

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 13(a)
1 NOVEMBER 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	John Gregg Executive Director of Children's Services and Young People (DCS)	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Jackie Allen, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education	
Contact Officer(s):	John Gregg, Executive Director of Children's Services and Young People	

CHILDREN'S IMPROVEMENT BOARD

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Executive Director of Children Services and Young People	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the establishment of a Children's Improvement Board in line with the statutory notice of improvement issued by the Department for Education. 2. Approve the terms of reference of the Peterborough City Council Children's Improvement Board as set out at appendix 2 and in doing so appoint Sally Rowe as its independent chair. 3. Approve the remuneration of the panel chair as set out in para 2.1 4. Approve the delegation to the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Children' Services and Young People and Executive Director of Corporate Services & S151 officer to take all necessary actions to appoint independent board members as outlined within the terms of reference. 5. Approve the delegation of authority to the Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to make any necessary changes to the constitution and incorporate the terms of reference for the Children's Improvement Board • Outline the route for recommendations from the Children's Improvement Board through Cabinet, Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and Full Council 6. Receive regular reports from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education following each Improvement Board Meeting. 7. Note that improvement work commenced in March 2023 following the initial feedback from Ofsted. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1
1. The purpose of this report is to secure Full Council's agreement to establishing a Children's Improvement Board in accordance with the Statutory Notice of Improvement issued to the Council by the Department for Education.
 2. The improvement notice was issued following a report from Ofsted following a two-day focused visit in March 2023 that highlighted some failings and a number of areas for improvement. The Ofsted report is available at [50215914 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/50215914)

2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Council has responded promptly to the issues identified by Ofsted, developing an action plan immediately following the Ofsted visit. This has included making available additional financial resources and strengthening the corporate support to Children's Services. The Children's Improvement Board is mandated by central government, the purpose of which is to oversee and drive improvements in Children's Services.

The board will be chaired by an ex-Director of Children's Services and expert in Leading Children's Services inspection and improvement. The remuneration for which is set out at a total cost of £30,000 per year and includes work with the service between board meetings. The costs for the Improvement advisor are met by the department for education. It is expected that all other members of the board contribute their time and expertise voluntarily.

The board will meet regularly for the duration of the improvement notice.

- 2.2 The full membership of the board is outlined within the terms of reference at appendix 2 and includes key members and officers, partners and experts in the field.
- 2.3 The first meeting of the Improvement Board will take place in November 2023

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 Improving outcomes for children is a key priority for the Council and contributes to all aspects of the corporate plan including.
- economic and inclusive growth
 - Homes and workplaces
 - Places and communities
 - Prevention Independence and Resilience
 - Sustainable Future City Council

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services have been engaged in the development of the Children's Improvement Board. The Corporate Leadership Team briefed and support Services advised. Partner agencies including education and schools, the Police and Health through the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership are aware.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications as a consequence of establishing this statutory board. It is probable that there will be some associated costs as a consequence of improving Children's Services.

Legal Implications

- 5.2 The establishment of the Children's Improvement Board as set out in the report is a requirement of the Department of education in their Improvement Notice dated 2 August 2023. Full Council is the appropriate decision maker within the Council to approve the establishment of the Board.

Equalities Implications

- 5.3 None

Other Implications

5.4 The establishment of a Children's Improvement Board has been mandated by Central Government. Improving Children's Services has many positive implications for Children in Care and Care leavers.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

6.1 **Ofsted report of focused Visit** [50215914 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/publications/50215914)

7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 - Department for Education Statutory Notice of Improvement
Appendix 2 - Children's Improvement Board Terms of Reference

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