

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024

6.00 PM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

Contact: Charlotte Cameron, charlotte.cameron@peterborough.gov.uk

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**
 - 3.1 **2 August 2024 - Call-in** 3 - 8
 - 3.2 **23 September 2024 - Formal Committee Meeting** 9 - 14
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** 15 - 32
6. **Children's Services Improvement: Action Plan and Progress Monitoring** 33 - 80
7. **Admissions and Place Planning** 81 - 88
8. **Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations** 89 - 92
9. **Work Programme 2024/2025** 93 - 96

10. Date of Next Meeting - 27 January 2025

Emergency Evacuation Procedure – Outside Normal Office Hours

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<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=Protocol%20on%20the%20use%20of%20Recording&ID=690&RPID=2625610&sch=doc&cat=13385&path=13385>

Committee Members:

Councillors: H Skibsted (Chair), A Shaheed (Vice Chair), Bisby, Blakemore-Creedon, Geraghty, Hillier, Jenkins, Khan, Warren and Hemraj

Substitutes: Councillors: Young, Ray, Dowson, Shaheed, Farid and Farooq

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Charlotte Cameron on telephone 01733 384628 or by email charlotte.cameron@peterborough.gov.uk

**JOINT MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND
GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
CALL-IN
HELD AT 10.00AM, ON
FRUDAY, 2 AUGUST 2024
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Allen, Bisby, Blakemore-Creedon, Farid, JR Fox, Hemraj, Hogg, Jenkins, Khan, Mahmood, Ormston, Rafiq, Rangzeb, Ray, Sabir, Asif Shaheed (Chair), Skibsted, Strangward and Wiggin.

Co-opted Members: Brennan and Sandford.

Officers Present: Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Neil McArthur, Director Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Registered Speakers: Councillor Judy Fox
Sally Weald, representative of Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Andrew Pakes MP
Jan Forster
Tony Forster
Nyree Ambarchian, Save Werrington Fields
Councillor Katy Cole, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
John Gregg, Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services
Simon Lewis, Service Director of Commercial Partnerships, Property and Assets
Damien Whales, Headteacher Ken Stimpson Academy
Mike Sandeman, Four Cs Multi Academy Trust, CEO

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Senior Democratic Services Officer advised the Committee that in accordance with Part 4, Section 8 – Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, section 13, Joint Meetings of Scrutiny Committees, a Chair would be required to be appointed from among the Chairs of the Committees who were holding the meeting.

Nominations were sought from those present who were Councillor Asif Shaheed, Chair of the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Skibsted, Chair of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Shaheed was nominated by Councillor Skibsted and seconded by Councillor Ormston. There being no further nominations, Councillor Shaheed was appointed Chair of this committee.

The Chair welcomed everyone present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the call-in of the decision Ken Stimpson Academisation JUL24/CAB/15.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ayres, Ellis, Hillier, Geraghty, Thulbourn and Warren.

The councillors in attendance as substitutes were Allen, Rafiq, Sabir and Wiggan.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Blakemore Creedon declared that she was a student at Ken Stimpson Academy.

4. REQUEST TO CALL IN AN EXECUTIVE DECISION - KEN STIMPSON ACADEMISATION JUL24/CAB/15

The Chair introduced the item and talked the Committee through the call-in and what they had been asked to consider. The Chair referred to the speaking scheme and reminded those present that this was the procedure he would follow.

Councillors John Fox and Hogg were invited to the speakers table to present their reasons for the call-in and key points made included:

- The decision made by Cabinet had not been transparent and the people of Werrington should have been given the opportunity to hear a meaningful debate.
- The area required to be fenced had grown from 4 pitches to 8 and the public should have been told why.
- The Councillors argued that the people of Werrington had been left out of the decision-making process.
- Ken Stimpson was a small school in comparison to the area requested to be fenced off.
- The fencing of 4 pitches would have been a good proposal for both sides of the debate.
- Members felt that the decision had been made prior to the Cabinet meeting in July and the call-in was crucial for the transparency of the decision.
- Members criticised the lack of consultation.

The Chair then invited Councillor Judy Fox, Sally Weald of Werrington Neighbourhood Council, Nyree Ambarchian of Save Werrington Fields, Andrew Pakes MP, Jan Forster and Tony Forster to the speakers table to present their case in favour of the call-in and key points raised included:

- They agreed with the case for the call-in presented by Councillors John Fox and Hogg.
- They noted that the proposals did not have broad public support, and this was a highly contentious issue.
- There should have been clear and transparent answers at the Cabinet meeting.
- The residents of Werrington had been promised transparency however, there had been no debate at the Cabinet meeting.
- They criticised that lack of consultation and quality health impact assessment.
- The ongoing issue had not been good for the community or school, and they urged Cabinet to reconsider the decision.
- They could not understand why the Council had had to pay for the fence.
- Safeguarding concerns had not been evidenced and they queried the need for the 8 pitches.
- They emphasised that the school had not detailed how they would make full use of the pitches in question.
- The decision required careful consideration and the conduct of members at the Cabinet meeting had been a concern. The lack of debate highlighted a lack of meaningful decision making.

- All speakers agreed that it had felt that the decision had been made prior to the Cabinet meeting.

Members of the Committee were invited to ask questions of those who had made or supported the call-in, which included:

- Members sought clarification on the lack of consultation with ward councillors and asked whether their views had been included in the Cabinet report. The ward councillors advised that they had been hardly consulted with.
- The Committee were advised that residents felt that the decision had already been made and that the radio interview with the Leader had confirmed that.
- Members queried whether the speakers felt the school should pay for the fencing and were advised that it was felt they should.
- Members sought clarification on the use of the land and whether it had been designated as educational. Officers were asked to confirm, and Members were advised that the area in question had been designated for educational use.
- Members asked the speakers if they had spoken with pupils at the school and the speakers confirmed that they had not.

The Chair referred to the recommendation within the report and asked the Committee to confirm if they were happy that it had been dealt with. The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Children and Education and Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committees considered the request to call-in a decision taken by the Cabinet in respect of the Executive Decision: Ken Stimpson Academisation JUL24/CAB/15 as attached at appendix 1.

5. RESPONSE TO CALL IN AN EXECUTIVE DECISION - KEN STIMPSON ACADEMISATION JUL24/CAB/15

The Chair introduced the item and invited the Cabinet Member, Councillor Katy Cole. Executive Director Children and Young People's Service, John Gregg and Service Director Commercial, Property & Asset Management, Simon Lewis to the speakers table to respond to the call in, key points raised included:

- The Cabinet Member welcomed the recommendations within the report and advised that the Cabinet had listened to concerns and were keen to take on board the different opinions.
- The land in question had been designated for education use and the school had rights to the land following their academisation.
- The school had been unable to use the land for a number of years due to concerns regarding pupil safety.
- Members were advised that alternatives had been considered but they did not comply with the legislation and guidance that the authority had to follow.

The Chair then invited Damien Whales and Mike Sandeman to the speakers table to present their case in favour of original decision and key points raised included:

- A number of points raised echoed those made by the Cabinet Member and supporting Officers.
- The implications had been significant for the school and reiterated that area to be fenced off was designated educational land.

- The police had been called to the area on numerous occasions to address safety concerns.
- Members were advised that the school had not requested a new fence but an extension to the current one.
- They acknowledged a point in the previous discussion that confirmed that the students voice had not been heard.
- The staff involved were advocates for young people and the request for the fence had not been driven by money.

Members of the Committee were invited to ask questions of those who had responded to the call-in and supported the original decision, which included:

- Members queried why the compromise had been useless to the school and were advised that the safeguarding concerns had meant that the compromise would not work. It was important to protect children from perceived and real threats.
- Members asked what a compromise would look like and were advised that it was felt there had already been significant compromise.
- It was not for officers of the school to compromise on the safety of young people.
- Members were advised that the Council was required to facilitate the academisation of the school and that they were required to lease the land.
- Members acknowledged that the decision had been kicked around and that there had been many controversies.
- The Cabinet Member was asked to respond to the comments around the pre-determination of the Cabinet meeting. She noted that she would not have asked questions of her own report at the meeting and emphasised that the Cabinet had listened to residents' concerns.
- Officers had followed guidance in relation to the size of the land and were not aware of any unfenced, educational land.
- Members noted that the decision regarding the designation of the land had been made by the Department for Education. (DFE)
- Members expressed their sympathy for the ongoing case and were thankful that the Committee's views could be heard.
- Members argued that previous arrangements had been overlooked as a result of the academisation and called on the Officers to consider access to the fields outside of school hours.
- The Head Teacher confirmed that the community were permitted to use the land outside of school hours under the current dual use agreement.
- The school had determined the land was not safe to use around 5 years ago.
- Members asked how many safeguarding incidents had been recorded in the lead up to the decision. Members were advised that the number of incidents was irrelevant as one would be too many.
- Members sought clarification on whether the council should pay for the fence. Officers advised that a commitment had been made by the Council to fund the fencing and that they were liable for future charges.
- Members queried the allocation of the Cabinet portfolio and were advised that the Cabinet would welcome an opportunity to reconsider the decision.
- Members argued that this was not just a matter for the young people at the school but for all young people.
- Members were advised that the lease of the land would be signed once the matter had concluded.
- The Committee were advised that after the fencing of the 8 pitches, there was still a significant area of land left for community use.
- It was noted that if the ward councillors had not been consulted with, then this had been a breach on procedure in the Council's constitution.

- Members queried what the consequences would be if they were to go against the decision and sought clarity on the influence the Council had on the fencing of the land.
- Advice had been sought from Planning officers on the specification required for the fencing.
- Members were advised that Ofsted had previously failed schools that were not adequately fenced.
- Members were also advised that the next Ofsted inspection was due in 12-18 months and that the school were likely to fail due to the fence not being in place.

The Chair referred to the recommendation within the report and asked the Committee to confirm if they were happy that it had been dealt with. The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Children and Education and Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committees considered the response from officers to the call in of the Ken Stimpson Academisation JUL24/CAB/15 report which set out how member concerns had been addressed and also contained previously exempt financial and condition survey information.

The Chair indicated that it was time for debate and that there would be no further questions or statements from anyone other than the Committee.

The Committee then debated the recommendations and key points raised included:

- Both sides of the argument had been heard and Members praised the stance of the Cabinet Member.
- Members welcomed the agreement that the decision required reconsideration.
- The community had been using the space for decades and when the school had been built, it had been built for community use.
- The Council needed to consider how much space other academies have when determined how much of the fields should be fenced off.
- The Councillors praised Werrington Ward for coming together and urged the Committee to listen and send the decision back to Cabinet.
- Members emphasised that the voices of the young people at the school needed to be heard and not just members of the community who were against the fence.
- Members suggested that Cabinet should consult Full Council on the matter.
- Members noted that open public spaces were vital for mental health and wellbeing.
- The Committee agreed that the decision should be reconsidered by Cabinet and the voices of all parties should be heard.

The Chair concluded the debate and outlined the options for the Committee to take and invited Members to put forward any recommendations.

The Monitoring Officer provided clarity on what the Committee could do in terms of referring the matter to Full Council.

The following recommendation was put forward by Councillor Ray and was **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed that: Cabinet refer this item to Full Council to get the views of members, allowing time for sufficient public consultation, and for Council to then make two recommendations back to Cabinet, the first surrounding the amount of land to be included in the lease to Ken Stimpson Academy, and the second to be regarding the amount of open space, if any, that the council will fence off from public access, along with the specific requirements of the fence for safeguarding purposes.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee decided to refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns and any alternative recommendations, as outlined above.

CHAIR

Meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 13:05pm

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 6.00PM, ON
MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2024
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Skibsted (Chair), Shaheed (Vice-Chair), Bi, Bisby, Geraghty, Hemraj, Hillier, Khan, Strangward and Warren.

Youth Councillors: Pranav Aggarwal and Amelia Ishan

Co-opted Members: Sameena Aziz, Dr Andrew Stone, Canon Andrew Read and Parish Councillor Jane Taylo-Pitt

Officers Present:

Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer
John Gregg, Executive Director for Children's Services

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blakemore-Creedon and Jenkins. Councillors Bi and Strangward were in attendance as substitutes.

Apologies were also received from Councillor Cole, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were none.

12. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

None were received for this meeting.

14. SUPPLEMENTARY APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS 2024/2025

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the appointment of Co-opted Members in accordance with the Council's Constitution Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Functions.

The purpose of the report was to seek approval from the Committee to appoint Parish Councillor Jane Taylor Pitt as Non-Voting Co-opted Member for the municipal year 2024/25 to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and explained that the

nominations for Co-opted Members had been put forward by the Parish Council Liaison Working Group and that the appointments were to be reviewed annually.

Member acknowledged that their request for further information had been met and were happy to agree to the appointment.

The Committee unanimously agreed to the appointment of Parish Councillor Jane Taylor-Pitt as a non-voting Co-opted Member for the municipal year 2024/25.

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to appoint Parish Councillor Taylor-Pitt as a Co-opted Member with no voting rights to rural areas for the municipal year 2024/2025. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.

15. 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.

- Members were advised that the Delay and Deferral policy was where children had not progressed through school with their peer group.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

16. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PEER REVIEW

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to an overview of the findings from the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge of Corporate Parenting which took place on the 17th and 18th July 2024. The outcome of this review was a number of recommendations to support the effectiveness of Corporate Parenting in Peterborough City Council.

The Executive Director for Children's Services introduced the report and advised that it was a summary of the LGA peer review for arrangements of the Corporate Parenting Committee. (CPC)

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

- Members noted that the CPC had become overly bureaucratic and has lost focus from what its role should be.
- It was acknowledged that it would take a significant piece of work to improve CPC, this would be supported by the LGA.
- Officers were looking at a range of models to ensure that it adds value to the children.
- Members were advised of the work of the House Project in those leaving care. The Council would seek to provide the best opportunities for care leavers.
- Members noted that Chauffeurs Cottage would become a base for care leavers to

- grow and work with peers. They would be involved in the development of the site.
- The Senior Democratic Services Officer noted that there had been a live petition relating to Chauffeurs Cottage that had not yet completed.
- Members noted that the report had been brief and requested more detail in future reports.
- Officers acknowledged that they would like to keep looked after children locally, but the reality was that it was dependent on availability.
- The fostering service had been relaunched in September 2024 with a renewed package of support.
- Member were advised of the 2-year incubation period for foster carers and the extensive process that had to be followed before they would be approved.
- Members sought clarification on the difference between a corporate parent and a foster parent. A corporate parent related to the state ownership of parenting children in care where the children are subject to a court order and the council shares parental responsibility with the birth parents. A foster parent acts as the parent of the child and discharges the council's duty for that child.
- Members were advised that work had been undertaken to allow appropriate prioritisation of housing allocations.
- The Council had passed a motion for care leavers to become a protected characteristic.
- The ambition was for the service to always be there if a looked after child needed it. There would be commitment to support whether it be to hear success stories or signpost them to further support.
- Members requested a follow up report with detail against the recommendations and progress of the improvements for the CPC.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee reviewed the contents of the report and agreed to support officers in delivering the recommendations identified as part of the Local Government Association Peer Challenge.

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee requested that Officers schedule a further report on the progress of the recommendations for later in the year.

17. SERVICE DIRECTOR TARGETTED SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARDING – OFSTED PROGRESS PLAN AND ACTION MONITORING

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the summary and overview of monitoring and progress in respect of Children's Services Ofsted Inspection Action Plan, implemented following the ILACS inspection which took place from 27th November to 8th December 2023. Peterborough Children's Services was graded Inadequate for 'Overall Effectiveness,' and eight key improvement recommendations were identified.

The Executive Director for Children's Services introduced the report and moved straight to questions.

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

- Members were advised that that Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub had moved to Sand Martin House but there was still work to be done.

- The volume of work in the system had been evaluated as teams were overworked and understaffed. There had been a £2.5 million investment with 1.7 million directed at social workers on the frontline.
- Members queried what Ofsted would think if that came back tomorrow and were advised that there would be a narrative of improved performance and a stronger picture which recognised investment.
- A recent Ofsted letter had acknowledged that improvement partners had put the right things in the right place at the right time.
- The expectation was that all Managers conducted a dip sampling of cause studies each month to ensure self-regulated performance management.
- Members were advised that audit activity should reflect what Ofsted think which would demonstrate that the service area knew itself well.
- Members referred to children missing from education and Officers advised that additional capacity had been created to address the backlog of people who had not been seen for a significant period.
- There were financial constraints in all areas and the Executive Director advised that he had explored opportunities from within the existing resource to repurpose funds.
- Members referred to the Ofsted recommendations and asked Officers to consider a RAG rating system that could be presented to the Committee.
- Officers acknowledged the request for the action plan but raised concerns regarding it being shared in a public arena.
- Members requested information on the areas that were not functioning effectively as they were concerned that they could not scrutinise the improvements without the full picture.
- Members recognised the hard work of all Officers who had been part of the improvement journey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee reviewed the content of the report and agreed to continue to support officers in delivering continuing improvement.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee requested that Officers:

- Provide the Ofsted letter to scrutiny.
- Provide the action plan to scrutiny, with Officers considering how it can be adapted for public viewing.

18. MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

The SDSO introduced the report which enabled the committee to monitor and track the progress of recommendations made to the Executive or Officers at previous meetings.

- Members acknowledge that their recommendation from the July meeting had not been satisfied and would review it again at their next meeting.
- Members requested the Officers include more information in the reports that detailed how things were being achieved, any KPI's and any measurable targets.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considered the responses from Cabinet Members and Officers to recommendations made at previous meetings as attached in Appendix 1 to the report and provided feedback including whether further monitoring of each recommendation was required.

19. WORK PROGRAMME 2024/2025

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which looked at the work programme for the municipal year 2024-2025 to determine the Committees priorities. Members were invited to make comments and suggestions.

- The Committee were asked to review their priorities after noting that the next agendas were oversubscribed.
- Officers advised that Key Stage 4 data was unvalidated and could be postponed.
- Members noted the duplication of the SEND report and asked for it to be taken to the March meeting.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Children and Education Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the work programme.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

CHAIR

Meeting started at 6.00pm and finished 7.42pm

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

Report of:	Neil McArthur, Director for Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Contact Officer(s):	Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 01733 4525509

FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Director for Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considers the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions included at Appendix 1 and identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme or request further information.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The report is presented to the Committee to enable the Scrutiny Committee to consider the Forward Plan of Executive and consider what action if any should be taken in respect of those decisions by the Scrutiny Committee.

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 **2 December 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: 1 NOVEMBER 2024

PART 1 – FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

KEY DECISIONS FROM 2 DECEMBER 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
School aged Health Improvement & Prevention Service (SHIPS) Contract Award - KEY/02DEC24/03 – To award the SHIPS contract to the successful bidder following the result of a competitive tender exercise, to replace the existing contract held by Cambridgeshire County Council which ends on 31 March 2025.	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	31 January 2025	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All wards	Consultation with key stakeholders formed part of the recommissioning process.	Janet Warren, Public Health Team Lead – Commissioning and Partnerships, Children and Young People and Mental Health, Email: janet.warren@peterborough.gov.uk Tel: 07950 477499	Public Health	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
Award of Day Opportunities Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System – KEY/02DEC24/04 – To approve the award of a pseudo dynamic purchasing system for the commissioning of adults' day opportunities. The estimated maximum value over 7 years is £37,577,826.88.	Cabinet	17 December 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All wards	Co-production with service users, engagement with current and interested parties, benchmarking with other councils.	Harriet Rowe Commissioning Manager 07484 051456 harriet.rowe@peterborough.gov.uk	Adults	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
Recommissioning of Domestic Abuse Mobile Advocacy Service – KEY/02DEC24/05 – To recommission the Domestic Abuse Mobile Advocacy Service for Peterborough from 1 October 2025 to replace the current contract across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which ends on 30 September 2025	Cabinet	14 January 2025	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	All wards	The needs of Peterborough residents with regards to domestic abuse were considered in both the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment and in the development of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy 2024-27 and the Safe Accommodation Strategy	Vickie Crompton, DASV Partnership Manager, Email: vickie.crompton@cambridgeshire.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.

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
Adults' and Children's Social Care Placements - KEY/02DEC24/06 - Authorise the commissioning of social care placements for adults and children by directly awarding contracts to the relevant providers, without competition, and delegate authority to the Executive Director for Adult Services or their delegate AND to the Executive Director for Children's Services or their delegate (in the case of placements for children).	Councillor Jamil Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance	December 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	All	None	Oliver Hayward, Assistant Director for Commissioning and Commercial Ops. Email: oliver.hayward@peterborough.gov.uk	Adults	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

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. Approval of draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) before public consultation - KEY/08APRIL24/03 - Approval of draft LNRS to allow it to go out for wider public consultation.	Cabinet	14 January 2025	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, darren.sharpe@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.
2. Delay and Deferral Policy – KEY/20MAY2024/01 - A new policy for delaying or deferring a school place application.	Cllr Cole, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	October 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	This policy will comply with the requirements of the School Admissions Code and all the relevant legislation. External consultation is not required.	Isabel Clark, Interim Head of School Place Planning. Email: isabel.clark@peterborough.gov.uk Tel : 07711804965	Children and Young People's Service	The Delay and Deferment policy It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
3. Recommissioning of Integrated Drug and Alcohol Treatment Contract – KEY/03JUNE24/04 - To seek approval for the procurement of a new Integrated Drug and Alcohol Treatment Contract for Peterborough for Adults and Children.	Cabinet	11 February 2025	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Relevant internal and external stakeholders.	Commissioning Team Manager for Substance Misuse.	Public Health	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
4. Culture and Leisure Contract - Indexation - KEY/17JUNE24/01 -Increase in value due to annual indexation.	Cllr A Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities	October 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	City Wide	N/A	Rob Hill; Service Director Housing and Communities; rob.hill@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.
5. Draft Local Plan - KEY/17JUNE24/03 -To approve the draft version of the Peterborough Local Plan for public consultation.	Cabinet	11 February 2025	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	All	Six weeks public consultation on the Draft Local Plan to take place in August/September 2024	Gemma Wildman, Principal Strategic Planning Officer Email: gemma.wildman@peterborough.gov.uk, Tel: 01733 863824.	Place and 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
<p>6. Contract Award to Milestone for construction of Lincoln Road Improvement KEY/29JUL24/01 Award of contract to Milestone for the construction of the Lincoln Road regeneration project.</p>	Cabinet	17 December 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Central	Consultation has been undertaken to inform the scheme design. Any construction specific consultation will take place shortly prior to works being completed.	Amy Petrie, Principal Programme and Project Officer, 452272, amy.petrie@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.
<p>7. St Georges Hydro Pool Conversion - KEY/12AUGUST24/04 - To approve the contractor (following a competitive tender process) to deliver the conversion of the St Georges Hydro Pool to classrooms for St Georges SEN school.</p>	Cllr Thulbourn - Cabinet Member for Growth and Regeneration	October 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Dogsthorpe	N/A.	rachael.hunns@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.
<p>8. City Centre Advertising Boards Contract - KEY/12AUGUST24/05 - This is to award a contract for the provision of digital advertising boards in the city centre.</p>	Cllr Thulbourn - Cabinet Member for Growth and Regeneration	October 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Central	N/A.	Amanda Rose - 07572 463889	Corporate Services	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
<p>9. Approval to Award the Care and Support Contract to the Extra Care Housing Schemes St Edmunds Court and Bishopsfield Court – KEY/26AUG24/01 - Approval to award the care and support contract for two extra care schemes in Peterborough; St Edmunds Court and Bishopsfield Court. The existing contractual arrangements are due to end on 28th February 2025.</p> <p>Agreement is being sought to award for both of the above services for an initial 2 years and 1 month period until 31st March 2027, with the inclusion for a possible extension of the provision for a further 2 years.</p> <p>The initial contract period of 2 years and 1 month ensures that all extra care housing schemes in Peterborough expire on the same date in the same year. This will enable commissioners to retender all five schemes simultaneously, resulting in less resource for commissioning, legal and procurement and the opportunity for providers to achieve economies of scale thus creating efficiencies.</p> <p>The total yearly cost of this contract is £988,856 per annum based on current service utilisation. Considering possible annual uplifts and increases in care, the total estimated contract value across five years is £5,250,000.</p>	Cabinet	12 November 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	Paston and Walton and Hampton Vale	A survey of the residents of the extra care housing schemes will be used to inform the specifications for the tender. In addition, soft market testing was undertaken in August 2023 to understand the market appetite for extra care, and this will still be concurrent enough to inform the method questions for this procurement.	Ruth Miller, Senior Commissioner, ruth.miller@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
<p>10. Award of the Care in the Community Contract – KEY/26AUG24/02 - Approval to award the Care in the Community contract. Total contract value for the whole framework over ten years is £570,899,013. Values over ten years per lot below: Lot 1 – Standard Homecare - £227,082,507 Lot 2 – Complex Homecare - £25,231,390 Lot 3 – Standard Supported Living - £244,924,736 Lot 4 – Complex Supported Living - £27,213,860 Lot 5 – Extra Care Housing - £36,446,520 Lot 6 – floating Support and Community Outreach - £10,000,000</p>	Cabinet	April 2025	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All	Provider engagement: forums, events, workshops, surveys, groups. Service users: partnership boards, extensive surveys both online and paper, workshops, 121 sessions, feedback from SWs. Internal operational teams etc.	Ruth Miller, Senior Commissioner, ruth.miller@peterborough.gov.uk	Adults	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
<p>11. Delivery of Hydro Pool Conversion to SEN classrooms at Heltwate St Georges – KEY/07OCT24/01 - Allow officer decision to award a contract for the delivery of works for the conversion of the hydro pool to SEN classrooms for use of the Heltwate St Georges SEN school following a competitive tender process through the Pagabo Medium Works Framework</p>	Cllr Cole, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	October 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	Dogsthorpe	None required this is delivery of works. Approval already provided for the decision to convert.	Rachael Hunns - rachael.hunns@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.
<p>12. Procurement for Infrastructure Services – KEY/21OCT24/01 Authorise the award of contract to Strategic Blue Limited January 2025 to December 2028 for a sum not exceeding £4,000,000. relating to cloud-based infrastructure services.</p>	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance	January 2025	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	N/A	Ataf Mahmood, Technical Service Manager, 07920 160164, ataf.mahmood@peterborough.gov.uk	Corporate Services	Same as previous decision (MAY23/CMDN/119) that will be cancelled and re-procured to receive the maximum discount available.
<p>13. NeneGate SEMH School Expansion – KEY/04NOV24/01 - To approve the expansion of NeneGate SEMH School to accommodate 40 more pupils.</p>	Cabinet	17 December 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	East	Relevant internal and external stakeholders.	Rachel Floyd – Email: rachel.floyd@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.

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
Peterborough Integrated Renewables Infrastructure Project (PIRI) - KEY/02DEC24/01 - To update Cabinet on the commercialisation of PIRI	Cabinet	02 November 2025	Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	East	PIRI Cross Party Working Group	Charlotte Palmer - Service Director for Environment and Climate Change. Email: charlotte.palmer@peterborough.gov.uk	Place and Economy	Exempt appendix will be included in this report. The exempt appendix will include commercially confidential information. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
Disposal of Former Goods Shed for development into a communal food hall – KEY/02DEC24/02 - Disposal of building with grant gap funding to regenerate the Goods Shed building on Fletton Quays.	Cabinet	17 December 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Fletton and Stanground	N/A	Chris Pike, Principal Development Surveyor, 07973929285, Email: chris.pike@peterborough.gov.uk	Place and Economy	Exempt appendix will be included in this report. The exempt appendix will include commercially confidential information. By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

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. Review of Service Delivery KEY/15JUL24/02 To seek authority from Cabinet to review Service Delivery across specific council functions.	Cabinet	14 January 2025	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	N/A	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy	Place and Economy	This item will be fully exempt. 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).
2. Proposals for Replacement Regional Pool - KEY/12AUGUST24/03 - Approve direction for replacement of Regional Pool.	Cabinet	11 March 2025	Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Central	Detailed consultation will take with a wide range of internal/external stakeholders once direction for replacement agreed.	Rob Hill - rob.hill@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).
3. Disposal of Rural Estate: KEY/23SEPT24/01 Proposed disposal of rural estate as individual holdings and larger scale sale	Cabinet	12 November 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	Newborough and Thorney	Previously taken to Cabinet as in principle agreement to dispose of the estate but individual sales to be brought back to Cabinet. Continued consultation with CLT etc	Felicity Paddick - Head of Estates felicity.paddick@peterborough.gov.uk 07801 910971	Corporate Services	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).

PART 3 – NOTIFICATION OF NON-KEY DECISIONS

DECISIONS FROM DECEMBER 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
<p>Adoption of the Organisational Roadmap to Net Zero The Organisational Roadmap to Net Zero was endorsed by the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee. It is now proposed to be endorsed by Cabinet, and adopted by Council. The paper sets out the proposed pathway to reduce emissions across the organisation, and will help direct future funding applications.</p>	Cabinet	17 December 2024	Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	Hannah Swinburne, Climate Change Manager, Tel: 01733 453479, Email: hannah.swinburne@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.

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.	Councillor Qayyum, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	December 2024	Children and Education Scrutiny Committee	All Wards	There has been widespread consultation including with children and young people in care.	Helene Carr, Head of Service - Children's Services - P&C Children's Commissioning, helene.carr@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. 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 Qayyum, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	October 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	All	N/A	Emily Smith, emily.smith3@peterborough.gov.uk Public Health Consultant - Health and Behaviours, Sexual and Reproductive Health	Public Health	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
3. Disposal of Surplus Land - Approval to dispose of property for best consideration.	Councillor Jamil, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance Corporate Governance	October 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.
4. Peterborough Skills and Employment Strategy - Bringing forward the draft Peterborough skills and employment strategy for members to approve and delegate authority to proceed with the 5-year implementation plan.	Cabinet	October 2024	Growth, Resources, And Communities Scrutiny Committee	All	The process to create the skills strategy will have engaged with the Peterborough Skills and Employment Partnership Board, employers, skills providers and the public	Tanya Meadows, Head of Skills and Employment (secondment) - Email: tanya.meadows@peterborough.gov.uk - Tel: 07912763078	Place and Economy	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.

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
5.	New Classroom at Academy New classroom at Academy to support additional intake in pupils.	Cllr Katy Cole, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	October 2024	Children And Education Scrutiny Committee	East	N/A	Chris Pike, Principal Development Surveyor	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.
6.	Draft Renewals Policy 2025 to 2027 - Draft of the refreshed Renewals Policy governing the award of Disabled Facility Grants from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2027	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health - Councillor Shabina Qayyum	November 24	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	None	Council Website	Sharon Malia - Housing Programmes Manager	Adults Services	It is not anticipated that there will be any documents other than the report and relevant appendices to be published.
7.	Operationalisation post separation of the Public Health Directorate between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health - Councillor Shabina Qayyum	October 2024	Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	N/A	CLT, Public Health Directorate etc.	Emily Smith, Consultant in Public Health, emilyr.smith@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.
8.	Approval of the Parish Charter: To approve a new Parish Charter between the City Council and Parish Councils across Peterborough. The charter sets out joint working relationships, key principles and opportunities for all organisations to deliver better outcomes for local residents.	Cabinet	17 December 2024	Growth, Resources and Communities	All Wards	Draft charter has been developed in consultation with Parish Councils and the Good Neighbours Scheme	Ian Phillips, Acting Head of Communities ian.phillips@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.

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 D Jones (Leader of the Council); Cllr Qayyum; Cllr Cole; Cllr Jamil, Cllr A Jones, Cllr Ellis and Cllr Thulbourn.

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 democratic.services@peterborough.gov.uk, Democratic Services. 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 Dennis Jones	Leader of the Council
Councillor Mohammed Jamil	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance
Councillor Nick Thulbourn	Cabinet Member for Growth and Regeneration
Councillor Shabina Qayyum	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
Councillor Katy Cole	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Alison Jones	Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
Councillor Angus Ellis	Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport

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 NOVEMBER 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	John Gregg, Executive Director for Children and Young People	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Katy Cole, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Sara Graves, Service Director, Targeted Support & Safeguarding	Tel. 07483 351428

CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT: ACTION PLAN & PROGRESS MONITORING

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Executive Director for Children and Young People	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee reviews the content of the report and agrees to continue to support officers in delivering continuing improvement.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Scrutiny Committee following their Group Representatives meeting.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Committee with a summary and overview of monitoring and progress in respect of Children's Services Ofsted Inspection Action Plan, implemented following the ILACS inspection which took place from 27th November to 8th December 2023. Peterborough Children's Services was graded Inadequate for 'Overall Effectiveness,' and eight key improvement recommendations were identified.

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; and*
- c) *Children's Health*
- d) *Targeted Youth Support (including youth offending)*

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

The improvement work being undertaken in Children's Services supports the delivery of the Children in Care promise. It will ensure that Children's Services can provide good quality services to children and families in Peterborough that will keep them safe, ensure that they feel valued and respected, and are involved in decision making about their lives.

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 In November 2023, Ofsted notified Peterborough City Council of a standard ILACS inspection. This commenced with immediate effect, in line with the regulatory framework. Following a week of offsite evidence gathering to inform key lines of enquiry, the Inspectorate were on site at Sand Martin House from 27th November to 8th December 2023.

4.2 The inspection report was published on Monday 29th January; Peterborough received an Inadequate outcome overall for the effectiveness of Children’s Services and subsequently are subject to monitoring visits every six months. These focus on the areas where the need for improvement has been identified and will ensure that performance in other areas has not declined. The first monitoring visit took place on the 30th & 31st July 2024 (Letter appended).

4.3 This two-day ‘visit’ focused on the support and provision for care leavers aged 18 to 25 – a priority area for improvement established following the full inspection. Feedback illustrated that the work undertaken to set the underpinning elements for successful improvement in train is starting to make a difference but there is more to do.

4.4 There are eight key improvement recommendations arising from the ILACS inspection, which have been incorporated into the Local Authority’s Ofsted improvement plan and is overseen by Children’s Services Improvement Board.

- 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.
- 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 consistency in quality of social work assessments.
- 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 quality of supervision, so that social workers are supported to think through complex situations, to help children make progress.
- Service capacity, particularly in the Safeguarding Teams, Care Leaver Service and Emergency Duty Service.

4.5 Peterborough City Council’s commitment to improve the lives of children, young people and care leavers in the City following the ILACS outcome, saw additional financial investment in Children Services. This enabled additional capacity in social work teams and development of supportive resources to help drive the improvement agenda.

4.5.1 Whilst recognising the backdrop of considerable financial challenge, current budget pressures present a continuing test of the ability to sustain and progress improvements attained to date and embed longer term change.

4.6 The programme of Sector Led improvement work (SLIP) with Leeds Relational Practice Centre (LRPC) and Hertfordshire, developed in response to the eight key Ofsted ILACS recommendations continues to progress. It ensures a clear focus on practice improvement to make Peterborough an area where children and families can thrive and is reinvigorating the previously successful multiagency Family Safeguarding Teams.

4.6.1 The implementation of Family Valued with Leeds has at its core a central focus on the child and their experience – underpinned by a belief in strengths in families and supporting them to find solutions. It is a whole system approach to transforming outcomes for children, and centres on developing practice, leadership and culture with children and families, partners and the organisation, to be more restorative and relational - building the relationships needed to support change.

4.6.2 A shared review and plan approach is in place, outlining the areas of improvement activity Peterborough and Leeds are prioritising in the next 12 months. This includes a core programme of relational culture, leadership and practice improvement learning and development opportunities.

Over September and October 24, 'Introduction to Relational and Restorative Practice' awareness for all staff commenced alongside Action Learning Sets for Heads of Service and Service Managers. Action Learning Sets for Team Managers are planned for January-March 25; Reflective Practice with Teams in February 25.

The impact of this activity will be reviewed in March 2025. The review will highlight the progress made by Peterborough and inform its ongoing improvement plan and priorities.

4.6.3 In respect of Family Safeguarding, strategic and operational governance arrangements have been established (Oct 24) and a suite of training and development opportunities are being provided by the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice as part of the partnership. Development workshops with relevant teams and service areas commenced in October (24).

4.7 The Children and Young People's Transformation Portfolio Board continues to oversee the transformation agenda that supports Children's Services journey of improvement through five key workstreams.

- International Recruitment
- Centre of Professional Excellence (COPE) - Social Work Academy
- House Project
- Step-Into
- Fostering

4.8 International recruitment is a key part of the improvement plan and will provide key capacity and resilience in social work teams in direct response to the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted following the ILACS inspection.

Six International Social Workers started with the service on 2nd October, and this has enabled a reduction in reliance on agency staffing which allows for more consistent workforce and brings opportunities to strengthen and improve quality and effectiveness of practice and service with children and families; aligned to this is cost effectiveness. Four more are scheduled to join in January 25 and five by the end of March 25. Timing is impacted by some delay with Social Work England registration/Visa process that is not in LA control.

Support is in place for new starters including a training schedule and induction as part of the Centre Of Practice Excellence (Social Work Academy) programme.

4.9 Aligned to the timeline for international recruitment is the development of the Centre of Practice Excellence (COPE) – the Social Work Academy.

This is now established and in operation with the first cohort of Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSWs) starting in September 24 - supported allocation of children to NQSWs is in place. Initial feedback from NQSWs has been positive and this in turn will support positive practice with children and families to grow and flourish.

Delivery of workforce modelling that aims to reduce reliance on agency staffing is progressing with the advent of COPE - this will support consistency of practitioners working

with children and families and set the foundations for effective high quality relational practice.

It was agreed at Portfolio Board 24/10/24 that COPE would now close to Transformation to become Business as Usual.

- 4.10 The House Project implementation is on track to support young people leaving care into suitable accommodation and ensure they have the knowledge and support to live independently.

Following the House Project Lead commencing in post in the last reporting period, facilitator roles are now recruited to. Ofsted registration requirements are being finalised, and most policies required have been completed and agreed by CSLT.

Work to confirm the first group of young people to move into the House Project is in train and several events and communications have been and are being undertaken to support progress.

- 4.10.1 There has been some delay with the property move-in date (likely to be Jan 25) linked to existing tenant notice extension but support is being sought to enable access, to scope renovation and equipment needs and costings.

As regards the numbers of care experienced young people (19-21) in Peterborough who are living in safe, suitable accommodation. This is 91.6% at the end of Q2 which is better than the comparator performance data available from national and nearest neighbour averages (both at 89%) and is a key achievement in the context of housing sufficiency challenges in Peterborough and surrounding areas.

Despite this positive achievement, sufficiency of appropriate housing and the related financial pressure for the local authority is a significant challenge. Work to further progress and sustain this continues to receive necessary focus, including analysis of upcoming need to inform the medium- and longer-term view. There remains close operational and strategic collaboration across Children's Services and internal and external housing partners in this respect.

- 4.11 Development of the Fostering service is a key part of Peterborough's strategy to ensure the sufficiency of suitable placements for children and young people. Positive improvement and transformation progress is evident - a successful Foster Service launch took place 30th September (24).

At the time of writing, 9 new foster carers have been approved thus far in 24/25 against a stretch target of 15. The net gain is 5 due to 4 resignations as a result of retirement from fostering and personal changes in circumstances. None were due to dissatisfaction with the service.

As of October 24, there is an increase in the number of prospective carers in assessment to 12 from 10 in September – all scheduled for panel decisions from Nov 24 to March 25.

Performance achievement range over the previous 9 months (70-70.8% Q4-23/24 to Q2 – 24/25) is better than the England average (68%) and on a par with statistical neighbours (71%) – which supports children to have better outcomes.

- 4.12 The 'Step into Fostering' project has developed over September and October 24 to explore agency fostering, semi-independent options, the House Project, Reunification, as well as in-house fostering provision for children and young people ready to move on from residential care. Two young people moved at the end of September, and this is progressing positively for them to date. Another two are being supported with moves that are due to take place in December and there are a further eleven children and young people for whom plans are in development to support transitions over the remainder of 24/25 and into 25/26, from residential care into arrangements that will support better outcomes in the longer term.

Dedicated resources in the service are having a positive impact on progress. Operational and strategic meetings have been strengthened to oversee and ensure appropriate planning for children and direction of travel for the project.

4.13 As well as the broad Transformation agenda, Children's Services' leaders have prioritised improvement across the service with a focus on the offer for care leavers, the consistency of relocation of services including MASH and the children with disabilities team, social work assessments and supervision, and missing children.

4.14 In addition to the feedback from the Monitoring Visit regarding the care leaver's local offer, further progress updates include:

- Significant milestones achieved in the initiative to support Care Leavers, including timely PA allocations, comprehensive training and workshops, the implementation of a revised local offer – promotion of which will take place in National Care Leavers Week (see below) - progress in our housing strategy review, exemptions from council tax for care leavers, enhanced access to physical and mental health support, and strengthened governance through the Corporate Parenting Board - all contributing to better outcomes.
- The proportion of Care Leavers who are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) has increased over Q2 to 46.3% but is out of line with national and near neighbour averages of 56% & 52% respectively and this remains a focused area for development.

Work is taking place to increase the suitable options for young people and support their wider engagement and success. The extension of the Virtual School offer for young people through to 25 is a key development to assist in this respect, along with activity underway to improve the quality, availability and accessibility of apprenticeships for care leavers.

Events are planned for National Care Leavers week Oct 28th – Nov 3rd, 2024, with a focus on EET. Part of this is to enhance council wide and partner understanding of the City's Corporate Parenting role and responsibilities – this will contribute to further improvements moving forwards.

- Phase 2 of the Local Offer scoping and implementation along with close management of larger projects, need to be closely overseen to prevent slippage.
- Service capacity is impacting the overall pace of change and budgetary pressures are exacerbating this. Progress in respect of Care Leaver Support is susceptible in this context.

4.15 MASH transformation is progressing well, with most actions completed or on track. Staffing improvements, including new permanent team managers, are supporting this. Minor delays are related to workforce sufficiency and decision timeliness, with teams finding it a challenge to meet deadlines despite reduced demand. Significant delays in IT system upgrades, particularly Liquid Logic, are being addressed, but the original timelines were overly ambitious and are being revised.

4.16 Support and response for disabled children is an area of improvement that is progressing well with all actions completed or on track, including moving the CWD team from the Adult's directorate into the Children's directorate. Work is now ongoing to provide cross service training that will fully embed the understanding of thresholds for intervention and risk identification, ensure that children are receiving the right help at the right time and that the quality of practice within the team meets the expected standards to ensure that children with specific needs are receiving the right support.

The CWD Service was externally reviewed 1st October -3rd October. A draft report has been provided and work is in train to implement the recommendations. There were a number of strengths identified as well as areas for development. Importantly, no concerns were noted.

4.17 Regular dip sampling and audits are starting to demonstrate some improvements in the quality of practice around assessments and supervisions, although there is further work to do. A comprehensive programme of training and service development will be implemented following the recruitment of the Service Director for Practice who is due to be in post from November 24. Activity to recruit to permanent positions is ongoing, but budgetary and recruitment pressures remain a barrier. Development work has begun with Leeds and Hertfordshire around practice improvement and should increase in pace when the Service Director for Practice starts.

4.18 In terms of the consistency of support for children who go missing from care, partnership work with police and health through daily missing meetings has been strengthened and guidance is in place to support a robust, consistent and supportive response. QA activity demonstrates an improved response for missing and exploited children. A Partnership Missing Protocol is in final draft for CSMT to consider at the end of October and then will proceed to the Safeguarding Partnership for their approval.

Return home interviews following missing episodes are only accepted 61.3% of the time. Further qualitative work is planned to understand why and explore ways to increase acceptance and engagement.

4.19 Peterborough is a challenging climate in which to deliver good outcomes for children and young people. It is expanding, has diverse communities with significant levels of deprivation and the Council is facing sizeable financial pressures.

Leaders in Children's Services and improvement partners are confident that the key issues needing to advance to provide good quality services for children and families in Peterborough have been clearly identified and well-articulated. They have prioritised taking this forward, with comprehensive action planning and a substantial programme of transformation. There is evidence of impact to date across a range of areas for improvement, and for this to be sustained and progressed further as is required, continued budgetary commitment and strong corporate parenting support, as well as collaborative working between members, stakeholders, and officers is essential.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 The updates covered throughout this report for committee contribute to the Corporate Strategy and Priorities. Specifically, protecting and supporting vulnerable children in care.

1. Our Places & Communities
 - Lives and Work
 - Health and Wellbeing
2. Prevention, Independence, and Resilience
 - Education and Skills for All
 - Children
3. Sustainable Future City Council
 - How we Serve

Environment & Climate Change

Although there will be a slight increase in travel emissions associated with additional staff recruitments, these will be minimal. The report contains no proposals for significant changes which would impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant managers and staff in the development of this report.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 For Scrutiny Committee to review the contents of the report and continue to support the Children's Services journey of improvement.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 As corporate parents, it is critical that Members continue to support the improvement of services for children in Peterborough to ensure that children and young people can achieve best outcomes.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no alternative options for the Committee to consider as it is important for the Committee to monitor the service's progress against the action plan

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 There has been significant Corporate financial investment into Children's Services to support the improvement activities referenced in this report.

Legal Implications

- 10.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from the contents of this report, as the report is for information and updating the committee.

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.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 11.1 N/A

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1 - Ofsted letter – Monitoring Visit to Peterborough Children's Services July 24.

- 12.2 Appendix 2a - Peterborough City Council Children's Services Inspection Action Plan (submitted to Ofsted April 2024).

Appendix 2b – Ofsted Programme Overview

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22 August 2024

John Gregg
Director of Children's Services
Peterborough City Council
Sandmartin House
Bittern Way
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

Dear John

Monitoring visit to Peterborough children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the monitoring visit to Peterborough City Council children's services on 30 and 31 July 2024. This was the first monitoring visit since the local authority was judged inadequate in November 2023. His Majesty's inspectors for this visit were Russel Breyer and Rebecca Dubbins.

Areas covered by the visit

This monitoring visit focused on the experience and progress of care leavers aged 18-25, in particular the support, advice and guidance given to those with additional vulnerabilities, such as those who are insecurely housed, not in education, employment or training, or have involvement with criminal justice.

This visit was carried out in line with the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework.

Headline findings

Since the inspection of children's services in November 2023, which found the experiences and progress of care leavers to be inadequate, senior leaders have resolutely increased their focus on delivering improvements so that care leavers have better outcomes. They have done this against a backdrop of considerable financial challenge and a change in political leadership. Leaders have invited external scrutiny and have worked alongside staff and care leavers to refocus the service.

Financial resources have been committed to add much-needed capacity into the service and to develop supportive resources. Management capacity in the care leaving service is being increased and six new personal adviser (PA) posts are being recruited to. One of the new PAs has already started work and the impact of this additional post can be seen in the service offered to the young people she is supporting. The local offer has been improved, with significant input from care

leavers. Progress is being made in developing resources such as the House project, which will provide a base for care leavers to access services.

Early signs of improvement are being seen as a result of this activity and young people are beginning to benefit. One particular area of progress is improved persistence by PAs in reaching out to young people who are harder to engage, and encouraging them to accept help. Some young people are responding well to this approach, and their situations are improving. However, while many of the service plans for improvement are progressing, they are not yet all operational or do not yet have impact for young people.

While some young people receive good support and make progress, this is not consistent for all young people. Too many are not receiving enough help to achieve their potential. Leaders need to ensure that rapid progress is made in key areas that still need to be improved, such as the quality of pathway planning and the supervision of staff. Other areas, such as ensuring sufficient staffing capacity and developing helpful resources that PAs can call on to support young people, must be supported in the longer term to ensure that improvements are sustained. This will require the commitment of leaders in all parts of the system, such as housing and corporate services, as well as partner agencies.

Findings and evaluation of progress

The local authority's self-evaluation of the care leavers service is accurate, underpinned by effective auditing and quality assurance arrangements which in turn support improvements in practice and the development of services. Young people are consulted in most audits, however, their voice does not read strongly in the audit document, and the impact of audits would be further strengthened by increasing the breadth and visibility of young people's feedback. Routinely consulting with partners would also further strengthen the impact of audits.

PAs are strongly committed to their young people and speak warmly of them, taking pride in their achievements. Practice is relationship based, and these relationships are carefully developed at each young person's pace to build trust, so that they will accept help. Young people who spoke to inspectors gave positive feedback about their PAs, who they find responsive, caring and helpful. There have been significant improvements in persistently reaching out to young people who are harder to engage. Inspectors saw examples of this making a tangible and important difference to vulnerable care leavers.

High caseloads persist in this service, which limit the time PAs can spend with young people. This means that PAs are sometimes unable to increase the frequency of visits to young people at times of higher need. Leaders have recognised this and recruitment is in hand to increase staffing capacity. PAs report that simpler systems and clear protocols and procedures between council departments would reduce the

time spent on bureaucracy, or in overcoming obstacles, and would increase the time they can spend with young people.

The local offer to care leavers who have reached 21 and who may still need support has improved. More young people are now given clearer information about their rights and are supported to make a choice. Examples were seen of young people who need an allocated PA beyond the age of 21 receiving this service. Those who do not need an allocated PA but would benefit from contacting a PA at times of need, are given better advice, and contact details. However, the offer is not clear enough in the new local offer document, so that young people can easily understand their entitlement. Supervision does not consistently support PAs to address this with young people.

Leaders have made a commitment to allocate a PA to children in care shortly after their 16th birthday, although support is not yet consistent for all. Some of those aged 16 or 17 have been visited by their PAs, although many have not, even when a PA has been allocated to them. Weaknesses in supervision and management oversight mean that some young people are not effectively prioritised for this support. Some with higher needs are not yet getting the opportunity to develop a relationship with their PA in readiness for the support they are likely to need when they leave care.

The local offer overall is much improved, offering a wider range of assistance that care leavers need as they enter adulthood. Some tangible benefits, such as council tax exemption, are already in place, although systems for accessing this are not easily navigated. The local offer has only recently been published, so most benefits are not yet known to, or reaching, young people. Some areas of the new local offer lack clarity or sufficient detail to be meaningful to young people, such as the offer to support them into employment, and the offer to those aged 21 and over. Care leavers said a version of the local offer that is accessible on a smartphone would be helpful.

The quality of most supervision is not good enough to support workers in thinking through approaches or in setting specific actions to help young people. Due to management churn in the service, there have been gaps in supervision. Most workers have had a number of changes of supervisor, which limits the consistency of oversight, and some supervision records are very brief, with no meaningful guidance, support or accountability. Young people's progress is impacted by this.

Pathway plans for some care leavers are relevant to need and updated as needs change and objectives are achieved. Too many plans are not specific about the help that will be given. In many of these cases, actions are set for the young person which are not likely to be achieved.

PAs understand the challenges former separated migrant young people may face, and they provide suitable emotional and practical support. PAs offer sensitive support

to care leavers who are parents, including those whose children are receiving services from children's social care. Care leavers in custody are visited regularly or spoken to via video link. PAs are proactive in alerting other professionals when issues arise for young people in custody. Planning for young people's release is considered early and there is a strong emphasis on liaising with probation, housing providers and family networks.

When there are concerns about exploitation of care leavers, risk is assessed to provide a clear understanding of the concerns, and PAs respond to these effectively. Some PAs are uncertain about the type of support the exploitation team (Empower) can offer. The local authority is in the process of ensuring this is better understood across all services. This means that all care leavers, regardless of their age, can be given timely support to access coordinated services that meet their needs.

Care leavers in further and higher education are supported to maintain education placements and are assisted with bursaries and finance towards accommodation. Examples were seen of care leavers with high needs making good progress. However, services to support young people into employment are underdeveloped, with a lack of opportunities for internships and apprenticeships, or of employers being supported to offer opportunities. Leaders are planning to develop this area, including identifying opportunities within the council and increasing the capacity of the virtual school, but these plans are at an early stage and not yet having impact. The support that will be available is not specified in sufficient detail in the local offer.

The care leavers service has a homelessness prevention officer who is persistent in her support to PAs and care leavers. Work to develop joint housing protocols is under way. But specific improvements, and dates for achieving these, are not set out in the service's self-evaluation or action plan. Inspectors saw examples of care leavers insecurely housed, in one case being evicted without the care leaving service being informed, and then encountering obstacles in the housing service to securing even temporary accommodation. This has resulted in periods of being street homeless for at least one young person, and periods in bed and breakfast accommodation.

Care leavers are engaged well in developing services through the corporate parenting committee and other activities, and are proud of their contribution. There are active plans to further develop these arrangements. The committee would be strengthened in driving improvements for young people by increased involvement from partner agencies.

The improvement partners who are currently working with Peterborough City Council Children's Services said they believe that leaders have the right plans in place, and are doing the right things at the right time to improve services for care leavers in Peterborough. We look forward to seeing outcomes further improve for care leavers.

Because this is the first monitoring visit to your local authority, we will not publish this letter on our website. You may share this letter with others if you wish. I am copying this letter to the Department for Education.

Yours sincerely

Russel Breyer
His Majesty's Inspector

Pre-publication

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What needs to improve?

1 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.

	Outcome	Actions	Outcome measure	Timescale	Action RAG	Accountability	Outcome Measure RAG
1.1	All care leavers are allocated a PA in a timely way.	Ensure allocation of PA for all CiC (all new cases from 01 Mar 24) as part of the leaving care assessment of needs completed no later than age 16 years and 3 months, as per Sec 5 PCC procedure 'Leaving Care and Transition'.	All cases allocated to a PA. Audit of all new cases since Mar 24. Target 90%.	May 24		Service Director QA Head of Service	

1.1a			Audit the impact on CL of prompt allocation dates.	June 24			
1.1b		Returning former relevant young people allocated a PA within five working days of their CL status being agreed.	All new cases since 01 Mar 24 allocated within 5 days. Audit of all new cases since 01 Mar 24. Target 90%.	May 24 June 24		Service Director QA	
			Audit the impact on CL of prompt	Apr 25			

			allocation dates.				
1.2	All care leavers are well prepared for the transition from being in care and have a named PA.	Deliver workshop to PAs re co-production and recording of personalised Transition planning.	Team workshops delivered. Two monthly dip sample x 3 then review and re plan if required.	June 24 June 24 – Dec 24		Service Director Head of Service	
1.2a		Best practice examples shared and placed in library.	Library in place. Evidence of use via case records and supervision.	Oct 24 Dec 24		Service Director - Practice	

1.3	All PCC care leavers benefit from a comprehensive local offer agreed by PCC that supports them to be safely independent and achieve their potential.	Develop and implement a revised local offer that reflects best practice and high ambition.	<p>Revised offer agreed and resources in place. Phase 1.</p> <p>All CL receive copy of new offer. Phase 1.</p> <p>Phase 1 new offer on PCC intranet and Gov.uk</p> <p>Implement new offer.</p>	<p>Mar 24</p> <p>Oct 24</p> <p>August 24</p> <p>Aug 24</p>		Service Director Head of Service	
1.4	All care leavers have the opportunity to live in safe, suitable accommodation that meets their needs.	Review sufficiency strategy for CL with housing partners to maximise their contribution and expertise.	Complete market and cohort scoping and identify what is required. (Type, volume, location, cost,	Jul 24		Service Director Head of Children's Commissioning and Head of Housing.	

			and level of support).	Oct 24			
1.4a		Increase the range and quantity of suitable accommodation for CL.	Complete market and cohort scoping and identify what is required.	Oct 24 Dec 25		Service Director Children's Commissioning and	

			(Type, volume, location, cost, and level of support). Agreement re. additional accommodation for CL.			Head of Housing	
1.5	All PCC care leavers are exempt from paying council tax until the day preceding their 25th birthday.	Ensure best practice by agreement to exemption from council tax for care leavers until the day preceding their 25th birthday.	Resources secured and included in Phase 1 revised local offer.	Aug 24		Service Director	
1.6	All PAs and their managers are sufficiently skilled and are tenacious in their efforts to positively engage with and respond	Deliver training workshops and slide deck to all PAs and CL team managers.	Training delivered and slide decks distributed.	April and May 24 Jan 25 – Mar 25		Service Director – Practice Service Director QA	

	to the needs of care leavers.					
			Impact of improved quality of practice and engagement via 3 x monthly dip sample and supervision, then review. Target 90%.	January – March 25		
1.7	PAs are well supported and helped to achieve high standards of practice by their managers.	Improve the quality, regularity and recording of supervision by further training all PAs.	Supervision training delivered and slide decks distributed.	Nov 24 – Feb 25		Service Director – Practice

			Evaluate impact via 3 x monthly dip samples of case and supervision records then review. Target 90%.	Dec 24 – Mar 25		
1.8	Managers understand how to use practice guidance, oversight, and supervision to improve practice.	Improve the recording and quality of oversight and practice directions in case records by further training for managers.	Deliver training workshop and slide deck for CL managers. Impact of improved management oversight of practice. Dip sample/audit case and	Nov -Dec 24 Mar – May 25		Service Director – Practice

			supervision records.				
1.9	PCC care leavers are supported to engage with and have easy access to physical and mental health support.	Improved access to physical and mental health support. Revised health offer for care leavers.	Resources secured and agreed – Phase 2 local offer. New practice and access guidance for managers, PAs, and care leavers.	Jan 25 May 25		Service Director ICB Chief Nurse	
1.10	PCC care leavers are supported to engage with and have easy access to leisure, social and learning activities as part of the local offer.	Improved and easier access to support for leisure, social and learning activities.	Resources secured and agreed. New practice and access guidance for managers, PAs and care leavers. Inclusion in revised local offer Phases 1 and 2.	June 24 Oct 24 Oct 24		Service Director	

1.11	The proven benefits of the House Project for stable secure independence are available for appropriate care leavers.	Implement agreed plans to develop House Project.	Resources secured and agreed. Project plan in place. Work completed and part of BAU.	May 24 Mar 24 Jan 25		Service Director	
1.12	An increased number of care leavers are fully engaged in suitable education, employment, or training.	Develop and implement a plan with internal and external partners to increase the numbers of options open to CL.	Plan agreed and work commenced. Increased number/rate of CL in EET evidenced in management information.	May 24		Service Director Head of Virtual School Head of Service	

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1.13	Specific job roles within PCC are identified and targeted for recruitment from care leavers.	Develop apprenticeship s/ employment opportunities within PCC for CL.	Resources and policy agreed. Identify opportunities. Implementation plan	April 24 Apr – Jul 24 Jan 25		Service Director HR & Transformation	
1.14	PCC Corporate Parenting Board is strong, ambitious and demonstrates effective impact for children in care and care leavers.	Senior leaders collaborate with elected members, participation officer and CiC Council to strengthen the impact of the Corporate Parenting board.	Time limited working group LGA Peer Review LGA Peer Review recommendations	Sept 24 July 24 Jan 25		Service Director Head of Service	
1.15	An effective Service for care leavers Caseloads are within	Engage with the DfE National Advisor for Leaving Care and implement their	Deliver the required actions identified. Management information	Sept 24 Sept 24		Service Director Head of Service Service Director	

	expected tolerance	recommendations.	each month/ performance reporting.			Head of Service	
1.15a			Additional staff resource in place				
What needs to improve?							
2 Social work support for disabled children in need of help and protection.							
2.1	All staff and managers in MASH and 0-25 team have a thorough understanding of thresholds for intervention. Children get the right help at the right time.	Reissue guidance and refresher workshop application of thresholds MASH and 0-25 team.		June 24		Service Director Heads of Service MASH and CwD QA service	

2.1a			Impact measured via 6 x dip sampling then review. Target 100% - tolerance 10%.	Sep 24 – Mar 25		Service Director Heads of Service MASH and CwD	
2.2	All children are allocated within 24 hours of receipt of referral.	All children are allocated within 24 hours of referral being received in the 0-25 team.	All children are allocated within 24 hours of referral being received in the 0-25 team. Impact measured via dip	June 24 May 24 Sep - Dec 24		Head of Service CwD	

			sample x 3. Target 100%				
2.3	A qualified social worker is always on the duty rota.	0-25 team. Amend practice guidance and ensure a qualified social worker is always on the duty system.	Sample duty rota x 3 then review.	May, June & Oct 24		Head of Service CwD	
2.4	A responsive child protection intervention	Reposition the 0-25 service to ensure it sits within children's services	Improved child protection response	June 24		DASS and DCS	
What needs to improve?							
3 The identification and response to increased vulnerability when children are electively home educated or missing from education.							
3.1	When the needs of children missing education or who are electively home educated	Increase staffing capacity in CME and EHE teams. Referrals to other teams made promptly.	Staff in place. Impact measured via 3 x dip sampling x3 monthly then review. Target 100%	Sep 24 Nov 24 - Feb 25		Service Director Admission and Attendance Manager	

	escalate, they are referred to the appropriate teams without delay.						
What needs to improve?							
4 The consistency in quality of social work assessments.							
4.1	Good quality children's assessments take all significant factors into account. Recommendations for actions to be taken are clear and help to keep children safe.	Deliver training and guidance to social workers. (Importance of history, analysis and specificity of action needed.)	Training delivered	June 24		Service Director - Practice	
4.1a		Improve assessment quality		June 24		Service Director - Practice	

4.1b		.	Dip Sampling to test impact 3 x monthly.	Sep – Dec 24		Service Director QA	
4.2	High quality safety plans responsive to the changing needs of children and children are safer.	Deliver refresher training and practice guidance to social workers.	Deliver training and provide refreshed practice guidance.	Sep-Dec 24		Service Director Practice	
4.2a		Improve safety planning in early stage of assessment process.		June 24			

			<p>Monthly x 6 dip samples show rising rate of plans detailing how risks will be managed.</p> <p>Review after 6 months sampling. Target 100%</p>	Jan – June 25		Service Director QA	
<p>What needs to improve?</p> <p>5 The sufficiency of suitable placements that can meet children and young people’s assessed needs</p>							
5.1	Increased number of in-house foster carers so that more CiC can	Develop and implement a sufficiency strategy that will	Strategy developed and agreed.	July 24.		Service Director and Head of	

	live nearer to Peterborough.	increase in house care and reduce use of purchased provision at distance from Peterborough.	Implementation plan in place and work commenced. Review progress and reset targets after 12 months.	Sep 24 - 25 Sep 25		Children's Commissioning	
5.2	Children are only placed in residential care when that is the best option for them.	Retrospective review of all children placed in residential care.	Identification of those children placed but where there are other options, realistic alternative placement plans agreed.	June – Oct 24		Service Director Head of Service CiC	
5.2a		Care planning amended where necessary.	CiC move to suitable living arrangements	Oct – Dec 24		Service Director Head of Service CiC IROs	
5.2b	The PCC Fostering Service is fit for purpose	Local service transformation.	Review completed and	Sep 24		Service Director and Fostering	

	and provides good quality care and services for children.		recommendations agreed. Staff consulted and advised. Agreed model in place.	Nov 24 Mar 25		Head of Service	
5.2c			Review service effectiveness annually.	Sept 24			
5.3	Practice focuses on children's needs and experiences and is influenced by their wishes and feelings.	Improve the way children are included in developing their own care plans and that their voice is always clearly recorded in their care/pathway plan.	CiC Council consulted and engaged. Practice guidance issued and bite size workshops to staff delivered. Monthly dip sample x 3 then review.	Sep 24 Oct-Dec24 Feb – May 25		Service Directors	

5.4	All options for permanency are consistently fully explored and documented. The best options are supported to succeed wherever possible.	Ensure that all permanency options are explored and documented by the second CiC review include SGO and kinship care.	Review and changes to practice guidance complete and agreed. Comms to staff and amended guidance issued. Quarterly dip samples x 3 then review.	Sep 24		Service Director QA	
				Nov 24 - Apr 25			
						Service Director	
5.5	A reduction in the number of children whose long-term fostering plans is delayed.	Case records evidence that all efforts have been taken to reduce and avoid delay.	Review of individual cases and any changes to practice guidance complete and agreed.	June 24		Service Director Heads of Service IROs	

5.5a		Develop and implement a robust tracking and challenge process to avoid delay where a child's plan is L/T fostering.	Comms to staff and amended guidance issued. Quarterly dip samples x 3 then review.	Oct 24 Dec 24 - Sep 25		Service Director Heads of Service IROs Service Director QA	
5.6	To ensure all Peterborough children, where appropriate, can be cared for via SGO there are no financial barriers to foster carers becoming Special Guardians.	Develop and implement a financial no detriment policy to support foster carers to become Special Guardians.	Resources and policy changes are agreed. Policy change is implemented, and foster carers are made aware.	Jan 25 Apr 25 No detriment policy Sep 24		Service Director	
5.7	CiC receive timely health assessments .	Collaborate with partners in health to ensure timely health assessments	Quarterly review to track progress.	June 24-		Service Director ICB Chief Nurse	

		are completed and set targets for improvement.	Annual review to reset targets if necessary.	June 25			
What needs to improve?							
6 The consistency of support for children who go missing from care							
6.1	CiC receive consistent, responsive, and good quality support when they go missing and this is evident in their case records.	Develop practice guidance to ensure that all CiC who go missing receive a strong, consistent, and supportive response.	Review and changes to guidance complete and agreed. Comms to staff and amended guidance issued.	Sep 24		Service Director Practice	
				Oct24			
				Jan- Jun25			
				July 24			

			Two monthly dip samples x 3 then review.				
6.2	CiC who go missing are supported by staff who have high awareness of the risks of exploitation.	Deliver training to all relevant staff - recognition of and best practice in risks of intervening to minimise exploitation.	Training delivered. 3 x monthly dip samples then review. Target 90%.	Nov – Dec 24 Apr – June 25		Service Director Head of Service	
What needs to improve?							
7 The quality of supervision, so that social workers are supported to think through complex situations, to help children make progress.							
7.1	Regular, effective supervision ensures good care planning for CiC and that supports all social workers in all teams to	Deliver training and slide deck to all team managers. Work with LRPC on model of management oversight and supervision.	Training to be delivered.	Sep 24 – Feb 25		Service Director - Practice	

	address complexity.						
7.1a		Improve the quality, regularity and recording of supervision.	Test impact via monthly x 3 dip samples of case and supervision records then review. Target 90%.	Apr– Aug 25		Service Directors and Heads of Service	
What needs to improve?							
8 Service capacity, particularly in the safeguarding teams, care leaver service and emergency duty service							
8.1	Corporate support for Children's Services improvement plan	Secure resources to support improvement plan.	Resources agreed and made available.	May 24		Cabinet Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)	
8.2	A new or refreshed practice model underpinned by a comprehensive assessment	Complete an independent review of Family Safeguarding practice model then consider	Review complete and findings considered. Decision in relation to what practice	Apr 24 May 24		Children's Services Leadership Team (CSLT)	

	of effectiveness and capacity to improve.	and act on findings.	model made and agreed. Plan for next 12 months in place.	June 24			
8.3	Sufficient establishment to deliver a good quality children's social care service.	Secure resources and recruit staff.	Resources agreed. Staff recruited and in place.	Apr 24 Dec 24		CLT CSLT	
8.3 a	Develop and implement a Social Work Academy.	Lead on the implementation and embedding of local practice model. Supported allocation of cases to recently qualified social workers.	Resources agreed. Development plan in place.	Sep 24		Transformati on	
8.3b	Sufficient numbers of qualified and	Recruit 15 social workers	Reduce reliance on, volume and	Sep 24		Transformati on Lead	

	experienced social workers.	from outside the UK	cost of agency/interim social workers.				
8.4	Caseloads are manageable and set in line with the agreed safe operating model.	Develop and implement a standard safe operating principles to establish and implement manageable caseloads.	Options document completed. Decision made. Implementation plan. Caseloads reset.	Mar 24 Apr 24 Sep 24 Mar – Dec 25		CSLT	
8.5	EDT has sufficient capacity to meet need in Peterborough .	Review current commissioning arrangements EDT.	Review completed. Outcome considered and any actions agreed.	Mar – Sep 24 Sep – Dec 24		Service Director and Head of Children's Commissioning	

8.6	Sufficient staff and management capacity to deliver a high quality safe and effective, responsive service for PCC care leavers.	Review and restructure CL service. Recruit and appoint new team manager and PAs.	Agreed structure and team numbers. Team manager and new PAs in place. Cases allocated.	June – July 24 Oct 24 – Jan 25 Oct 24 – Jan 25		CSLT Service Director Head of Service	
8.7	A workforce plan that facilitates staff development, practice improvement, learning and career progression.	Develop and implement a revised workforce development plan.	Plan completed and agreed. Comms to staff and managers Plan implementation started	Oct 24 Jan 25 Apr 25		Service Director - Practice	
8.8	The practice of staff and managers has improved and the impact on children is	Commissioning and delivery of new/ refresher training for staff and managers. Practice fundamentals.	Training delivered as per this action plan. Impact on practice reviewed and	From Autumn 24 - Throughout 2024 and 2025		Service Director - Practice	

	clearly evidenced.		targets met or reset.			
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Action RAG	Criteria
Blue	All necessary actions have been completed
Green	Necessary actions have commenced and will be completed before the due date
Amber	Necessary actions have commenced but progress is at risk of not meeting the due date.
Red	Necessary actions have commenced but will not be completed before the due date

Outcome RAG	Criteria
Green	Current outcome measure in line with target.
Amber	Current outcome measure is not in line with target, but mitigation is in place to ensure a positive outcome at inspection.
Red	Current outcome measure not in line with target, and no mitigation is in place to ensure a positive outcome at inspection.

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Ofsted Programme Overview

Improvement Area	Completed	On Track	At Risk	Overdue	Not Started	At Risk of Negative Inspection Report	Overall RAG	Comments
Support for Care Leavers	0	19	14	1	4	No	Amber	Progress has been made but sustainability of impact at risk due to service capacity
Support for Children with Disabilities	3	5	0	0	0	No	Green	Actions are completed or on track, but improvements need to embed for improved outcomes to be seen through performance monitoring.
Response to increased vulnerability for children who are electively home educated or missing from education	0	2	0	0	0	No	Green	Training has taken place with staff and outcomes are now being monitored for impact.
The consistency of support for children who go missing from care	0	6	0	0	0	No	Green	Work with teams is ongoing. Number of children going missing is consistent but number of episodes reducing suggesting positive impact of intervention.
The sufficiency of suitable placements that can meet children and young people's assessed needs	1	11	7	0	4	No	Amber	Actions in relation to fostering service and marketing development progressing well. Children are being reviewed but some delays in implementing step down oversight due to capacity
The consistency in quality of social work assessments.	0	1	4	0	1	No	Amber	Initial work around practice improvement is showing some impact through dip sampling. This work will pick up pace when the Service director for Practice comes into post in November.
The quality of supervision, so that social workers are supported to think through complex situations, to help children make progress.	0	1	0	0	1	No	Amber	Recruitment to permanent posts remains an issue along with capacity among senior managers to manage change and improvement alongside day-to-day business. Additional local budgetary pressures provides additional challenge in taking forward required improvements and embedding change in these areas.
Service capacity, particularly in the safeguarding teams, care leaver service and emergency duty service	5	4	12	0	0	Yes	Amber	

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

Report of:	Carrie Traill – Service Director for Education John Gregg - Executive Director Children and Young People's Service	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Katy Cole, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Libby Walker – Head of Service – Admissions, Attendance & Transport	07920160244
	Rachel Floyd – Head of Capital & Place Planning	07483373080

ADMISSIONS AND PLACE PLANNING

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Head of Service – Admissions, Attendance & Transport	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee review and comment on the approach to admissions and place planning, and endorse the approach taken by Officers.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is being presented at the request of the Committee following a recent Group Representatives meeting.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 As a request from the committee this report will:

- Explain the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning process; and
- Explain the reasons for the mainstream and special place pressures the Local Authority is currently experiencing.

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:

2. Education

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

The improvement work being undertaken in Children’s Services supports the delivery of the Children in Care promise. It will ensure that Children’s Services can provide good quality services to children and families in Peterborough that will keep them safe, ensure that they feel valued and respected, and are involved in decision making about their lives.

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 This report is presented at the request of the committee to explain the School Admissions process and to provide a forward plan to address school place planning pressures.

School Admissions Process and School Places

- 1.1 The School Admissions Team is a statutory service, led by the Head of Service for Admissions, Attendance & Transport, Libby Walker.

The Pupil Place Planning Team is led by the Head of Education Capital and Pupil Place Planning, Rachel Floyd.

- 1.2 School Admissions are governed by the School Admissions Code. The School Admissions Team allocate school places to the parents/carers/guardians that apply for school places as part of the two coordinated schemes, for parents who live in Peterborough City Council's jurisdiction and wish for their child to start their education in Reception, transfer from an infant school to a junior school and transition from primary school to secondary school. They also process applications for in-year school placements for children who wish to change school between Reception and Year 11

- 1.3 For transition applications parents/carers/guardians need to apply for a school place through the Admissions Team of their home Local Authority (the local authority in which they pay their council tax to). Parents can apply for up to 3 preference schools, but if a preference school cannot be offered then the local authority will offer the next nearest school to the home address with available places.

- 1.4 For in-year applications parents/carers/guardians can apply to schools directly as some schools chose to process their own in-year applications. Parents can apply for up to 3 preference schools. If a place is not available at a preference school, the local authority has a statutory duty to allocate the next nearest school to the home address with available places. If a school processes their own in-year applications this means that the local authority cannot allocate a child a place at this school. This also means that should this be the next nearest school with available places, the local authority cannot direct a child to this school either. This means that PCC must allocate to a local authority in-year school, which could mean, that a child is offered a school further away and depending on the distance of the offered school place could mean that the child is eligible for transport.

- 1.5 Children of compulsory school age qualify for free school transport if they go to their nearest suitable school and any of the following apply:

Primary aged children in Reception to Year 3 who attend their nearest suitable or designated school and live at least 2 miles from the school.

Primary aged children in Year 4 to Year 6 who attend their nearest suitable or designated school and live at least 3 miles from the school; or who attend their nearest suitable or designated school, where the parents are in receipt of the appropriate benefits, and live at least 2 miles from the school.

We will provide free transport for secondary age children in Year 7 to Year 11 who:
Attend their catchment or nearest available school and live at least three miles from the school

In addition to the above, children/young people who cannot reasonably be expected to

walk to school because of SEN, disability or mobility difficulty are eligible for transport under section 508B and schedule 35B (2) of the Education Act 1996.

- 1.6 Nationally, Special Educational Needs (SEN) Placement Sufficiency is an area of concern, as there are more children requiring a special school placement, than there are places available. This is also the case in Peterborough. A Peterborough City Council SEN Placement Sufficiency Strategy is in draft, with a plan to increase in-city specialist placements, including proposals to develop existing special school sites and the repurposing of unused school's space.

The SEND & Inclusion Service will only consider placing a child in out-of-county placements where:

- All in-city maintained, and academy special schools are unable to offer a place and offer a statutory compliant response.
- An appeal which goes to tribunal can result in Peterborough City Council being ordered to place a child at a specified setting, which can be out-of-city, local area, or county.

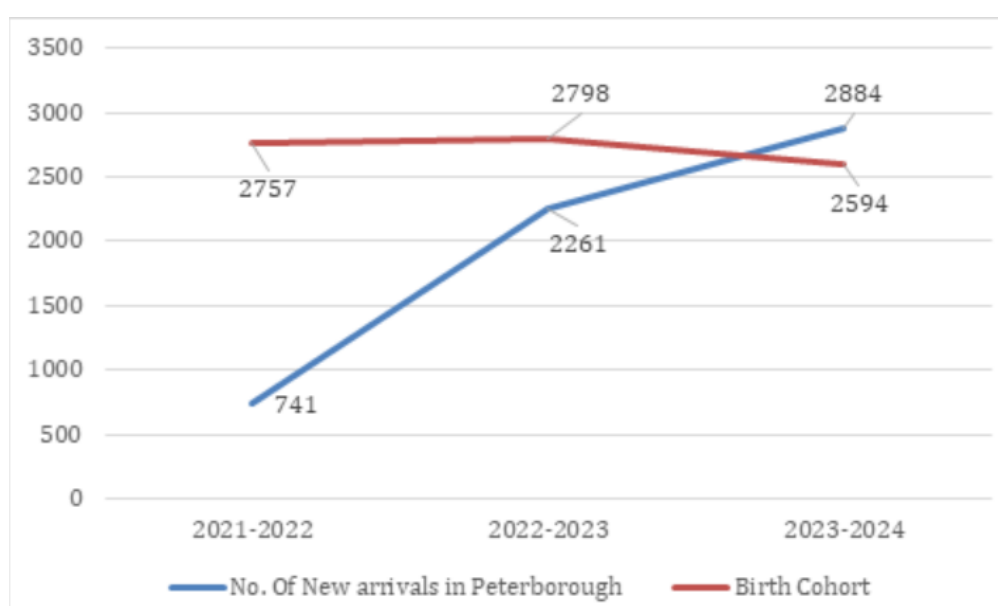
In the last 12-month period 44 children have been placed in out of county independent day placements due to lack of available specialist placements within the city.

- 1.7 Pupil Place Planning officers use demography for the area to calculate how many school places are needed in each planning area to ensure that children born in Peterborough and those arriving during their education can attend a school in their community. PCC demography data is commissioned through Cambridgeshire County Council. Officers use birth rates and growth via new developments to formulate a number of school places within each planning area.
- 1.8 The Department for Education suggest a float of 5% capacity within each year group to ensure that there is enough room for growth across the city. Currently, only Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have a capacity rate over 5%, in line with the national picture of falling birth rates. All other year groups across primary and secondary schools being below this figure as the table below highlights. All other year groups do not have a 5% capacity. Peterborough is the second fastest growing city within the UK. The capacity issues that Peterborough has been experiencing between Years 2 and Year 11 inclusive are due to inward migration that Peterborough has been experiencing within recent years.
- 1.9 Capacity is calculated by the number of vacancies divided by the published admissions number (PAN) times by 100 to create the capacity within each year group. Capacity within the year group does not mean that PCC can allocate children and/or young people to these places, as detailed in paragraph 1.4.

Year Group	PAN	No. of Children on Roll	Vacancies	Capacity %
Reception	3290	2744	543	16.50%
Year 1	3272	2877	346	10.57%
Year 2	3334	3060	254	7.62%
Year 3	3306	3132	130	3.93%
Year 4	3336	3172	119	3.57%
Year 5	3311	3204	73	2.20%
Year 6	3331	3267	134	4.02%
Year 7	3151	3088	125	0.93%
Year 8	3343	3285	27	0.81%
Year 9	3217	3152	50	1.55%
Year 10	3138	3118	11	0.35%
Year 11	3140	3021	81	3.52%
Total	39169	37120	1893	4.83%

Green = more than 5% capacity across the City
Amber = near to 5% capacity across the City
Red = less than 5% capacity across the City

1.10 The graph below evidences the number of applications the PCC Admissions Team have received from parents who have requested a school place in Peterborough and stated that they are moving into the city either from other areas across the UK or from outside the UK. This table shows that although birth rates within Peterborough are falling, the number of new arrival children in Peterborough is rising.



1.11 Offering a child a school place which is further away from their home can lead to an increase in the number of children missing from education as parents do not always accept the offered school place if it is outside of their community. It can also lead to an increase in attendance issues as children can be late for school due to the commute from their local community to the next nearest school with space which can be some distance from their home. A child attending a school outside of their local community can impact on social skills as children do not make friends within their local community as they access education outside of their community. This also leads to extra traffic and congestion on the roads, extra costs to parents who pay for petrol to transport their children to schools outside of their community.

School Place Planning and Forward Plan

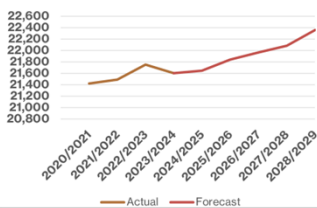
The new Head of Pupil Place Planning and Capital is reviewing the latest demography, along with housing development applications and migration figures.

This will be used to create Peterborough City Council’s School Organisation Plan (SOP), which will go through a consultation process with schools, as well as cabinet.

We are experiencing increasing pressures, especially in areas of housing development. Making the need to S106 or CIL contributions vital in future proofing pupil places.

Primary School Forecasts Across Peterborough

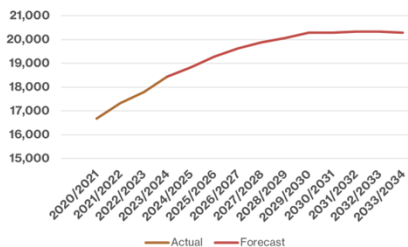
Numbers on rolls for primary are forecast to increase over the next five years. This is predominantly driven by planning inputs in Rural East and Manor Drive, as well as substantial housing development in the Hamptons.



School Year	Pri 4	Pri 5	Pri 6	Pri 7	Pri 8	Pri 9	Pri 10	Total
2020/2021	2,912	3,008	3,029	3,146	3,151	3,077	3,100	21,423
2021/2022	2,901	3,008	3,050	3,097	3,165	3,186	3,082	21,489
2022/2023	2,910	3,017	3,096	3,129	3,164	3,196	3,238	21,750
2023/2024	2,753	2,991	3,089	3,140	3,175	3,225	3,231	21,604
2024/2025	2,867	2,859	3,069	3,164	3,189	3,229	3,271	21,648
2025/2026	2,985	2,982	2,946	3,169	3,222	3,252	3,284	21,840
2026/2027	2,961	3,095	3,064	3,040	3,222	3,280	3,302	21,964
2027/2028	2,996	3,069	3,175	3,148	3,091	3,278	3,328	22,085
2028/2029	3,107	3,113	3,158	3,279	3,208	3,156	3,335	22,356

Secondary School Forecasts

Numbers on rolls for secondary are forecast to increase, then level over the next ten years. The increase is mainly driven by planning inputs.



	Sec 11	Sec 12	Sec 13	Sec 14	Sec 15	Sec 16	Sec 17	Total
2020/2021	2,978	2,978	2,844	2,618	2,502	1,591	1,172	16,683
2021/2022	3,094	2,988	2,980	2,838	2,578	1,487	1,363	17,328
2022/2023	3,106	3,082	3,031	3,011	2,831	1,509	1,225	17,795
2023/2024	3,262	3,128	3,081	3,042	2,998	1,601	1,320	18,432
2024/2025	3,238	3,284	3,111	3,105	3,039	1,686	1,373	18,836
2025/2026	3,335	3,266	3,271	3,139	3,106	1,709	1,457	19,283
2026/2027	3,393	3,360	3,251	3,297	3,138	1,714	1,466	19,619
2027/2028	3,344	3,418	3,345	3,295	3,296	1,724	1,467	19,889
2028/2029	3,358	3,374	3,407	3,393	3,298	1,750	1,479	20,059
2029/2030	3,385	3,390	3,366	3,458	3,399	1,781	1,504	20,283
2030/2031	3,253	3,418	3,381	3,416	3,463	1,837	1,523	20,291
2031/2032	3,325	3,288	3,411	3,433	3,423	1,882	1,576	20,338
2032/2033	3,325	3,356	3,279	3,461	3,438	1,858	1,614	20,331
2033/2034	3,279	3,358	3,350	3,332	3,469	1,897	1,597	20,282

As part of the work undertaken to formulate the School Organisation Plan, Officers will be reviewing those areas where demography identifies falling rolls. Officers will be working with all partners including Head Teachers, Governing Boards, CEOs and MAT Trustees when

considering all options available to address both pressures and concerns.

Annual DfE returns determine the amount of grant funding councils receive for basic need. Almost all of the recently built schools in Peterborough were funded through the Free School Programme (funding and building of the school being directly the responsibility of the DfE) Great Haddon Primary School 1 is the first school this local authority has had to find capital funding for. At this point in time, it is unknown how the new government will provide funding to local authorities for any new schools or expansion projects.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 The Economy & Inclusive Growth

Environment - When looking to allocate a school place we always try to offer a family one of their preference schools. When needing to offer the next nearest school with available places we contact the transport team to try and offer a school where transport links are already in place, to ensure that there is minimal impact (where possible) to the transport budget.

Our Places & Communities

We always try to offer a school near to a family's home so that the child can attend a local school within their community so that families can walk to school, wherever possible and to improve social friendships for the child both in and out of school.

Prevention, Independence & Resilience

Aiming to allocate and provide enough school places where families live to ensure that children can go to school with other children in their local community, and parents can work within Peterborough to ensure that Peterborough can maximise in its growth.

Sustainable Future City Council

We provide detailed information to parents and families of the catchment school to each child's home address. We provide information of how we allocate school places and how many children were allocated to each school on National Offer Day to ensure that parents are aware of the Admissions Processes. Families are sent an outcome letter after an allocation has taken place so that they are aware of the offered school place and what they need to do next. We pride ourselves on being able to help and enable our families to understand each process.

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

Environment & Climate Change

The report is answering questions about the current process: explaining the admissions and pupil place planning process and reasons for the mainstream and special place & pressures the local Authority is currently experiencing. There are no changes in the current process and therefore will have neutral impact in the council's and city's emissions.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 This document has not been consulted upon as it is presented at the request of the Committee.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 For the Committee to seek answers to their questions on Admissions and School Place Planning.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 At the request of the committee.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 No other alternative options for this report have been considered as this report was generated at the request of the committee.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 This report details the financial implications of the lack of school places within Peterborough and the impact this has on the transport budget. The Place Planning information details how we will try to tackle the lack of school places through a medium to long term plan.

Legal Implications

10.2 The Admissions team must comply with the School Admissions Code which is statutory guidance issued under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

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.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 N/A

12. APPENDICES

12.1 N/A

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CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
11 NOVEMBER 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Neil McArthur, Director Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)	
Contact Officer(s):	Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 01733 684628

MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Director Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee considers the responses from Cabinet Members and Officers to recommendations made at previous meetings as attached in Appendix 1 to the report and provides feedback including whether further monitoring of each recommendation is required.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 In accordance with the constitution Scrutiny Committees may make reports and recommendations to the Cabinet and/or full Council and/or any Committee in connection with the discharge of any of the Council’s functions. This report is therefore provided as part of this process to ensure the monitoring of any recommendations which have been made by this committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The report enables the Scrutiny Committee to monitor and track progress of recommendations made to the Executive or Officers at previous meetings.

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:

- a) *Review and scrutinise the Executive, Committee and officer decisions and performance in connection with the discharge of any of the Council’s functions.*
- b) *Review and scrutinise the Council’s performance in meeting the aims of its policies and performance targets and/or particular service areas;*
- c) *Question Members of the Executive, Committees and senior officers about their decisions and performance of the Council, both generally and in relation to particular decisions or projects;*
- d) *Make recommendations to the Executive and the Council as a result of the scrutiny process.*

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 Appendix 1 of the report sets out the recommendations made to Cabinet Members or Officers at previous meetings of the Scrutiny Committee. It also contains summaries of any action taken by Cabinet Members or Officers in response to the recommendations.
- 4.2 The progress status for each recommendation is indicated and if the Scrutiny Committee confirms acceptance of the items marked as completed, they will be removed from the list. In cases where action on the recommendation is outstanding or the Committee does not accept the matter has been adequately completed it will be kept on the list and reported back to the next meeting of the Committee. It will remain on the list until such time as the Committee accepts the recommendation as completed.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 5.1 Timelier monitoring of recommendations made will assist the Scrutiny Committee in assessing the impact and consequence of the recommendations.

6. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 To assist the Committee in assessing the impact and consequence of recommendations made at previous meetings.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 7.1 Minutes of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15 July 2024.

8. APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations Report

RECOMMENDATION MONITORING REPORT 2024/25

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Updated: 01/11/2024

Meeting date Recommendations Made	Portfolio Holder / Directorate Responsible	Agenda Item Title	Recommendation Made	Action Taken	Progress Status
15/07/24	Sara Graves, Service Director, Targeted Support & Safeguarding	Service Director Targeted Support and Safeguarding - Update Activity Since The Last Inspection Report	That Officers present information at each Children and Education Scrutiny Committee this year, of the specific progress mapped to the recommendations from Ofsted, with examples of specific initiatives, how they are being assessed and the progress being made.	Officers to present the information at each meeting. At the meeting in September, the Committee asked Officers to consider a review of the action plan so that it can be presented in public.	Awaiting Committee review

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Children and Education Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024/25

Updated: 01/11/2024

Meeting Date	Item	Comments
Meeting date: 15 July 2024 Draft report deadline: 26 June 24 Final report deadline: 03 July 24	Appointment of Co-opted Members 2024/25 Contact Officer: Madia Afzal	
	Review of 2023/2024 and Work Programme 2024/2025 Contact Officer: Madia Afzal	
	Service Director Targeted Support & Safeguarding - Update activity since the Inspection Contact Officer: Sara Graves/Charlotte Edwards	
	Forward Plan of Executive Decisions Contact Officer: Madia Afzal	
Meeting date: 23 September 2024 Draft report deadline: 04 Sep 24 Final report deadline: 11 Sep 24	Supplementary Appointment of Co-opted Member 2024/25 Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	
	Forward Plan of Executive Decisions Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	
	LGA Peer Review Contact Officer:	
	Ofsted: Action Plan and Progress Monitoring Contact Officer: John Gregg	Standing item
	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations Report Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	

Meeting Date	Item	Comments
	Work Programme 2024/2025 Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	
Meeting date: 11 November 2024 Draft report deadline: 23 October 24 Final report deadline: 30 October 24	Forward Plan of Executive Decisions Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	
	Children Services Improvement: Action Plan and Progress Monitoring Contact Officer: John Gregg/Sara Graves	Standing item
	School Admissions and Place Planning Contact Officer: Libby Walker and Rachel Floyd	
	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations Report Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	
	Work Programme 2024/2025 Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	
Meeting date: 29 January 2025 Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees - Budget		
Meeting date: 27 January 2025 Draft report deadline: 08 Jan 25 Final report deadline: 15 Jan 25	Forward Plan of Executive Decisions Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	
	Children Services Improvement: Action Plan and Progress Monitoring Contact Officer: John Gregg/Sara Graves	Standing item

Meeting Date	Item	Comments
	LGA Peer Review: Corporate Parenting Committee Contact Officer: Charlotte Edwards	
	Annual Report of Peterborough Virtual School for Children in Care Contact Officer: Zoe Lattimer	
	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Annual Report 2024-25 Contact Officer: TBC	
	Annual Children's Services Complaints Report 2024-25 Contact Officer: Belinda Evans	
	Work Programme 2024/2025 Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	
Meeting date: 17 March 2025 Draft report deadline: 26 Feb 25 Final report deadline: 05 March 25	Forward Plan of Executive Decisions Contact Officer: Charlotte Cameron	
	Children Services Improvement: Action Plan and Progress Monitoring Contact Officer: John Gregg/Sara Graves	Standing item
	Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2024-25 Contact Officer: Sara Graves	
	Cabinet Member for Childrens Services - Education remit of the portfolio Progress Report Contact Officer: John Gregg	

Meeting Date	Item	Comments
	Send Update Report /EHCP, Quality Assurances Contact Officer: TBC	