib Farooq, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	February 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Feedback sought from existing customers, staff and external partners/stakeholders prior to commencing re-procurement	Sarah Croxford, Senior Commissioner (Accommodation) sarah.croxford@peterborough.gov.uk	Adults	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
2. Delegation to Cambridgeshire County Council re. recommission of the Healthy Schools Support Service – KEY/13MAR23/01 "The Public Health Directorate are seeking to continue provision of the Healthy Schools Support Service for a further 19-month period, from 1st September 2023 - 31st March 2025. The service has been successfully operating across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire since 2018 at an annual value of £148,520 to Cambridgeshire and £58,680 to Peterborough. This new contract period will be used to provide officers sufficient time to review effectiveness, understand the evidence base and better evaluate the impact of current provision to inform future commissioning intentions. The total cost to PCC for this period will be £92,276.66."	Cllr Saqib Farooq, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	February 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	A comprehensive consultation will be undertaken with service users, partners and key stakeholders as part of the required work needed to inform future commissioning intentions	Raj Lakshman, consultant in Public Health, raj.lakshman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Public Health	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
3. PCC SEND and AP expenditure – KEY/3JUL23/01 Approvement to authorise the future expected spend through Cambridgeshire County Council's Children's External Placements Dynamic Purchasing System (PDPS) until 31st March 2024 with providers for Alternative Education Provision – SEND and AP and Inclusion Team.	Cllr Ray Bisby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	February 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	N/A	Jason Wing, jason.wing@peterborough.gov.uk	Children and Young People's Service	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
4. Post-16 Framework for Alternative Education and Training – KEY/17JUL23/01 - Agreement for the Post-16 Framework for Alternative Education and Training to be able to call off this Framework which is Cambridgeshire led.	Cllr Ray Bisby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	February 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	All wards	Family Voice, Young People representation groups (Access Champions), representatives of seldom heard groups	David Rhodes, Commissioning Manager, Email: david.rhodes@peterborough.gov.uk	Adults	Paper from Children and Young People's Committee in Cambridgeshire
5. Medgen Nursing Services Limited - KEY/17JUL23/02 - Approval for spend on a young person's placement for nine months.	Cllr Ray Bisby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	February 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	Central Ward	No other consultation sought.	Ros Anderson, ART Support Officer, Email: ros.anderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01733 863986	Children and Young People's Service	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

KEY DECISION REQUIRED		DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
6.	Peterborough Station Quarter LUF2 Funding - KEY/04DEC23/01 Authority to enter into grant funding agreements for the LUF2 funds with the CPCA and to delegate authority to award and enter into contracts.	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Growth, Resources and Scrutiny Committee	Central Ward	CPCA	Karen Lockwood, Head of Regeneration Karen.lockwood@peterborough.gov.uk , 07825902794	Place and Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
7.	Award of Bikeability Contract for 2024/25 – KEY/04DEC23/04 Peterborough City Council has received funding from Active Travel England to deliver Bikeability cycle training for the year 2024/25. The existing contract with the current provider will end on 31 st March 2024. Therefore, we seek approval to award contract (after completion of procurement exercise) to new provider to begin on 1 st April 2024.	Cllr Gavin Eley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	27 February 2024 For Consideration	Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	All wards	Will go to tender for the new contract and offer providers an opportunity to submit a bid which will be assessed.	Lewis Banks, Transport and Environment Manager, 01733 317465, Lewis.banks@peterborough.gov.uk	Place and Economy	Exempt appendices will be submitted for the financial submissions on the contract award prices. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
8.	CCTV Surveillance System Service - maintenance contract award – KEY/18DEC23/01 - Maintenance contract award by Peterborough City Council following a joint procurement of Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council's CCTV Surveillance System whereby Fenland District Council delegate the function of this contract to Peterborough City Council to act as lead local authority.	Cllr Peter Hiller - Cabinet Member for Housing, Growth and Regeneration	May 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	All wards.	Not required.	Aarron Locks, CCTV Shared Service Manager, Tel: 07894 913503, Email: aarron.locks@peterborough.gov.uk	Place and Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
9.	Healthy Child Programme recommissioning - KEY/18DEC23/02 - To agree the approach for the recommissioning of the Healthy Child Programme and the associated service specification.	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	All wards.	Local user voice will be picked up in the CYP JSNA that Public Health will be completing in a timeline parallel to this.	Raj Lakshman, consultant in Public Health, raj.lakshman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Public Health	As well as the main paper and appendices, we will also provide relevant links to needs assessments on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough insight.

KEY DECISION REQUIRED		DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
10.	Treatment of Dry Mixed Recycling - Services Contract - KEY/01JAN24/02 - Award of contract for haulage, processing, and onward sale of dry mixed recycling.	Cllr Gavin Eley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	01 May 2024	Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	All wards	None	Amy Nebel, Senior Waste and Recycling Officer, Email: Amy.nebel@peterborough.gov.uk	Place and Economy	Exempt appendices will be submitted for the financial submissions on the contract award prices. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
11.	Procurement of Multi-Disciplinary Design Team for Vine Project – KEY/15JAN24/02 - Procurement of Multi-Disciplinary Design Team for Vine Project	Cabinet	22 March 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	Fletton & Stanground Ward and Central Ward	No additional consultation other than relevant internal and external stakeholder processes	Karen Lockwood, Head of Regeneration, Email: karen.lockwood@peterborough.gov.uk Tel: 07825 902794	Place & Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
12.	To procure a contract for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - KEY/15JAN24/03 - The Council is working in partnership with the Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council to procure a supplier who will roll out Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure from late 2024/25 onwards. Successful procurement and submission of a business case will also ensure that the Council receives grant funding to support the roll-out of chargers across Peterborough.	Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	12 February 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Future public consultation will be undertaken	Lewis banks, Transport & Environment Manager Tel: 01733 317465 Email: lewis.banks@peterborough.gov.uk	Place & Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
13. Delivery of Regulatory Services on behalf of Rutland County Council - KEY/15JAN24/04 - Delivery of Food Safety, Health and Safety, Housing Standards, Licensing and Pollution Control services on behalf of Rutland County Council. This is a continuation of the current agreement that commenced in April 2016.	Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	31 March 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	N/A	No additional consultation other than relevant internal and external stakeholder processes	Peter Gell Head of Regulatory Services Tel: 07920160701 Email: peter.gell@peterborough.gov.uk	Place & Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
14. Peterborough Highway Services annual capital programme of works – KEY/15JAN24/05 - Decision requesting approval to deliver the works using the existing Peterborough Highways Term Service Contract and the allocation of funding across the 4 programmes of work.	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Consultation will be undertaken for the individual packages of works identified in the works programme.	Amy Petrie, Principal programme and projects officer, amy.petrie@peterborough.gov.uk, 452272	Place & Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
15. Delivery of Highways Major Schemes 2024/2025 through the existing Peterborough Highways Term Service Contract – KEY/15JAN24/06 - Recommendation to approve the delivery of the Highways Major schemes 2024/2025 programme of works through the existing Peterborough Highway Services Term Service Contract.	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Consultation will be undertaken prior to construction	Amy Petrie, Principal programme and projects officer, amy.petrie@peterborough.gov.uk, 452272	Place & Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
16. Approval of 5-year review of Highway Asset Management Policy documents - KEY/15JAN24/07 - Approval of 5-year review of Highway Asset Management Policy documents including Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy, Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan, and Highway Maintenance Plan.	Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	February 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Relevant internal and external stakeholder processes	Kevin Ekins, Asset and Performance Manager, PHS, Tel: 01733 453448, Email: kevin.ekins@peterborough.gov.uk	Place & Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
17. Approval of a Section 76 notice for the allocation of funding to establish obesity and cardiovascular disease prevention interventions in GP practices – KEY/12FEB24/01 To approve a section 76 for the allocation of funding to the integrated care board to enable it to establish obesity and cardiovascular disease prevention interventions in GP practices and the delegation of authority to Cambridgeshire County Council for it to establish a joint agreement for the two local authorities with the integrated care board.	Cllr Saqib Farooq, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	February 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All wards	Consultation was undertaken with frontline clinicians and integrated care board staff who have a remit or opportunity to support and develop prevention in primary care.	Val Thomas, deputy director of public health (Cambridgeshire) Tel: 07884 183374 Email: val.Thomas@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Adults	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
18. Translation and Interpretation Services - KEY/12FEB24/03 - Translation and Interpretation Services is a corporate service available to all PCC Directorates and Officers. Translation services are part of the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty. The service meets this obligation by ensuring accessibility for the customers and communities we serve.	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	All wards	None required	Jo Leggett; Commissioning Manager for Children in Care Email: joanne.leggett@peterborough.gov.uk	Adults	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
19. Re-commissioning of Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Services – KEY/11MARCH24/01 - Approval for the re-commission and procurement approach for Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.	Councillor Saqib Farooq, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	20 March 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All	A sexual and reproductive health needs assessment has been undertaken that included consultation with current providers, partner organisations, service users and community members.	Val Thomas, val.thomas@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Adults	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
20. The re-commissioning of the Prevention of Sexual Ill-health Services - KEY/11MARCH24/02 - Approval for the re-commission and for the approach for the Prevention of Sexual Ill health Services.	Councillor Saqib Farooq, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	20 March 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All	A sexual health needs assessment has been undertaken which included consultation with service users, current provider, partner organisations and community members.	Val Thomas, val.thomas@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Adults	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
21. Treatment of Street Sweeping Recycling Services – KEY/11MARCH24/03 - Peterborough City Council requires a competent contractor to deliver the Treatment of street sweeping materials. These materials include litter such as cigarette butts, food packaging, leaf litter, weeds and grit, from the pavements and roads within the city of Peterborough.	Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	3 May 2024	Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	N/A	N/A	Amy Nebel Senior Waste and Recycling Officer, amy.nebel@peterborough.gov.uk	Place and Economy	Exempt appendices will be submitted for the financial submissions on the contract award prices. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
22. Post 16 Framework - KEY/11MARCH24/04 - For Peterborough City Council to be able to call off the Cambridgeshire County Council Post-16 Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	All	Parent carers, young people and service areas.	David Rhodes, Commissioning Manager (SEND), david.rhodes@peterborough.gov.uk	Adults	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
23. Visitor Economy Strategy - KEY/11MARCH24/05 - Approval sought for the new Peterborough Visitor Economy Strategy.	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	All	N/A	Tom Hennessy, 07950960108, tom.hennessy@opportunitypeterborough.co.uk	Place and Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
24. Peterborough City Council Care Leavers Local Offer - KEY/11MARCH24/06 - Agreement to implement an improved local offer for Peterborough City Council's Care Leavers.	Cabinet	22 March 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	All	N/A	J Gregg -Director Children's Services - john.gregg@peterborough.gov.uk 07920160740, M Berry - Acting Head of Service - michaela.berry@peterborough.gov.uk Acting Head of Service - michaela.berry@peterborough.gov.uk	Children's and Young People's Service	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
25. To create a new Walking and Cycling Member Working Group - KEY/11MARCH24/07 - The new Group will assist in developing the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, the Rural Walking and Cycling Strategy, as well as other active travel initiatives.	Cabinet	31 March 2024	Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	All	Future consultation will occur as the strategies are developed.	Lewis Banks, Transport & Environment Manager, 01733 317465, lewis.banks@peterborough.gov.uk	Place and Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
26. Award of contract for Electronic Document Management Solution – KEY/11MARCH24/08 - Approve the contract award of the IT solution supporting most services via the I@W framework to NEC with commencement date 29th April 2024 for a five-year contract period and two optional one-year extensions.	Councillor John Howard - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance	30 March 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	N/A	N/A	Chris Stromberg, Head of Business & Digital Systems, 01223 715654, chris.stromberg@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Corporate Services	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

PART 2 – NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TAKE DECISIONS IN PRIVATE

DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE								
KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
<p>Blue Sky Peterborough - Shareholder Cabinet Committee - Recommendation to dissolve Blue Sky Peterborough.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>22 March 2024</p>	<p>Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The Director of the Company</p>	<p>Adesuwa Omoregie - Interim Director of Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Legal and Governance Department</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.</p> <p>Paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed. (Relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person)</p>

PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
1. Sale of Property at Lincoln Road – KEY/04DEC23/03 - Sale of surplus property, individual sales exceeding £500,000.	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	North Ward	N/A.	Felicity Paddick Felicity.paddick@peterborough.gov.uk , 07801910971	Corporate Services	Exempt appendix 1, financial and personal details of a third party.
2. Regional Fitness and Swimming Centre Building - KEY/12FEB24/02 - Decision on the future use of the building following the identification of RAAC in the structure (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete), and presentation of options / plans for city leisure provision	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Specialist property advisors	Rob Hill - Service Director Housing and Communities Tel: 07815 558081 Email: Rob.hill@peterborough.gov.uk	Place & Economy	'Structural report and Commercial / Finance Reports Exempt appendices will be submitted for the financial and commercially sensitive submissions. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
3. Development For the First Primary School in Great Haddon – KEY/26FEB24/01 - To consider and approve the proposed development of the first primary school for Great Haddon.	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	Hampton Vale	None	Karen Frearson, Head of Strategic Assets, Karen.frearson@peterborough.gov.uk , 01733 384536	Children and Young People's Service	A Cabinet Paper will be prepared to set out details of the proposed development. There will be exempt appendices relating to significant capital expenditure which will be commercially sensitive. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Fletton Quays Hilton Hotel – KEY/26FEB24/02 - The Peterborough Hilton hotel is in administration, and the Council has lent £14.7m to it. This is to agree the strategy/business case for next steps for the hotel.	Cabinet	22 March 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	City wide	Consultation has taken place with Group Leaders.	Jill Evans, Service Director, Corporate Finance, Jill.Evans@peterborough.gov.uk	Corporate Services	Exempt appendices will be submitted for the financial and commercially sensitive submissions. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
<p>5. Refurbishment Works Relating to LAHF and SHAP Acquisitions Following Successful Grant Awards – KEY/26FEB24/03 - Refurbishment works of housing properties to enable occupation by relevant cohorts within the LAHF and SHAP projects.</p>	Cabinet	11 March 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	City wide	Officer level at present but will be taken to CLT and CPF.	Felicity Paddick, Head of Estates, felicity.paddick@peterborough.gov.uk , 07801 910971	Corporate Services	Exempt appendices will be submitted for the financial and commercially sensitive submissions. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

PART 3 – NOTIFICATION OF NON-KEY DECISIONS

DECISIONS FROM FEBRUARY 2024								
DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
Approval of draft LNRS before public consultation - Approval of draft LNRS to allow it to go out for wider public consultation.	Cabinet	15 July 2024	Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	The draft LNRS will be formed by broad stakeholder consultation across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.	Darren Sharpe, Natural & Historic Environment Manager Email: darren.sharpe@peterborough.gov.uk	Place & Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED DECISIONS

DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	DATE DECISION EXPECTED	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	WARD	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DIRECTORATE	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES
1. Approval of the Peterborough Sufficiency Strategy Every top tier local authority is required to publish a sufficiency strategy. This must set out how we seek to avoid children coming into care through the provision of family support services and identify steps that we are taking to ensure that we have sufficient placements for children in care in our area, so that as many children and young people in care can live locally, provided that this is in their best interests.	Cllr Ray Bisby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	February 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	There has been widespread consultation including with children and young people in care.	John Gregg John.gregg@peterborough.gov.uk	Children and Young People's Service	Scrutiny Report.
2. Citizen Advice Peterborough Grant 2024/2025 - To award a grant of £130,000 to Citizens Advice Peterborough to deliver services to support clients to manage debt, income, employment, housing and other advice issues.	Councillor Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance	31 March 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	All	This is a renewal of annual grant funding rather than a new service and features within the budget consultation.	Ian Phillips, Acting Head of Communities, ian.phillips@peterborough.gov.uk	Place & Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
3. Direct award of Public Health Primary Care Contracts (GP's and Pharmacies) - To directly award primary care contracts in line with the regulations found in the new Provider Selection Regime from 2024/25.	Councillor Saqib Farooq, Cabinet Member for Adults Services	23 February 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All	N/A	Val Thomas, Deputy Director of Public Health, 07884 183374, Val.Thomas@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Public Health	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
4. Disposal of Surplus Land - Approval to dispose of property for best consideration.	Councillor Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance	31 March 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Fletton and Stanground	None.	Sarah Cracknell, Principal Estates Manager, 07512 193207 sarah.cracknell@peterborough.gov.uk	Corporate Services	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

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PART 4 – NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

<i>DECISION TAKEN</i>	<i>DECISION MAKER</i>	<i>DATE DECISION TAKEN</i>	<i>RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</i>	<i>WARD</i>	<i>CONSULTATION</i>	<i>CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS</i>	<i>DIRECTORATE</i>	<i>DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER INCLUDING EXEMPT ANNEXES</i>
None.								

FORWARD PLAN

PART 1 – KEY DECISIONS

In the period commencing 28 clear days after the date of publication of this Plan, Peterborough City Council's Executive intends to take 'key decisions' on the issues set out below in **Part 1**. Key decisions relate to those executive decisions which are likely to result in the Council spending or saving money in excess of £500,000 and/or have a significant impact on two or more wards in Peterborough.

If the decision is to be taken by an individual Cabinet Member, the name of the Cabinet Member is shown against the decision, in addition to details of the Councillor's portfolio. If the decision is to be taken by the Cabinet, this too is shown against the decision and its members are as listed below:

Cllr Mohammed Farooq (Leader of the Council), Cllr Howard (Deputy Leader); Cllr Bisby; Cllr Elsey; Cllr Saqib Farooq and Cllr Hiller.

This Plan should be seen as an outline of the proposed decisions for the forthcoming month, and it will be updated on a fortnightly basis to reflect new key-decisions. Each new Plan supersedes the previous Plan and items may be carried over into forthcoming Plans. Any questions on specific issues included on the Plan should be included on the form which appears at the back of the Plan and submitted to philippa.turvey@peterborough.gov.uk, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager, Legal and Governance Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 08702 388039). Alternatively, you can submit your views via e-mail to or by telephone on 01733 452460. For each decision a public report will be available from the Democratic Services Team one week before the decision is taken.

PART 2 – NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TAKE DECISION IN PRIVATE

Whilst most of the Executive's business at the Cabinet meetings listed in this Plan will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. In these circumstances the meeting may be held in private, and on the rare occasion this applies, notice will be given within **Part 2** of this document, 'notice of intention to hold meeting in private'. A further formal notice of the intention to hold the meeting, or part of it, in private, will also be given 28 clear days in advance of any private meeting in accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which these decisions will be discussed (unless a notice of intention to hold the meeting in private has been given).

PART 3 – NOTIFICATION OF NON-KEY DECISIONS

For complete transparency relating to the work of the Executive, this Plan also includes an overview of non-key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members, these decisions are listed at **Part 3** and will be updated on a weekly basis.

You are entitled to view any documents listed on the Plan or obtain extracts from any documents listed or subsequently submitted to the decision maker prior to the decision being made, subject to any restrictions on disclosure. There is no charge for viewing the documents, although charges may be made for photocopying or postage. Documents listed on the notice and relevant documents subsequently being submitted can be requested from Democratic Services at email: democratic.services@peterborough.gov.uk.

All decisions will be posted on the Council's website: www.peterborough.gov.uk/executivedecisions. If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the 'key decisions' outlined in this Plan, please submit them to the Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager using the form attached. For your information, the contact details for the Council's various service departments are incorporated within this Plan.

DIRECTORATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Please note that all Directorates have been colour coded. Each decision will be colour coded in accordance with the below.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

Financial and Resources

Internal Audit, Insurance and Investigations

Peterborough Serco Strategic Partnership (Business Support, Corporate Procurement, Business Transformation and Strategic Improvement, Customer Services, Shared Transactional Services)

Communications

Commercial & Property

Registration and Bereavement Services

Commercial & Property

Delivery and Transformation

Health & Safety

Human Resources & Workforce Development - (Business Relations, HR Policy and Rewards, Training and Development, Occupational Health and Workforce Development)

Digital, Data Analytics, Risk & IT Services

Transformation and Programme Management Office, Business Intelligence, Commercial, Strategy and Policy, Shared Services

Performance and Information (Performance Management, Systems Support Team)

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

Children's Services (Children's Social Care Operations, Children's Social Care Quality Assurance, Child Health, Clare Lodge (Operations), Access to Resources)

Education, (Special Educational Needs and Inclusion, School Improvement, City College Peterborough, Pupil Referral Units, Schools Infrastructure, Early Years and Quality Improvement)

ADULTS Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

Adult Services and Communities (Adult Social Care Operations, Adult Social Care and Quality Assurance, Adult Social Care Commissioning, Early Help – Adults, Children and Families, Housing and Health Improvement, Community and Safety Services, Offender Services, Safeguarding Boards – Adults and Children's)

Business Management and Commercial Operations (Commissioning)

LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

Corporate Lawyers

Constitutional Services, (Democratic Services, Electoral Services, Executive and Members Services) - (Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG)

Information Governance, (Freedom of Information and Data Protection)

PLACE AND ECONOMY DEPARTMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

Development and Construction (Development Management, Planning Compliance, Building Control)

Planning Growth and Environment (Strategic Planning, Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing, Climate Change and Environment Capital, Natural and Built Environment)

Housing and Homelessness

Highways and Transport(Network Management, Highways Maintenance, Street Naming and Numbering, Street Lighting, Design and Adoption of Roads, Drainage and Flood Risk Management, Transport Policy and Sustainable Transport, Public Transport)

Employment and Skills

Community Safety

Regulatory Services

Emergency Resilience & Planning

(Markets and Street Trading, City Centre Management including Events, Regulatory Services, Parking Services, Vivacity Contract, CCTV and Out of Hours Calls)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

Health Protection, Health Improvements, Healthcare Public Health.

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S CABINET MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Leader of Peterborough City Council is offering everyone a chance to comment or raise queries on the decisions highlighted on the Council's Forward Plan.

Your comments and queries can be submitted to the Council's Governance Team using the form overleaf, or alternatively by telephone or email. The Governance team will then liaise with the appropriate Cabinet Member and ensure that you receive a response. Members of the Cabinet, together with their areas of responsibility, are listed below:

Councillor Mohammed Farooq	Leader of the Council.
Councillor John Howard	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance.
Councillor Saqib Farooq	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health.
Councillor Ray Bisby	Cabinet Member for Children's Services.
Councillor Gavin Elsey	Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change.
Councillor Peter Hiller	Cabinet Member for Housing, Growth and Regeneration.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS OR QUERIES TO PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S CABINET

Your comment or query:

How can we contact you with a response?
(please include a telephone number, postal and/or e-mail address)

Name

Address

.....

Tel:

Email:

Who would you like to respond? (if left blank your comments will be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member)

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
11 MARCH 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	John Gregg, Executive Director of Children's Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Ray Bisby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Gary Jones, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Targeted Support	Tel. 01733 863624

CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: John Gregg, Executive Director of Children's Services	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Children and Education Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note and comment on the Annual Corporate Parenting Report for 2022-2023. 2. Comment on how services for children and young people are being delivered based on the Local Government Association Corporate Parenting self-assessment tool. 3. Make recommendations on the future monitoring of the priority improvement areas identified in the annual corporate parenting report 2022-2023. 4. Consider the need for an updated Corporate Parenting Strategy. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is requested by the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report provides Scrutiny Committee with an overview of how the duties of the Council and partner agencies have been discharged in respect of meeting the needs of children in care and care leavers.

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*

2.3 *How does this report link to the Children in care Promise?*

This report fully links to the Children in Care Promise as the report evaluates how well the Council has fulfilled its promise to Children in Care and Care Leavers during the period 2022 to 2023.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	

4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Committee with an evaluation of how effective services have been in meeting the needs of children in care and care leavers during the reporting year 2022 to 2023.
- 4.2 The Scrutiny Committee should scrutinise the report to determine whether all services directly provided for children and young people in care and care leavers have been delivered to a high standard and meet all statutory requirements.
- 4.3 The annual Corporate Parenting report 2022 – 2023 has been developed using the Local Government Association (LGA) effective Corporate Parenting self-evaluation tool. The tool can be used to self-assess against all the principles or can be adapted to support focus on specific areas.
- 4.4 The formal and informal Peterborough Corporate Parenting Committees have strived to ensure that children and young people in our care have had their needs understood and met throughout this period. Priority areas for service improvement for 2023-2024 have been included in the annual report to ensure that our children and young people receive excellent care to enable them to thrive and achieve their potential in all areas of life as they transition from children through to adult life.
- 4.5 The Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022 – 2023 is attached as an annex to the committee report as a reference alongside the annual corporate parenting report. This is because the corporate parenting strategy informed the delivery of services for children in care and care leavers during the period 2022-2023.
- 4.6 Further to the decoupling of Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, it is recommended that a revised Corporate Parenting Strategy for Peterborough is developed over the next reporting year, 2023-2024.

5. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 5.1 Consider how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:
1. The Economy & Inclusive Growth
 - Environment (including a summary of the outcome of a completed Carbon Impact Assessment, to be submitted in full to the Transport and Environment Team) The report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.
 - Homes and Workplaces
 - Jobs and Money - providing higher education, apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers enabling them to secure employment and to reduce our NEET cohort.
 2. Our Places & Communities
 - Places and Safety (including any rural implications) We should consider ways to accelerate high quality and energy efficient affordable housing provision in and

around our City so that our Care Leavers are afforded the opportunity to be prioritised for local housing, considering they have protected characteristics.

- Lives and Work - Unemployment is particularly stark amongst our young population (aged 18-24) and we expect this demographic group to struggle finding well paid employment as the economy falters and as their skill set and experience do not match future job opportunities.
- Health and Wellbeing - many children and young people experienced a considerable negative impact during the first lockdown of 2020, with increased loneliness and social isolation. Our young people need access to mental health services in accordance with their need.

3. Prevention, Independence & Resilience

- Educations and Skills for All
- Adults
- Children - our children still lag the national average at every level of qualification, creating a possible wedge between supply and demand for those future higher skilled, higher income jobs – if not addressed, this trend is likely to create a productivity gap within our future City workforce, slowing down growth opportunities.

4. Sustainable Future City Council

- How we Work
- How we Serve
- How we Enable

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Detail any consultation which has taken place. Include consultation with Ward Councillors where relevant.
- 6.2 The Children in Care Participation lead, Shalina Chandoo noted that the information within the report has been shared with the Children in Care Council and Peterborough Care Leaders through the Informal Corporate Parenting Committee and their regular meetings.
- 6.3 Peterborough Care Leaders Chair noted: "A good corporate parent is passionate about making a difference, specifically about being proactive in children's rights rather than caps on services and costs. You can tell who is there to make a difference and who is there to just turn up."

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 To provide a robust overview of the impact of corporate parenting service delivery for children over the reporting year and to provide clear recommendations for improvement for the next year.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee reviews and provides comment on the contents of this report. This ensures that the committee influences the policies and decisions made by the Council and partner agencies involved in delivering services to children in care and care leavers.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 None

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

10.2 There is no legal implication. This report is an evaluation of corporate parenting service delivery over the reporting period 2022-2023.

Equalities Implications

10.3 This report provides information on how Children in Care and Care Leavers have been supported in an inclusive way to achieve their potential in all areas of need.

Other relevant implications

10.4 Does this report have any implications for Children In Care and Care Leavers?

10.5 The report provides an evaluation of how the Council has discharged its duties as a corporate parent in accordance with the Children in Care Promise and the Social Work Act 2017 which highlighted the seven principles of being a corporate parent.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 Corporate Parenting Score Card
Corporate parenting committee papers for the informal and formal committee meetings
Participation annual report
IRO annual report 2022-2023
CIC promise
Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2023
JSNA
Virtual School annual report 2022-2023
Annual Adoption report 2022-2023
Annual Fostering report 2022-2023
Annual Health report 2022-2023
PCC Market Position CiC
PCC Market Position addendum
The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (2010).

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 - CIC promise
Appendix 2 - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2023

Our Promise to Children and Young People in Care

This promise was written by your Children in Care Council and Children's Services to make sure you are getting the right services and support.



1 We will work to keep you safe and help you to keep yourself safe.



2 We will do everything we can to make you feel cared about, valued and respected as an individual.



3 We will be honest with you and explain if we are unable to do something we said we would do. We will not make unrealistic promises to you.



4 We will involve you in decision making so your views are listened to, and will explain when we make a decision you may not like or agree with.



5 We will work to keep you in a supportive and caring environment where you feel safe and happy.



6 We will support you to maintain a healthy lifestyle and help look after your physical and mental health.



7 We will help you see your family, friends and other people who are important to you. If there are people we can't support you to see, we will explain why.



8 We will support you to achieve your goals and reach your potential, in your education, hobbies and interests.



9 We will work with you to give you all the help and support you need to make a success of moving on from care to adult life.

10 We will make sure you have the up-to-date information you need, including who is working with you and how to give us your views or ask us for help.



To give us feedback on how well Children's Services are keeping these promises, contact the Participation Team:

participation@peterborough.gov.uk



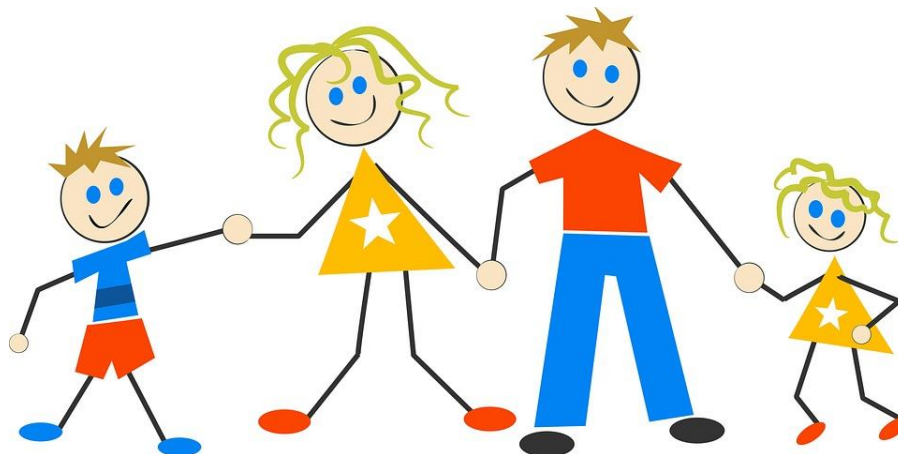
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Appendix 2

PETERBOROUGH AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

2022 - 2023



Document Control Sheet

Purpose of Document	To identify our priorities in relation to children in care and those that have experience of being in care. The vision, and plan to address the priorities.
Document ratified	
Equality Impact Assessment, Completed?	Not Applicable
Document Lead, author and their role	Myra O'Farrell Head of Service Corporate Parenting
What other documents should this be considered with	Sufficiency strategy Peterborough Strategic Framework Cambridgeshire Strategic Framework

Revisions

Version	Page	Description of Amendment	Date of Change
	throughout	The strategy has been amended to align the two separate Corporate Parenting strategies into one document.	December 2022

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Our Vision

At Peterborough and Cambridgeshire there is a vision to ensure children have the opportunities to reach their potential (PCC Strategic Framework 2022-2025: priority 2) are supported to have the best possible outcomes, accessing the right support to do so (Cambridgeshire Strategic Framework 2022-23)



We have a strong responsibility in ensuring that children who are in our care and who have had experience of it, are included in the priorities that shape their lives into adulthood. Our Strategy actively promotes resilience, improving life chances, developing creative approaches to care planning whilst adhering to budget requirements.

The Strategy links to the corporate priorities of both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and is part of the integral ambition of both councils to provide outstanding services to this vulnerable group.

The purpose of the Strategy is to amalgamate the two previously separate Corporate Parenting Strategies into one document as this is a shared service across both councils. The Strategy builds upon the strengths already achieved and the next steps in improving the areas identified that need further focus.

Cambridgeshire County Council Strategic Framework 2022-2023: Priority Four

Children and Young People: We are committed to ensuring Children and Young People have the opportunity to thrive, so we will:

- Focus on the early years of a child's life to provide them with the best opportunities possible to give them the Best Start in Life
- Develop the Children's Collaborative as part of the Integrated Care System in order to better align health, early help and social care support, to improve outcomes in areas including mental health and child criminal exploitation
- Work across the partnership including Health, District Councils, the community and voluntary sector to deliver targeted support at neighbourhood and district level in line with our Early Help Strategy: Strong Families, Strong Communities
- Continue the Family Safeguarding approach in our Children's Social Care Services, so that children and young people are safeguarded from harm
- Support our children and young people in care to achieve the best possible outcomes and ensure that our care leavers are able to access the support they need as they move into adult life
- Ensure that our schools have the support they need in order that all of our children, including those with Special Educational Needs succeed in learning.

Peterborough Corporate Strategy 2022-2025: Priority Outcomes 2

Prevention, Independence and Resilience Our plans:

Priority Outcomes for children and young people are safe from harm and lead healthy lives children and young people are confident, resilient, thrive in their learning and engage positively and actively in their communities.

All young care leavers can access a good, enhanced local offer that meets their health, education, housing and employment needs.

Adults react to pressing social challenges and emergencies (i.e. cost of living crisis), providing imminent help & support to those who are most at risk of slipping into crisis long-term care and support when needed is personalised and keeps people connected to their communities

Ensuring transitions between health and social care services work well.

Find ways to create job opportunities for our most productive generation, then create an environment of hope and a vision and plan that inspires the young to do more and do more locally Education & Skills for All.

Narrow the productivity gap within our future City workforce through an education strategy and plan for early and secondary years and a plan our parents and communities can get excited about.

An adult skill offering that meets the needs of our residents and existing and future employers. This includes our residents that are most at risk of exclusion from society

How this Strategy links to other activities

- A Pledge to children in care and care leavers which outlines our commitments to them and the support they can expect from us
- A Local Offer for Care Leavers, informed by the views of our children and young people
- Corporate Parenting Committee's which are well established and are co-chaired with young people who have care experience.
- The Virtual School, which works with schools, colleges, training providers, education settings and Children's Social Care to improve educational outcomes for children in care and care supported by high quality placements needed by children in care and care leavers
- A joint Social Care and Housing Strategy that focuses on plans to prevent homelessness and support delivery of the Corporate Strategy
- A commitment to ensuring that Corporate Parenting responsibilities are embedded in all applicable policies, strategies and commissioning arrangements led by the Corporate Parenting Committees.
- The Council's overarching Corporate Strategies with dedicated priorities for children in care and those with care experience.

- A Placement Sufficiency Plan, that sets out how we will deliver the range and number of high quality placements needed by children in care and care leavers
- The children in Care Council and the Care reviewed and revised the children



Our Promise

The promises made to children in care and those who have experienced care are set out below and were produced by the Children in Care Councils in both Local Authorities. These therefore are the areas they feel are the most important aspects of how those caring for them should exercise their responsibilities.

Our Promise to Children and Young people in Care

1. **Keeping you Safe means** We will work to keep you safe and help you to keep yourself safe.
2. **Respecting You means** We will do everything we can to make you feel cared about and valued and respected as an individual.
3. **Being honest means** We will be honest with you and explain if we are unable to do something we said we would do. We will not make unrealistic promises to you.
4. **Making decisions together means** We will involve you in decision making so your views are listened to and will explain when we make a decision you may not agree with.
5. **Where you live means** We will work to keep you in a supportive and caring environment where you feel safe and happy.
6. **Your health means** We will support you to maintain a healthy lifestyle and help look after your physical and mental health.
7. **Your relationships means** We will help you see your family, friends and other people who are important to you. If there are people we can't support to see you we will explain why.
8. **Achievements means** We will support you to achieve your goals and reach your potential, in your education, hobbies and interests.

Those with Care Experience: the offer

1. **Respect-** We will listen to you as individuals with an open mind, with your different needs, ideas and beliefs. We will tailor the service to fit you or make sure you have an explanation if we are not able to do something for you.
2. **Helping you do the best you can-** We will value your strengths and talents, encouraging your aspirations. We will support you with education and employment. If we can't meet your needs we will try to help you find a service that can. We will do our best to help you break-down barriers you might encounter with other agencies, to ensure you reach your goals.
3. **Clear Communication-** We will stay in touch with you, make sure you can contact your worker in a way that is best for you. We will let you know how to complain or access an

advocate if you are not happy with the service you have. We will invite you to express your views on how services can be improved.

4. **Finding a home-** We will work alongside you to prepare you for your move into independent living. We will help you think about choices available and to find accommodation and furnishings that are right for you. We will do everything we can to ensure you are happy and feel safe when you move to independent living. We recognise that at different times we might need to reconsider the plan depending on your differing needs.
5. **Support-** We will provide support set out in the current regulations and guidance. As well as information, advice, practical and financial help we will provide emotional support. We recognise that you might change your mind about what you want to do. If we cannot meet those needs we will try to help you find a service that can.

Strategic Context

The Children Act 1989 sets out Local Authority responsibilities to Looked After Children. Volume 3 of the Guidance Regulations: Planning Transitions to Adulthood for Care Leavers and gives details of how Care Leavers should be provided with support and the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 extended the responsibility of the Local Authority to young people leaving care, up to the age of 25.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 defined for the first time in law the responsibility of Corporate Parents to ensure, as far as possible, secure, nurturing and positive experiences for Looked After Children and Young People, and Care Leavers. Being a Corporate Parent means doing everything possible for every Looked After Child and Care Leaver to give them same opportunities that other children receive. This means that Corporate Parents should:

- act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those Children and Young People
- encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them
- make sure they have access to services
- make sure that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships, education or work
- prepare them for adulthood and independent living

Local Authorities do not act alone in their Corporate Parenting role. The Children Act 1989 placed a duty on the NHS, Housing and Education authorities to assist Social Care Services to fulfil their responsibility by providing support and services.

What is Corporate Parenting

It means that there is a shared responsibility by the councils, the elected members, employees, and partner agencies to support children and young people in having the best start in life, no matter that starting point.

Being a good Corporate Parent means

- we accept children in our care are our responsibility
- we provide them with the same outcomes as any other reasonable parent
- prioritise their needs

We do this by working closely with the Children in Care Council and the Care Leavers forum to ensure we are listening and acting on their views in order to continuously improve our services.

Working in Partnership

Corporate Parenting works collaboratively with a range of partners to ensure children and young people have a wide range of opportunities and access to services to prevent things escalating. We do this by working closely with Fostering, Commissioning, the Virtual School, Looked After Children Team in Health called CPFT (Peterborough) and ICS (Cambridgeshire).

Local Context

The numbers of children in Cambridgeshire have reduced through targeted interventions over the last year. For Peterborough the number of children has remained relatively consistent over a number of years. Both Local Authorities have adopted the Family Safeguarding Model of Social Work Intervention, believing that the majority of children are best served in remaining with their families and where they cannot that they receive the right intervention from the point of access. As of the 31st March 2022, there were 596 children in care in Cambridgeshire and 344 in Peterborough.

Finding the right type of homes for children and young people has become more of a challenge over the last few years. This is a similar experience nationally and regionally.

Our Approach to Our Priorities:

Keeping you safe

Objective

To provide early responsive multi-agency intervention and support to prevent children and young people coming into care. Where children and young people come into care, we will use



the same approach from early help to be responsive and timely in providing services to prevent a child's living arrangements breaking down.

We will work directly to help children and young people to understand how to keep themselves safe. This will include a multi-agency approach and care planning.

We will include children and young people in preparing for adulthood so that they stay safe as they enter adulthood.

Where needed we will get the right specialist services to support children and young people's needs.

Evidence

Reduction of children coming into care by providing early help approaches, implementing the multi-agency Family Safeguarding Model of Intervention to Support Families.

Reduction of the number of contact to referrals as a marker of evidencing we are offering early, multi-agency interventions.

Impact Measures

- Reduction in the number of children coming into care
- Increase the number of children being supported through early intervention, and Early Help Services.
- Increase the use of de-escalation of need in relation to child protection to child in need.
- Reunify children and families when it is safe to do so.
- Increase Staying Put as the support for post 18 care planning.
- Offer return home interviews to all children who go missing.
- Improve stability in the homes to children in care who live further away.



Respecting You

Objective

We will ensure that every child who comes into care has a 'Welcome Pack' so that young people know what being in care is about, with key information about children's rights and what happens next. Where possible we will ensure that every child has a 'buddy' from another young person who is in care who can offer guidance and real life experience of what it is like to be in care.

We will undertake regular direct work with children and young people linked to their care plan so that children and young people are informed about their plan and can fully participate by sharing their feelings, thoughts and wishes.

We will do everything we can to make a child feel cared about. As part of this children and young people will be offered an advocate in some instances if it is felt that additional support is needed. The 'Welcome Pack' also gives children information about what it is like to be cared for away from family.

Evidence

Age appropriate 'Welcome Pack's' are in every office for Social Workers to share and support those coming into care.

Regular audits review the frequency and quality of direct work being undertaken along with the usage of direct work tools used. The learning from these will be reviewed through repeat audit activity.

Regularly review each child's care plan through the childcare review system.

Ensure that every care plan has a focus on outcomes with SMART planning to support this.

Impact Measures

- Increase permanency plans such as adoption, Special Guardianship Orders and long-term matching for foster homes.
- Increase the use of advocates and independent visitors.
- Increase young people's participation in their childcare reviews.
- Evidence in case work, that children and young people's views have been sought creatively and these inform care planning and their reviews.
- Evidence that children participate and or are offered the opportunity to participate, in a range of reviews that affect their lives, such as their Personal Education Plan, their health assessment and child care reviews.

Being Honest

There are times when children and young people's wishes cannot be fulfilled due to a number of reasons such as it not being safe, or unrealistic. Our approach is that the child's Social Worker will remain as their Social Worker for the duration of their childhood where-ever possible.

We will make sure that those working to support a child or young person has the right training to know how to explain sensitive things in the right way at the right time so that the impact of explaining such sensitive things does not have an adverse effect.

We will work with specialist services and will also listen to their advice when working with children and young people to develop bespoke Care Plans and Pathway Plans.

Evidence

Every child will have an allocated Social Worker

Every child and their carers will be offered services that are timely and responsive when required. These will be based upon need and effectiveness of the intervention.

Where a want, or wish cannot be fulfilled this is responded to clearly, sensitively explaining the situation age appropriately.

Impact Measures

- Reduce the number of changes of Social Worker unless there is a valid reason.
- Clarify further transition planning to promote smooth handover from Children in Care Team to the Leaving Care Teams.
- Incorporate specialist advice and guidance into the assessment and analysis of outcome focused Care Plans
- Monitor the number and types of complaints made by children and young people to inform practice.
- Further increase stability of the place you live in

Make Decisions Together

We recognise that children and young people have come into care due to significant issues for them at home. Therefore, making decisions together is part of the recovery process for a child and young person.

Listening to children, their views whether verbal or non-verbal is the key to understanding where they are on the journey of recovery and the services they need.

Evidence

- Every Social Worker will undertake statutory visiting within the timescales and guidelines set.
- Care planning will include the voice and lived experience of a child.

Impact Measures

- All statutory visits meet the timescales set and children are recorded as per the regulations and guidance for statutory visits.
- Direct work includes non-verbal observations of children pre speech and those that use other forms of communication.
- Decisions about children's futures and care planning will include the views of other professionals, carers and family.

Where you live

Where a child lives is important as it supports children and young people's identity, networks, and the path to successfully preparing for adulthood.



We recognise that for some children and young people their needs mean that they may need a limited period in more specialised provisions which often mean they will be much further away from their original home. In those circumstances we will work with providers to ensure children and young people can exit and return to Peterborough and Cambridgeshire safely and sustainably.

Evidence

- Stability of the home’s children live in
- An increase in the use of ‘strength and difficulty questionnaires and the impact they have on care planning.
- Personal Education Plans are reviewed termly with the allocated Social Worker in attendance, having updated the social care element of the plan.

Impact Measures

- Reduction in the use of specialist provisions
- Joint funding where required is based upon the needs of children
- Specialist services reduce the need for specialist provisions
- The use of external residential provision is reduced
- Improved performance in Special Guardianship Orders
- Children and young people have a greater choice of locally sourced homes whilst in care
- Children return home where and when possible sustainably
- Affordable social housing in the areas of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire
- Reduction in street homeless and rough sleeping
- Reduction in NEET and an increase in young people accessing apprenticeships, employment and education post 16 & 18
- Reduction in young people living in unsuitable accommodation
- Joint housing protocol to prioritise those who have experience of being in care with social housing

Your Health



Children and young people’s health matters as often prior to coming into care this may well have been neglected. We know that children being separated from family can also add to a child’s trauma and can affect how they perceive and trust adults. We therefore will work jointly with our health partners in supporting children and young people on their road to recovery.

Evidence

- All children will have initial health assessments within 20 working days of coming in care unless in this time they return home.
- All children will have access to a dentist
- All children will have a strengths and difficulties questionnaire and that this is regularly updated as part of their wider health and care needs
- All young people leaving care will have health passports at the point of leaving care for them to keep
- We will ensure children and young people who need other bespoke services will have these needs assessed as a starting point to determine whether this is needed and its effectiveness

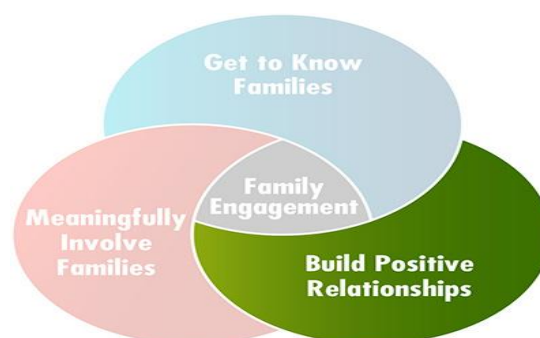
Impact Measures

- Increase in children and young people accessing dentists
- Increase in performance of initial health assessments and annual health assessments within timescales
- Feedback from Health is that the quality of initial health assessment referrals improves
- Increase in the use of clinician support and intervention to prevent instability in the places children live
- Foster carer feedback in the Annual Foster Carer report shows an improvement in 'customer satisfaction'
- Increase in young people accessing the ICASH blood borne virus service

Your Relationships

Children and young people tell us regularly who and what matters to them. Our role is to support and nurture positive and safe relationships with those that are important to them.

There are occasions where the person who is important to a child, young person may not be someone who is safe for them to see or live with. We have a duty to explain why age appropriately.



Evidence

- Every Childcare Review will review contact arrangements to assess what has changed in the last 6 months to enable face to face contact to occur
- All changes to a child's living arrangements such as being separated from their sibling must be evidenced with a Sibling Assessment before decisions are made about separating siblings

- All significant changes to a child's living arrangements will be supported by an assessment to inform care planning
- The child, young persons views on who they live with is assessed through direct work, statutory visits
- Every file has an up-to-date genogram and eco map on it updated as required per the guidelines from the moment they come into care
- All parents are offered the opportunity to participate within their child or young person's review unless their presence would be unsafe for the child
- Increase in staying put arrangements
- Reduction in young people living in unsuitable accommodation

Impact Measures

- Siblings remain together unless an assessment has underpinned the move
- Increase in reports for childcare reviews being sent to parents 5 days before a Review
- An increase in children having unsupervised contact with parents that is age appropriate and safe.
- Increase in reunifications
- Increase in Staying Put arrangements

Achievements

All children who come into care do so at different starting points in relation to their educational and emotional experiences. We know that helping children maintain their school, friends and local networks helps children and young people's resilience to the trauma they have experienced and achieve.

Our aim therefore is to support children to enjoy learning in all its forms, seeing it as the means to support self-esteem, self-worth, and life-long emotional and physical health.

As part of celebrating the achievements of children in care and those who have care experience, we hold annual events.

Evidence

- Every child who is in care will have access to education
- Every child will be offered 15 hours education whilst a school is being organised as a minimum for a short period of time
- Children who are not in education will be offered education from the virtual school to compensate
- Hobbies and interests will be supported within reason as a parent would in the community
- Apprenticeships are promoted as a viable option within the council

Impact Measures

- There is an expectation that all children should be achieving grade 4 and above in English and maths. The performance data will be monitored, reviewed annually.
- There is an increase in young people going onto higher education and apprenticeships.
- Reduction in NEET performance data.

For young adults who have had experience of being cared for.



Respect

Young adults are clear about how they would like to be communicated with based upon their wishes, feelings, experiences and what works best for them given their lifestyle. At 17.5 the Personal Adviser will start those conversations but with the understanding that face to face is the best way to stay in touch.

Evidence

- Personal Advisers will stay in touch as a minimum every 8 weeks but more if required and agreed by both
- Personal Advisers will see care experienced young people face to face at a place mutually agreed

Impact Measures

- There is an increase in staying in touch
- The starting point will be face to face is best but not always suitable for all care experienced

Helping you be the best you can

Staying in touch with those who have been in our care is important as our corporate parenting responsibilities are much more than just caring for children in care. What happens to those who have been in care matters because like any parent to see a child blossom and grow into a young adult makes us proud.

The Personal Adviser will be the key person assigned to a young person prior to them leaving care, remaining with them until 21 with the option of remaining in contact up to the age of 25 where needed. Our focus will always be about valuing strengths, talents, whilst supporting aspirations. This will take the form of practical help in some instances, offering guidance on how to navigate other agencies and situations so that those that have left care are resilient and confident to manage in the adult world successfully.

Evidence

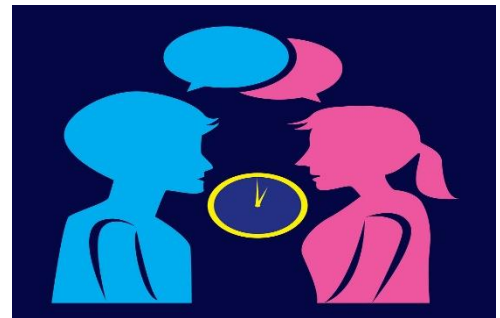
- Pathway plans include the strengths and aspirations
- Pathway plans are outcome focused promoting independence and resilience at all stages.

Impact Measures

- Pathway plans are up to date, being undertaken with the young person
- Pathway plans are S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) and outcome focused
- Reduction in NEET (not in education, employment and training) and unsuitable accommodation
- Reduction in street homelessness and rough sleeping

Clear Communication

Communicating how the Personal Adviser and young adult will work together is the starting point of a positive relationship. There may well be times when the expectations of a person who has care experience and the Personal Adviser is at odds. There will be opportunities for those who have experienced care to raise concerns and complaints to ensure situations can be resolved early and amicably so that trust does not break down.



Evidence

- Complaints from those who have care experience reduce and are resolved at an earlier stage
- Pathway plans set out how each will communicate
- The use of advocates is evidenced within case work as part of promoting young adults rights
- Audits will evidence the quality of work as above
- Young people leaving care know about the local offer and what they can expect

Impact Measures

- Pathway plans are up to date and reflect the work being undertaken
- Case recording meets the expectations set as per guidance and links to the progression of the pathway plans

Finding a home

Our approach will be to prepare young adults for independent living as early as possible. This will include age-appropriate independence training while in care. Personal Advisers are there to support the transition from being in care to living alone. Where possible we will promote staying put as the best option to support the plan of transitioning to adult hood.

Not all young adults are ready for a home of their own, in those circumstances. It is the role of the Social Worker to ensure that where young people need ongoing support such as from adult services or mental health services that this is in place prior to them turning 18. The Personal Adviser will work collaboratively with ongoing services but will not have overall responsibility.

Evidence

- Personal Advisers will support the setting up home grant
- Pathway plans will include how young experienced young people will be supported to find homes based upon their needs, level of independence.
- The stepping out assessment tool will support the preparation for independence.

Impact Measures

- That all young people needing ongoing services have these secured prior to them being 18.
- The stepping out document is used routinely to support independence planning prior to the final pathway plan pre 18.



Support

We will continue to offer support as part of our duty under the leaving care legislation. We will provide information, advice, practical and some financial help along with listening and caring. We will always support those who have been in care to develop resilience and independence as part of that support.

Evidence

- Pathway plans are S.M.A.R.T. and outcome focussed
- Pathway plans include how those that have been in care wish to be communicated
- Pathway plans support independence development

Impact Measures

- Reduction in unsuitable accommodation
- Reduction in NEET
- Increase in apprenticeships within the council.

Monitoring of the Strategy

The Strategy will be monitored through the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board. In addition to this the 'You Said, We Did' feedback quarterly report which is lead on by participation will ensure the Strategy is kept and a live document. Other internal systems and processes such as Performance meetings, monthly performance reporting and audits will support the progression of the Strategy. We will provide impact of the Strategy to the Corporate Parenting Committees on an annual basis.

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CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
11 MARCH 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	John Gregg, Executive Director for Children and Young People	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Ray Bisby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Gary Jones, Service Director, Children's Social Care & Targeted Support	Tel. 01733 863624

OUTCOME OF OFSTED ILACS INSPECTION OF PETERBOROUGH CHILDREN'S SERVICES

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services under the inspection framework: The Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services [ILACS]; 2. Notes the areas for development recorded in the inspection report and agrees in principle to support officers in delivering continuing improvement, continuing the strong tradition of corporate and Member support for Children's Services. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Scrutiny Committee at the request of the Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Scrutiny Committee to gain an overview of the inspection findings about the impact of Children's Services and the broader partnership of agencies working with children and young people in Peterborough on improving outcomes. Peterborough welcomes external scrutiny since this provides us with an independently verified baseline against which to assess the impact of our services, while providing us with clear areas where we need to focus attention to continue service improvement.

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

2.3 How does this report link to the Children in care Promise?

The Ofsted inspection report fully links to the Children in Care promise as the report evaluates the effectiveness of the Council and its partners to deliver on the Children in Care promise.

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 ILACS is an inspection ‘system’, introduced in January 2018 aimed at making inspection, risk-based and proportionate, through more frequent contact tailored to each local authority.

The ILACS inspection system comprises of:

- a. an annual engagement meeting between the local authority and an Ofsted regional representative to reflect on what is happening in the local authority and to inform future engagement.
- b. standard inspections (usually for local authorities judged requires improvement to be good)
- c. short inspections (for local authorities judged good or outstanding)
- d. focused visits that look at a specific area of service or cohort of children, taking place over 2 days, usually in between standard / short inspections.
- e. monitoring visits for authorities rated ‘inadequate’.
- f. Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI).

4.2. Local authorities are encouraged to participate in activity outside inspection, such as sharing a self-evaluation for discussion at the annual engagement meeting.

4.3. Peterborough City Council was informed on Monday 20th November 2023 that a standard ILACS inspection will commence with immediate effect, with inspectors on site at Sand Martin House from 27th November to 8th December 2023. Ofsted engaged with the local authority in the week preceding the on-site visit, gathering information and intelligence to inform their key lines of enquiry.

4.4. The outcome of the 2018 inspection was that Peterborough was assessed as ‘Good’ in all four inspection areas:

The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families.
The experience and progress of children who need help and protection.
The experience and progress of children in care and care leavers.
Overall effectiveness.

4.5. In March 2023 Ofsted undertook a Focused Visit of Peterborough City Council’s arrangements of their Front Door Service. Following the Focused Visit which took place on the 1 and 2 March 2023, the Local Authority was given two priority actions:

- 1. The timeliness of response to contacts, referrals and multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) enquiries about children and subsequent visits from social workers.
- 2. Multi-agency arrangements and responses to children and young people at risk of extra-familial harm.

4.6. Further to the March 2023 Focused Visit, an improvement board has been operational since early November 2023, chaired by an independent chair and attended by the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services; the chairs of the Corporate Parenting and Scrutiny Committee’s; the Chief Executive of the Council; Directors and senior partner agency representatives; a DFE advisor and an Ofsted representative. The focus of the improvement board at the time was on the two Ofsted priority actions, but the remit of the improvement board will be extended to offer scrutiny, challenge, and support to all improvements for children’s services as set out in the draft Ofsted improvement plan.

4.7. The priority actions arising from the Ofsted Focused Visit in March 2023 meant that the November 2023 ILACS inspection was undertaken as a full standard ILACS inspection and not as a short inspection.

4.8. The inspection report was published on Monday, 29th January 2024 and the report is attached as an annex to this committee report. The outcome of the November 2023 inspection was that Peterborough was assessed as inadequate overall for the effectiveness of Children’s Services.

There are five ILACS judgement categories:

- 4.9.
- a. The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families – Requires Improvement to be Good.
 - b. The experience and progress of children who need help and protection – Requires Improvement to be Good.
 - c. The experience and progress of children in care – Requires Improvement to be Good
 - d. The experience and progress of care leavers - Inadequate.
 - e. Overall effectiveness - Inadequate.

4.10. The overall effectiveness of Children’s Services is judged to be inadequate. Where Local Authorities are judged to be inadequate in any of the five ILACS judgement areas, this does impact the overall judgement of the effectiveness of Children’s Services. This means that the Local Authority will now have monitoring visits from Ofsted, with the first monitoring visit taking place in July 2024. Monitoring visits will focus on where improvement is needed the most. Inspectors will monitor and report on the local authority’s progress since the inspection. Inspectors will also check that performance in other areas has not declined since the inspection. If new concerns emerge, inspectors are likely to look at these on the monitoring visits.

4.11. The report notes “Since the last inspection of Peterborough, in June 2018, when all services for children were judged to be good, there has been a deterioration in the quality of practice, and in the experience and progress of children and young people. A lack of sufficient leadership focus, complicated by joint service arrangements with a neighbouring local authority, has meant that the significance of this decline was only identified relatively recently”.

4.12. Ofsted Inspectors did note in their report that “The new leadership team, led by an experienced director of children’s services (DCS), has quickly grasped the scale and nature of the improvement that is needed. Since July 2023, the leadership team has completed a robust and accurate self-evaluation, identified the crucial areas for improvement and begun to tackle these, with appropriate prioritisation. This has included taking effective action to address the most pressing shortfalls, identified by a focused visit to the integrated front door in March 2023. This improvement is, however, very recent, and there remains much to do, particularly in improving support for care leavers, which is currently inadequate”.

4.13. There are eight key improvement recommendations arising from the ILACS inspection, which have already been incorporated into the Local Authority’s draft Ofsted improvement plan. The Local Authority has seventy days from the date of publication to produce an Ofsted improvement plan setting out how it will address the key areas for improvement. The leadership team has produced a draft Ofsted improvement plan which is being discussed at the Improvement Board on the 21st February 2024. Obtaining feedback from the board and partner agencies is central to delivering on improvements for children and young people.

4.14. Peterborough is a challenging place to deliver good outcomes for children and young people; we have a fast growing, highly mobile and highly diverse community with many children and their families living in areas of significant deprivation. Children's Services has several challenges in relation to their improvement agenda namely, too many workers have workloads that are too high to allow them time to help children make progress. Management capacity is insufficient in some areas and strategic partnerships are underdeveloped following the termination of joint arrangements. A challenging financial climate, placement sufficiency and resource constraints are additional compounding factors influencing the delivery of services for children and young people.

4.15. Positively, the Ofsted report notes "A suitably experienced lead member for children's services is now in post. The chief executive is fully sighted on the need for step change improvement and, in a challenging financial climate, is committed to prioritising this work".

4.16. Further to the Ofsted Improvement Plan for Children's Services being submitted to Ofsted, the improvement plan will be presented to Scrutiny Committee at the July 2024 committee meeting.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 Consider how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

1. The Economy & Inclusive Growth

- Environment (including a summary of the outcome of a completed Carbon Impact Assessment, to be submitted in full to the Transport and Environment Team)
- Homes and Workplaces
- Jobs and Money

2. Our Places & Communities

- Places and Safety (including any rural implications)
- Lives and Work
- Health and Wellbeing

3. Prevention, Independence & Resilience

- Educations and Skills for All
- Adults
- Children - our children still lag the national average at every level of qualification, creating a possible wedge between supply and demand for those future higher skilled, higher income jobs – if not addressed, this trend is likely to create a productivity gap within our future City workforce, slowing down growth opportunities.

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4. Sustainable Future City Council

- How we Work
- How we Serve
- How we Enable

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant managers and staff.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 For Scrutiny Committee to:

- a. note the outcome of the ILACS inspection report and the eight improvement recommendations which will inform the Local Authorities Ofsted improvement plan.

- b. Seek assurance that work is underway to reframe partnerships more collaboratively, listening to children and raising the ambition and aspirations of services for children.
- c. Request the Ofsted Improvement Plan is brought to Scrutiny Committee in July 2024.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The Ofsted improvement plan will detail the improvement for children's services. The required improvement will be delivered by children's services and our partner agencies. The Ofsted monitoring visits will focus on where improvement is needed the most. Inspectors will monitor and report on the local authority's progress since the inspection. Inspectors will also check that performance in other areas has not declined since the inspection. It is critical that progress against the improvement plan is brought before Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis to provide assurance to the Committee that services for children and young people are improving.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no alternative options for the Committee to consider.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct financial implications relating to this report.

Legal Implications

- 10.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from the contents of this report, save for noting the Council's obligations pursuant to the Equalities Act 2010.

Equalities Implications

- 10.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered are for information purposes only, therefore the Council's full EIA process does not need to be applied.

- 10.4 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 10.5 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- a. eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - b. advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - c. foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Other Relevant Implications

- 10.6 The Ofsted report identifies that services for Care Leavers are inadequate. The Local Authority accepts the judgement which has been made in respect of services for our young people. The Local Authority is fully committed to improving services for Care Leavers with pace and in collaboration with young people and our partner agencies. An improvement plan is in draft and will be brought to Scrutiny Committee in July 2024.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

N/A

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1 - Ofsted Inspection of Peterborough local authority children's services
Inspection dates: 27 November to 8 December 2023

Inspection of Peterborough local authority children's services

Inspection dates: 27 November to 8 December 2023

Lead inspector: Russel Breyer, His Majesty's Inspector

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children in care	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of care leavers	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	Inadequate

Since the last inspection of Peterborough, in June 2018, when all services for children were judged to be good, there has been a deterioration in the quality of practice, and in the experience and progress of children and young people. A lack of sufficient leadership focus, complicated by joint service arrangements with a neighbouring local authority, has meant that the significance of this decline was only identified relatively recently.

The new leadership team, led by an experienced director of children's services (DCS), has quickly grasped the scale and nature of the improvement that is needed. Since July, the leadership team has completed a robust and accurate self-evaluation, identified the crucial areas for improvement and begun to tackle these, with appropriate prioritisation. This has included taking effective action to address the most pressing shortfalls, identified by a focused visit to the integrated front door in March 2023. This improvement is, however, very recent, and there remains much to do, particularly in improving support for care leavers, which is currently inadequate.

What needs to improve?

- The quality of support, advice, and guidance for care leavers, including those with additional vulnerabilities, to ensure that this is timely, consistent, and responsive to levels of need.
- Service capacity, particularly in the safeguarding teams, care leaver service and emergency duty service.
- The consistency in quality of social work assessments.
- Social work support for disabled children in need of help and protection.
- The identification and response to increased vulnerability when children are electively home educated or missing from education.
- The quality of supervision, so that social workers are supported to think through complex situations, to help children make progress.
- The sufficiency of suitable placements that can meet children and young people's assessed needs.
- The consistency of support for children who go missing from care.

The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection: requires improvement to be good

1. Children benefit from early help services, with support provided in line with their needs. Changing needs and risks are identified and responded to in a timely way. Workers develop positive relationships with children and their families, which helps them to deliver effective interventions.
2. The focused visit in March 2023 found that there were serious delays in the response to contacts and referrals and in children being visited and seen. Initial responses to this shortfall were not effective and backlogs remained until August 2023. Since the summer, improvements have been achieved and this inspection found children's needs being promptly considered and responded to.
3. A small number of management decisions made while addressing the backlog in July and August 2023 lacked sufficient curiosity and were over-reliant on parental self-reporting. When these cases were presented by inspectors for review, managers took swift and appropriate action to remedy these shortfalls. More recent decision-making is more robust. Strategy meetings are appropriately convened and attended by the necessary range of professionals. Child protection enquiries are planned appropriately, although the written plans to monitor and support children while risks are being assessed sometimes lack detail about how potential risks will be managed.

4. The capacity of the commissioned emergency duty service to respond as needed to concerns about children out of hours is too limited. This means that sometimes partner agencies, such as the police, are managing situations without social work support.
5. Most assessments of children's needs are timely, and children receive an appropriate service. A minority of weaker assessments give insufficient attention to family history and are not sufficiently specific about what needs to be addressed.
6. Children in need of protection, and those with more complex needs, receive appropriate support from the family safeguarding teams. For most children, risks and needs are identified and interventions are provided at the right level.
7. When risk to children increases, children are moved into and through pre-proceeding processes in a timely way. Many children are diverted away from court effectively and remain safely living with their parents. When risks are not addressed, timely court applications are made for those children who need them.
8. Most children at risk of exploitation have their needs identified, with risk and harm responded to appropriately. Social workers develop meaningful and trusting relationships with children, which helps them to make progress and advocate strongly for children, challenging preconceptions, and use of inappropriate language by partners. This was an area for priority action following the focused visit in March 2023.
9. Children who are privately fostered are appropriately identified and have their needs assessed and support provided accordingly. Children who are at risk of needing to become looked after receive effective support.
10. Practitioners are unclear about the threshold for disabled children to receive a service from the children with disabilities 0-25 team. This means that some children may not benefit from the specialist service they need or continuity of service and worker. Most disabled children receive a sensitive and needs-led service, but some assessed as in need of support experience delay before they are allocated to a social worker. The duty system in the 0-25 team means that unqualified workers sometimes respond to situations which may become child protection concerns, which creates potential delay in these concerns being fully assessed. Children in the transition service who are approaching adulthood have their needs identified well and are supported towards achieving their goals.
11. The circumstances of most children missing from education are understood, and appropriate checks are made. Clear policies and procedures are in place to review children who are electively home educated. The numbers of children receiving home education have increased significantly in the last year, which has

stretched current service capacity. This delays the reviewing of some children's circumstances and means that referrals to other teams are sometimes not made swiftly enough when concerns escalate.

12. Homeless 16- and 17-year-olds have not, until recently, received a response in line with the local authority's responsibilities. Consequently, some children with care needs have not had them met. This has been recognised and recent practice in this area better addresses children's needs and rights.
13. Allegations against adults who work with children are responded to appropriately and responses are proportionate to risk.

The experiences and progress of children in care: requires improvement to be good

14. Most decisions for children to enter care are made when it is in their interests to do so.
15. The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) and the family court judge report that the quality of evidence submitted by social workers in legal proceedings is good, and that the right children enter care at the right time.
16. Most children do not receive a timely initial assessment of their health needs when they first enter care. Senior managers are seeking to resolve this with health partners, but progress has been slow. Social workers and independent reviewing officers (IROs) seek to mitigate this by giving careful attention to meeting children's health needs through the looked after review process.
17. When there is potential for children to return to their family's care, assessments are detailed, and risk is carefully considered and reviewed. Rehabilitation back to their family is successful for most children for whom this is the plan.
18. Children who are subject to care orders and who return to live with their parents have their needs well assessed prior to placement and appropriate support plans are put in place. Plans are signed off at senior level and there is appropriate management oversight for these children.
19. Children in care are supported to remain in contact with people who are important to them.
20. Children are enabled to live in their extended families when possible. Assessments and plans to support this are thorough. Family group conferences support this process, although they are not always held early enough to avoid delay for some children.

21. Social workers form positive relationships with children and can articulate their wishes and feelings. Children's views and feelings are generally well recorded, but the voice of the child is not consistently captured meaningfully in care plans, and it is not always clear how the child's voice is influencing their care planning.
22. Many children in care live in homes that meet their needs. However, lack of sufficiency means some children are not initially placed in homes that are well matched to their needs. A small number of younger children are placed in children's homes, not because this is what best meets their needs but because of a lack of suitable family-based alternatives.
23. A significant proportion of children are placed at a distance from Peterborough. Most of these children are visited regularly, and social workers ensure that their needs are met in the area they are living in.
24. A well-resourced virtual school provides good-quality support and training for designated teachers and has improved the process for devising personal education plans so that children can better access resources to support their educational progress.
25. Foster carers are well supported to care for children. The fostering service is being developed to increase support to them and to encourage more people to foster for Peterborough.
26. Permanence is well considered for individual children, with a range of options. Adoption is appropriately considered, and decision-making is supported by good-quality assessments and plans. The local authority collaborates effectively with its local regional adoption agency (Cambridge and Peterborough Adoption Agency) to promote early matching to adopters. There are delays in securing permanence for a small number of children, for example those who are being fostered long term.
27. Children's care and progress are reviewed regularly. IROs visit children prior to their review meetings and seek their views. IROs challenge managers when children's plans are not progressing, but this does not always improve children's outcomes.
28. Social workers advocate well for disabled children in care. Most disabled children live in homes which meet their complex needs. For others, difficulties in identifying suitable placements, including education provision, lead to delay in having their needs met.
29. Service responses to children who go missing from care and may be at risk of exploitation are inconsistent. Some receive strong, individually tailored support, whereas others do not receive an effectively coordinated and sustained response.

30. Most unaccompanied asylum-seeking children being cared for live in homes that meet their needs and they are well supported by their social workers.
31. Children are very well supported to engage in a range of participation activities. There is a clear commitment from leaders to gain the views of a wide range of children and to evidence these views, making a difference to how services are designed and delivered. Children value and benefit from these participation activities.

The experiences and progress of care leavers: inadequate

32. While some care leavers develop positive relationships with their personal advisers (PAs), too many young people do not receive the support they need to make progress in their lives. Most are not allocated a PA early enough and some experience prolonged delays or a lack of consistency in PA, which has led to understandable disengagement. For too many young people, who may need encouragement to work with a PA, persistent efforts to engage them are not made. The expectation is that young people will reach out if they need help. Many do not. As a result, these young people are not getting the help or support they need, leading to delays and a deterioration in mental health and living conditions for some young people.
33. Throughout the local authority, there has been a lack of ambition for care leavers. PAs act as strong advocates for some young people, but this is not consistent across the service. The status of the local offer for care leavers reflects this. It is underdeveloped, and not consistently shared or understood. This means some young people are not getting the support they are entitled to. Support for social and leisure needs is particularly limited. For example, financial support to access Wi-Fi is not routinely provided and plans are only now being developed to offer gym passes. Care leavers with relatively modest requests for support with leisure activities face difficulties accessing this support, even when it could make a significant difference to their emotional well-being.
34. When care leavers are visited by their PAs, the quality of visits is too variable. Vulnerability is not always sufficiently understood or explored. PAs and managers are not curious enough about young people's histories and are over-reliant on self-reporting. Young people often have to repeat their stories and are not always signposted for support when addressing early-life trauma.
35. Pathway plans provide a reasonably comprehensive record of a young person's circumstances but are not completed within timescales for some, and not consistently updated when young people's situations change. Action plans resulting from pathway planning put too much onus on the young person to address their own needs and do not identify the support that needs to be provided.

36. A small but significant number of care leavers are not in suitable accommodation. This includes young people living in bed and breakfast accommodation. Some young people sofa surf for short periods. 'Staying put' requests are supported, and a specialist housing PA provides some creative and effective interventions to support young people to access housing and to maintain tenancies. However, a lack of capacity to do this work means that it is not consistent for all young people. Some housing providers understand the vulnerabilities and needs of care leavers and work with PAs to help them into housing and to maintain tenancies. Some providers work less well with leaving care services, which limits housing options for young people.
37. More needs to be done to ensure that an increased number of care leavers are fully engaged in suitable education, employment, or training. Their options are limited and not enough is being done to address this. While care leavers who go to university are well supported, with extra support provided for those who need it, outcomes for young people vary greatly across the service, with the most vulnerable doing far less well than their peers because of a lack of support.
38. Care leavers' health needs are addressed in their pathway plans, but for those who are not engaged by their PAs, their health needs can go unmet.
39. Care leavers who are parents are well supported when there are concerns about their child. In the small number of cases when a decision is reached that young people cannot provide safe care for their child, they are given appropriate emotional support.
40. Most care leavers who are in custody receive regular visits, and the service has delivered training to prison staff to help develop their understanding of care leavers' vulnerabilities. Plans for the release of care leavers from custody are weakened by a lack of local resources, for example, support in gaining employment.
41. Care leavers who are engaged with the service are supported to obtain the important documents that they need, such as passports and birth certificates.
42. When care leavers request support from a PA after the age of 21, this is usually agreed. However, this is not proactively offered to care leavers, which means that some are unaware of their rights and miss out on support they may need.
43. Engagement with young people in the Care Leaders Forum is a strength. They are involved in a number of projects and have been well supported to express their views. Until recently, however, leaders have been too slow in responding by, for example, enhancing and promoting the local care leaver offer.

44. Although PAs report that they like working for Peterborough, many view their service as lacking in capacity and resources in relation to other services, which impacts on their morale. Leaders acknowledge that services for care leavers have not been sufficiently prioritised.

The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families: requires improvement to be good

45. The current DCS has brought stability and renewed focus to the areas in which improvement is needed across children's services. Clear priorities have been set and appropriate plans developed. Some significant early improvements have been achieved, most notably in the integrated front door. The deficits in the current care leaver service have been accurately diagnosed and a plan to provide some much-needed additional capacity agreed. In this and other areas, more work is still required to deliver the necessary improvements.
46. Prior to the appointment of the current DCS, a lack of continuity in senior leadership contributed to the decline in services to children since the last inspection in 2018. Joint leadership and service arrangements with a neighbouring authority complicated and weakened service oversight and, until recently, self-evaluation had not accurately identified the seriousness of the deterioration in performance. Insufficient priority has been given to the resourcing of essential services and, as a result, there are significant capacity shortfalls in several service areas, most notably the leaving care service and the emergency duty team.
47. Alongside securing the business case for additional investment, senior leaders have taken further steps to achieve improvement. These include establishing an improvement board with strong external expertise and challenge, moving towards a more open culture of learning, reframing partnerships more collaboratively, listening to children and raising the ambition and aspirations of services for children.
48. A suitably experienced lead member for children's services is now in post. The chief executive is fully sighted on the need for step change improvement and, in a challenging financial climate, is committed to prioritising this work.
49. The formal corporate parenting board has not been effective in ensuring that improvements for children in care are driven forward, or that issues leading to the decline in performance for care leavers are addressed. The informal corporate parenting board, chaired by children, is enjoyed, and valued by them. Leaders recognise the need to strengthen the impact of the board. Some other strategic partnerships are underdeveloped following the termination of joint arrangements. The new leadership team has acted swiftly to form fresh relationships and develop a more coherent strategic approach.

50. Leaders now have a good range of performance information, including effective auditing arrangements, which help them to be sighted on the experience of children and to know what needs to improve. Their self-evaluation provides a realistic view on the current quality of practice.
51. Too many workers have workloads that are too high to allow them time to help children make progress. Management capacity is insufficient in some areas. Supervision is regular, but often not of good enough quality to ensure that children do not experience delay, or to help workers to think through approaches that would help children who have complex needs.
52. Despite this, workers are committed to Peterborough and most teams have stable staffing. Workers report good availability of managers when they need advice or support, and they are satisfied with training opportunities and the development offer. This provides a promising foundation on which to build the necessary improvements to services for children in Peterborough.

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