

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 4th June, 2020
at 5.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE:

This will be a virtual meeting, a link to which will be available on Southampton City Council's website at least 24 hrs before the meeting.

This meeting is open to the public

Members

Councillor Taggart
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor J Baillie
Councillor Chaloner
Councillor Guthrie
Councillor Laurent
Councillor Mintoff

Appointed Members

Nicola Brown, Primary Parent Governor
Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church
Francis Otieno, Primary Parent Governor
Claire Rogers, Secondary Parent Governor
Rob Sanders, Church of England

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL

Role of this Scrutiny Panel: To undertake the scrutiny of Children and Families Services in the City, including the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Early Help, Specialist & Core Service, looked after children, education and early years and youth offending services, unless they are forward plan items. In such circumstances members of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel will be invited to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting where they are discussed.

Terms Of Reference:-

Scrutiny of Children and Families Services in the City to include:

- Monitoring the implementation and challenging the progress of the Council's action plan to address the recommendations made by Ofsted following their inspection of Children's Services in Southampton and review of Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in July 2014.
- Regular scrutiny of the performance of multi-agency arrangements for the provision of early help and services to children and their families.
- Scrutiny of early years and education including the implementation of the Vision for Learning 2014 – 2024.
- Scrutiny of the development and implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy developed by the Youth Offending Board.
- Referring issues to the Chair of the LSCB and the Corporate Parenting Committee.

Public Representations

At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting on any report included on the agenda in which they have a relevant interest. Any member of the public wishing to address the meeting should advise the Democratic Support Officer (DSO) whose contact details are on the front sheet of the agenda.

Access – access is available for the disabled. Please contact the Democratic Support Officer who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

Mobile Telephones:- Please switch your mobile telephones to silent whilst in the meeting

Use of Social Media:- The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair's opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council's Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting.

By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public.

Any person or organisation filming, recording or broadcasting any meeting of the Council is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them doing so.

Details of the Council's Guidance on the recording of meetings is available on the Council's website.

Business to be Discussed

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

QUORUM The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 3.

Rules of Procedure

The meeting is governed by the Council Procedure Rules and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Smoking policy – the Council operates a no-smoking policy in all civic buildings.

Fire Procedure – in the event of a fire or other emergency a continuous alarm will sound and you will be advised by Council officers what action to take

The Southampton City Council Strategy (2016-2020) is a key document and sets out the four key outcomes that make up our vision.

- Southampton has strong and sustainable economic growth
- Children and young people get a good start in life
- People in Southampton live safe, healthy, independent lives
- Southampton is an attractive modern City, where people are proud to live and work

Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year

2020	2021
4 June	11 February
23 July	25 March

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" or "Other Interest" they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

(i) Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

(ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

(iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.

(iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.

(v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.

(vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.

(vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:

- a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
- b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Other Interests

A Member must regard himself or herself as having an 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

Any body to which they have been appointed or nominated by Southampton City Council

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful; and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

To note any changes in membership of the Panel made in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

To elect the Chair and Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

3 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

4 DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any prior participation in any decision taken by a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel of the Council on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

5 DECLARATION OF PARTY POLITICAL WHIP

Members are invited to declare the application of any party political whip on any matter on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

6 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)

(Pages 1 - 6)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 23 January 2020 and to deal with any matters arising.

8 COVID 19 - EDUCATION AND EARLY YEARS IN SOUTHAMPTON (Pages 7 - 14)

Report of the Director - Legal and Business Operations, enabling the Panel to scrutinise developments across Southampton's education and early years settings during the Coronavirus lockdown.

9 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - PERFORMANCE (Pages 15 - 36)

Report of the Director - Legal and Business Operations providing an overview of performance across Children and Families Services since January 2020.

Wednesday, 27 May 2020

Service Director – Legal and Business Operations

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2020

Present: Councillors Taggart (Chair), Mitchell, J Baillie, Chaloner, Guthrie, Laurent and Mintoff
Appointed Members: Rob Sanders and Francis Otieno

Apologies: Appointed Members: Catherine Hobbs, Nicola Brown and Claire Rogers

23. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The apologies of Appointed Members Nicola Brown, Catherine Hobbs, and Claire Rogers were noted.

Change to the Order of Business.

The Chair sought and obtained the consent of the Committee to vary the order of business from that set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED that Agenda Item 5 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR be moved to after Agenda Item 6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)

24. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

25. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair referred to the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services and invited Councillor Paffey, the Cabinet Member for Aspiration, Children and Lifelong Learning and Hillary Brooks, Executive Director – Children's Services, to address the panel

The panel noted the following:

- That the overall judgement of this Ofsted Inspection was that the service required improvement, with a few areas that were judged overall as good.
- There were no areas that were judged to be inadequate.
- The Ofsted Inspection recognised that Children and Families Services had made significant progress in the delivery of services for children.
- The Ofsted Inspection found that children and families were receiving a prompt and proportionate response.
- The Ofsted Inspection report noted that there had been substantial improvement to services for Care Leavers, schools were held effectively to account for the impact of their work and that there was energy in corporate parenting roles.

- The Ofsted Inspection identified that the service needed to build longer term uninterrupted relationships with children as plans progressed, and to make sure all children got the right help quickly through improvement in the assessment of the effectiveness and impact of front line services.
- Children and Families Services had begun work on an improvement plan to make all services good or outstanding.

The Chair expressed thanks to all the front line staff for their work to help keep all our children safe.

RESOLVED that a formal report on the Ofsted Inspection of Children and Families Services and the response from the Children and Families Service would be included in the agenda of the next meeting of the Panel.

26. **SOUTHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**

The Panel considered the report of the Independent Chair of the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership which presented the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2018-19. The report recommended that the Panel noted the changes to statutory guidance relating to partnership arrangements for safeguarding children and young people and that the Panel utilised the information contained in the report to inform its work.

Councillor Paffey, Cabinet Member for Aspiration, Children and Lifelong Learning; Hilary Brooks, Executive Director, Children's Services, Southampton City Council; Phil Bullingham, Service Lead - Safeguarding, Improvement, Governance and Compliance, Children & Families, Southampton City Council; Detective Chief Inspector Nick Plummer, Public Protection, Hampshire Constabulary; Superintendent Kelly Whiting, Southampton District Commander, Hampshire Constabulary; Katherine Elsmore, Head of Safeguarding, NHS Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group; Shiobhan West, Associate Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, NHS Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group; were present and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel.

In discussions with the officers, the Panel noted the following:

- That due to the changes to the statutory guidance relating to partnership arrangements for safeguarding children and young people, the LSCB had been transformed into the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP)
- That Southampton was partnered with Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight as there were shared services across these districts.
- There was capacity to communicate effectively and share training across the partnership
- The LSCB had facilitated good working relationships between agencies that assisted the identification of priorities for Southampton, the sharing of good practice and professional challenge
- The LSCB had identified that there was a need to develop a shared and consistent understanding across all agencies of the thresholds for safeguarding referrals and how to assess and manage risk in the community.

- The LSCB had increased awareness of the challenges of providing a joined up approach to supporting the mental health needs of Looked After Children and the transition pathways for young people from children's mental health services to adult mental health services.
- The monitoring data evidenced that the demand for placements for looked after children and suitable accommodation for children leaving care was greater than the supply of placements and suitable accommodation.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the membership of the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership is circulated to the Panel.

27. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

The Chair moved that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendix to the following item. It was not appropriate to disclose this information based on Categories 1 and 7 of paragraph 10.4 of the council's Access to Information Procedure Rules as the information was likely to reveal the identity of an individual and the information related to action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

RESOLVED that having applied the public interest test, the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

28. **CHILD EXPLOITATION IN SOUTHAMPTON - INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION**

The Panel considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which provided an overview of the multi-agency response to child exploitation in Southampton, including child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation.

Hilary Brooks, Executive Director, Children's Services, Southampton City Council; Phil Bullingham, Service Lead - Safeguarding, Improvement, Governance and Compliance, Children & Families, Southampton City Council; Laura Tanner, MET (Missing, Exploited, Trafficked) Team Manager, Children and Families, Southampton City Council; Simon Dennison, Children's Resource Service Manager, Children's Services, Southampton City Council; Detective Chief Inspector Nick Plummer, Public Protection, Hampshire Constabulary; Superintendent Kelly Whiting, Southampton District Commander, Hampshire Constabulary; were present and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel.

In discussions with the officers, the Panel noted the following:

- That safeguarding children from the risk of exploitation when they are outside of their homes required close partnership working from many agencies, which included the Council, schools, Hampshire Constabulary and health services.

- There had been multi-agency training delivered to schools and other community agencies which had improved practitioners awareness of the signs of exploitation and had also improved the use of the Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF) tool to assess children who might be at risk of exploitation.
- Southampton, Portsmouth and Havant had the greatest number of children at risk of child sexual exploitation. The areas where a high number of children at risk had been identified aligned with areas of deprivation
- Assessment of those children identified at risk of exploitation commonly identified other precursor traumatic events in their home life, such as domestic abuse, being a victim of assault or being linked to drugs intelligence.
- That information sharing quickly, within 72 hours, continued to be a challenge. Police in the city shared information on the key issues and main incidents daily.
- The police usually investigated to prosecute but with child exploitation the police had to investigate to safeguard. Investigations often centred on a particular child and they often had to move quickly to keep the child safe.
- The MET team was able to support high risk vulnerable children until the service was confident that risk levels had been reduced and they were no longer at high risk.
- The MET Hub had an increase in the high risk cohort due to improved identification of high risk factors.. As a result the MET Hub has had to prioritise this cohort.

RESOLVED

- (i) That, at the appropriate meeting of the Panel, an update would be provided on the development of the Vulnerable Adolescents Service.

29. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - PERFORMANCE**

The Panel considered the report of the Director, Legal and Governance which provided an overview of performance across Children and Families Services since November 2019.

Hilary Brooks, Executive Director, Children's Services; and Phil Bullingham, Service Lead, Safeguarding, Improvement, Governance and Compliance; were present and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the Panel.

In discussions with the officers, the Panel noted the following:

- The presentation of the data had improved
- That fewer children had needed to be referred into statutory services, therefore more children had been referred into the Early Help service, which was a partnership service and not all the data for this service was tracked.
- There had been a focus on child protection planning and better management of the gateway into child protection proceedings.
- A recruitment and retention working group had been formed that had reviewed exit interviews and the working environment for staff.
- There was a shortage of foster placements locally and nationally and in the private sector.

RESOLVED

- (i) That details of the scheduled learning event for social workers (CPD) is circulated to the Panel.
- (ii) That the recruitment of foster carers is considered at a future meeting of the Panel.

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Agenda Item 8

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL		
SUBJECT:	COVID 19 – EDUCATION AND EARLY YEARS IN SOUTHAMPTON		
DATE OF DECISION:	4 JUNE 2020		
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail:	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	Richard Ivory	Tel: 023 8083 2794
	E-mail:	Richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
The attached appendices, Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, provide a brief overview of developments across Southampton’s schools and early years settings following the Coronavirus lockdown on 23 rd March 2020. The Panel are invited to discuss the developments with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning and the Head of Education and Early Years.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Panel utilise the information contained within Appendices 1 and 2 and discuss the developments across Southampton’s schools and early years settings, following the Coronavirus lockdown, with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning and the Head of Education and Early Years.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To enable the Panel to scrutinise developments across Southampton’s education and early years settings during the Coronavirus lockdown.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	On 20 th March 2020 the Secretary of State for Education announced that schools in England would close for an unspecified length of time in response to the Coronavirus pandemic in the UK. This was followed by the UK Government imposing a lockdown on the whole population, banning all non-essential travel and contact with people outside one’s home on 23 rd March 2020.		
4.	Attached as Appendix 1 is an overview of developments across Southampton’s schools following the announcement by Government relating to schools being allowed to accept an increasing number of students from 1 st June 2020.		

5.	Attached as Appendix 2 is an overview of early years settings and provision in Southampton and the challenges the sector faces.
6.	Cllr Paffey, Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and Derek Wiles, Head of Education and Early Years, have been invited to attend the meeting to provide the Panel with the requested overview and to answer questions from the Panel.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
7.	None.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
8.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
9.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
10.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
11.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
12.	Improving the effectiveness of the political scrutiny of children's safeguarding will help contribute to the following priorities within the Council Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing - Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time.
KEY DECISION	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Southampton Schools update – 26/05/20
2.	Early Years update – 20/05/20
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		No
Other Background Documents		
Equality Impact Assessment and other background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)	
1.	None	

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Southampton Schools Update – 26/05/20

Schools are poised to take an increasing number of students after half term. As such they are not reopening as they have not been closed for the last 8 weeks due to providing care for vulnerable and children of critical workers.

While some are in a position to take in the year groups specified by the government others are not, but will do so when they have implemented the strategies to ensure the safety of staff and children.

However, all schools and EYS are planning for the increasing numbers, but are taking the following into consideration:

- a) Logistical demands of maintaining social distancing between pupils
- b) Introducing staggered start, finish, lesson and break times to limit contact
- c) Availability of staff
- d) Existing numbers of children of critical workers and those who are vulnerable.
- e) Union, scientific and governmental advice, none of which are currently aligned.
- f) Parental interest in having their children return
- g) Transport to and from school, college
- h) Availability of PPE equipment
- i) Clarity over liability and insurance cover.

The LA has provided support on implementing the government guidance to all Heads, all schools have been given a generic risk assessment from the Education Team to help with planning along with legal guidance and advice from Health colleagues, PPE equipment has been ordered for all maintained schools. All schools have been contacted by members of the team to discuss plans for reopening and to check on the welfare of the Headteacher.

In the medium term, the LA will be supporting through the Educational Psychology service to help pupils with mental health issues, resulting from the shutdown, and will be supporting those schools whose plans are not fit for purpose.

In the longer term the QA team will be supporting schools from September with their Recovery Strategy and the production of a appropriate curriculum which brings children back into a learning mentality The inclusion and EWO teams will be working with schools as there is an expectation that next term exclusions will increase greatly while attendance will be down.

Other issues being addressed in addition to the normal responsibilities of the service are the implications of the governments giveaway of IT equipment to schools and vulnerable children. About 1300 computers will become the property of the LA who will in the short term be responsible for these. There is also concern over the financial viability of numerous early years settings and some schools in the independent sector, one having gone into administration last week resulting in a large increase in 'in-year' admissions for the team to process.

Derek Wiles
Head of Education and Early Years
Southampton City Council

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Southampton Early Years Update – 20/05/20

Since lockdown began on March 23rd a proportion of Ofsted registered preschools, childminders and nurseries have remained open to provide care for vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

The DfE collects data from LAs twice a week; on May 15th nationally 36% of early years and childcare settings were open, 56% closed and 8% unknown. This compares with 49% of early years and childcare settings in Southampton being open, 46% being closed and 5% unknown. Several out of school clubs have also remained open.

145 under-fives who have an Education, Health and Care Plan, receive Early Years Support funding, who are open to Social care or otherwise identified as being vulnerable attended a setting in week commencing May 11th. Of those settings who submitted a return 35 out of 60 under 5s with a Child Protection plan were attending an early years setting, and 21 out of 58 Children in Need. Providers are regularly contacting parents/carers of all children who have been identified as being vulnerable to offer support and to remind them that their child should return, if it's safer for them to be at the setting than at home. Providers follow their safeguarding policy if there are any concerns and are expected to notify the Social Worker in the first instance. Providers are completing risk assessments for every child who has an EHCP; these are being returned to the SEND team to assess.

The Early Years and Childcare team has provided regular updates to all providers, and responded to a wide range of queries and concerns. Information from the DfE has been frequent but at times confusing. For example, providers were initially informed by DfE that they could furlough staff if not needed at present, however HMRC advice was that only non-public funds could be taken into account when calculating the proportion of staff who could be furloughed. This has proved to be very difficult for providers who rely on parental income to make up the shortfall in the Nursery Education Funding, as the furlough scheme only pays 80% of the member of staff costs, and also does not take into account the other costs of delivering childcare.

There has been other financial support for providers, for example the Business Rates' holiday for providers who are responsible for their premises. However, this has not helped our providers who rent parts of premises. Childminders are able to access the Self-employed support if they have completed Tax Returns, however there was a considerable delay in their receiving any of the grant. We have continued to pay Nursery Education Funding; our payments took into account that the summer term is the busiest term for providers. We also made 'exceptional payments' to those providers who have remained open.

However, we anticipate that several providers will have to close due to being financially unviable. Our Nursery Education Funding rate, as set by DfE, is insufficient. Southampton saw a reduction in the hourly rate 3 years ago when the National Funding Formula was introduced, this year we saw our first increase for 3 years, but only an increase of around 1.8%. In the intervening years providers have seen soaring Business rates, utility bills and food costs, etc. Staff salaries, and a

high proportion of staff are paid only minimum wage, have increased, and pensions now need to be provided. Some of our providers were, therefore already in a very precarious situation before Coronavirus and the lockdown. Other costs related to Coronavirus, such as deep cleaning and PPE are another burden on early years settings, whereas schools can access national funding to support them. Nationally it is expected that 20% of early years and childcare provision will close.

Moving forward most early years group settings do expect to be reopening for all children when the government gives the go-ahead, and those who are unsure are on school premises where the school may not re-open, or have insufficient staff available to be able to reopen. They are all busy planning and risk assessing. Unlike schools there has been no national guidance on phasing the return in early years, but generally providers will be prioritising vulnerable children, children of critical workers and then next those children due to start school in September and funded 2 year olds. As we cannot expect our youngest children to keep a social distance from each other and the staff, it is extremely important that a strict hygiene routine is implemented, and group sizes are reduced. Providers expect about half of all children to take up a place initially and then this to increase as parents' confidence grows.

Anne Downie
Early Years and Childcare Manager
Southampton City Council

Agenda Item 9

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL		
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - PERFORMANCE		
DATE OF DECISION:	4 JUNE 2020		
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail:	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	Richard Ivory	Tel: 023 8083 2794
	E-mail:	Richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
Attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 are the key data sets for Children and Families up to the end of April 2020. At the meeting the Cabinet Member and senior managers from Children and Families will be providing the Panel with an overview of performance across the division since January 2020.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children and Family Services in Southampton.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To enable effective scrutiny of children and family services in Southampton.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	To enable the Panel to undertake their role effectively members will be provided with appropriate performance information on a monthly basis and an explanation of the measures.		
4.	Performance information up to 30 April 2020 is attached in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. An explanation of the significant variations in performance will be provided at the meeting.		
5.	The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning and representatives from the Senior Management Team, Children and Families have been invited to attend the meeting and provide the performance overview.		
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS			
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>			
6.	None.		
<u>Property/Other</u>			

7.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
8.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
9.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
10.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
11.	Improving the effectiveness of the political scrutiny of children's safeguarding will help contribute to the following priorities within the Council Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing - Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time.
KEY DECISION	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Children and Families Monthly Dataset – April 2020
2.	Early Help Dataset – April 2020
3.	Glossary of terms
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
Other Background Documents	
Equality Impact Assessment and other background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None

Qualitative measures:			Key to direction of travel:				
Positive	Similar	Negative	Increase 10% or more	↑	Similar →	Decrease 10% or more	↓

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	% change from Mar-20	% change from Apr-19	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 19-20	Commentary (Apr-20)
M1	Number of contacts received (includes contacts that become referrals)	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	There is an effective 'front door' with which anyone with a concern about a child can engage and receive appropriate advice, support and action.	1354	1323	1258	1419	1129	1198	1147	→ -4%	↓ -13%		1291	1535	Local	Local	Local		The rate of Contacts remains low which is likely to be a direct result of Covid 19 Lockdown as children are not attending school and professionals are not visiting children and their families. The MASH are working closely with Partners in identifying any Hidden Harm.
M2	Number of new referrals of Children In Need (CiN)	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Referrals for children in need of help and support are accepted appropriately by the service.	416	380	309	406	318	300	286	→ -5%	↓ -29%		387	523	399	357	460		The number of referrals for Children in Need has dropped once again and can be identified as a result of Covid 19 as stated above. However this figure is well below statistical neighbours and therefore we will be communicating with neighbours to check on potential different ways of working. The referrals into the Early Help Hub also remains low which is concerning and is shared with Partners on a weekly basis.
M3	Percentage of all contacts that become new referrals of Children In Need (CiN)	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Children and families receive the help they need at the right time, and from the best possible resource - in line with the established continuum of need.	31%	29%	25%	29%	28%	25%	25%	→ 0%	↓ -18%		30%	36%	Local	Local	Local		The Conversion rate of Contacts to Referral remains consistent showing consistency of decision making within the MASH.
M2-NI	Number of new referrals of Children in Need (CiN) rate per 10,000 (0-17 year olds)	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Referrals for children in need of help and support are comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	82	75	61	80	63	59	56	→ -5%	↓ -42%		84	122	Local	Local	Local		There are no figures here to compare with statistical neighbours. The figure has dropped compared with March demonstrating the on-going work required with Partners to ensure children in Need are identified and receive a service.
M8-QL	Percentage of referrals dealt with by MASH where time from referral received / recorded to completion by MASH was 24 hours / 1 working day or less	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	The safety of children is supported by referrals being dealt with in a timely manner.	88%	94%	97%	98%	99%	98%	98%	→ 0%	↑ 18%	▲	94%	99%	Local	Local	Local		'Mash continue to make a decision on Contacts within 24 hours ensuring we are compliant with Working Together. This also demonstrates that the procedures within MASH for dealing with new Contacts is working well.
M6-QL (val)	Number of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	tbc	Sarah Ward	The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.	13	23	7	17	12	17	10	↓ -41%	↓ -75%	▼	17	32	Local	Local	Local		As below (M6-QL)
M6-QL	Percentage of referrals which are re-referrals within one year of a closure assessment	tbc	Sarah Ward	The service is effective in helping children and families address their issues, and where there is a re-referral, the issues are understood.	3%	6%	2%	4%	4%	6%	3%	↓ -50%	↓ -63%	▼	4%	6%	25%	23%	25%		This is positive however I am unclear of the reason why it has decreased by 50%. We are currently undertaking some work around closures and auditing cases which have been closed to consider management oversight/analysis. If this is completed on a closure record then this can at times inform decision making by Mash
M4	Number of new referrals of children aged 13+ where child sexual exploitation (CSE) was a factor	tbc	Simon Dennison	The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.	5	2	2	1	1	5	1	↓ -80%	→ 0%		4	9	Local	Local	Local		"These monthly numbers are almost always <10 with large variation - Feb was one child and March was 5 - we believe that there may be an under-reporting and MASH/BSO were prompted again in March - April low/Covid? - probably need to review this performance indicator (include CCE or number high risk/CERAF) and the reporter.
M5	Number of children receiving Early Help services who are stepped up for Children In Need (CiN) assessment	tbc	Sean Holehouse	The needs and safety of children at risk of child sexual exploitation are responded to effectively.	6	6	5	13	22	2	1	↓ -50%	↓ -80%		7	22	Local	Local	Local		When risks to children open to Early Help teams increase, they are promptly recognised and, when necessary, are referred to MASH who decide whether to 'step up' to statutory social care (SC) services to ensure families' issues are fully addressed, and children are safeguarded as necessary. The Early Help Hub Rapid Response Team continue to work with high end early help cases preventing escalation into Social Care.

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	% change from Mar-20	% change from Apr-19	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 19-20	Commentary (Apr-20)
EH2	Number of Children In Need (CiN) at end of period (all open cases, excluding EHPs, EHAs, CPP and LAC)	tbc	Sarah Ward	Children in need of help and support receive a consistent and effective service.	1620	1559	1460	1337	1379	1334	1292	→ -3%	↓ -10%	▼	1,576	1,948	Local	Local	Local		CiN cases are currently being reviewed in Pact. An audit is being undertaken on CiN cases coming in to the team, as to whether there are safeguarding issues or whether they would be better served by Early Help. A review of CiN cases is also being undertaken on cases in the two new teams which have moved into Pact as they seem to have some challenges with workflow including CiN cases not closing or stepping down at the appropriate time for the child/family
EH5-QL	Number of children open to the authority who have been missing at any point in the period (count of children)	tbc	Simon Demison	The needs and safety of children who have been missing are responded to robustly.	75	66	67	68	71	82	50	↓ -39%	↓ -21%	▼	71	100	Local	Local	Local		First full Covid 19 month sees a 20% decrease on numbers in 2019 although some of those going missing are higher frequency than last year.
EH3	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Children receive a comprehensive assessment of their needs; with strengths and areas of risk identified to inform evidence-based planning.	549	479	379	407	325	342	259	↓ -24%	→ -9%		365	549	318	353	447		The number of single assessments has reduced by 24% and is well below statistical neighbours and SE Region. There is a concern that children in need of a service are not being identified and there remains Hidden Harm within the City. This information will be shared with Partners and MASH Service Manager will liaise with Portsmouth to understand any different working patterns in their City.
EH3a%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 10 days	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	4%	10%	9%	11%	10%	10%	13%	↑ 28%	↑ 204%	▲	10%	14%	19%	15%	17%		The number of single assessments completed within 10 days has increased by 28% and is the highest percentage in the past year.
EH3b%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 11-25 days	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	20%	23%	30%	19%	39%	41%	43%	→ 4%	↑ 44%	▲	25%	43%	Local	Local	Local		The number of single assessments completed within 25 days has continued to increase and remains the highest in the past year.
EH3c%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 26-35 days	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	8%	11%	18%	19%	21%	24%	15%	↓ -40%	↓ -44%	▲	14%	24%	Local	Local	Local		The number of single assessments completed within 35 days has reduced again in the month of April.
EH3d%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed within 36-45 days	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	12%	16%	12%	16%	12%	12%	8%	↓ -31%	↓ -61%	▲	16%	27%	Local	Local	Local		This has dropped 31% compared to last month.
EH3e%	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed over 45 days	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	56%	39%	31%	35%	18%	12%	21%	↑ 73%	↑ 17%	▼	36%	56%	20%	17%	18%		This percentage has increased since last month which is disappointing but does not particularly stand out from statistical neighbours.
EH4 (val)	Number of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	244	291	263	266	266	300	204	↓ -32%	↓ -13%	▲	229	300	243	285	360		The number demonstrates the decrease in referrals into the service for assessment and intervention.
EH4-QL	Percentage of Single Assessments (SA) completed in 45 working days	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Assessments are completed in a timely manner, to ensure that children receive the help they need without unnecessary delay.	44%	61%	69%	65%	82%	88%	79%	↓ -10%	→ -4%	▲	64%	88%	76%	81%	81%		This percentage is higher than statistical neighbours although down on last month which is disappointing.
CP1	Number of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started	tbc	Jacqui Schofield	Where there are concerns about a child's safety, there is a robust assessment of risk.	106	171	94	93	118	125	104	↓ -17%	→ 3%		123	182	121	110	148		The percentage is 17% lower than last month which would coincide with a lower level of referrals.

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CP1-NI	Rate of Section 47 (S47) enquiries started per 10,000 children aged 0-17	bbc	Jaquie Schofield	Safeguarding investigations undertaken by the service are at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	21	34	18	18	23	25	20	↓ -20%	→ 0%		24	36	19	14	14		This percentage is lower than last month which coincides with a lower level of referrals into MASH.
CP6B	Number of children with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) at the end of the month, excluding temporary registrations	bbc	Stuart Webb	Child Protection Plans are in place for children where it has been assessed that multi-agency intervention is required to keep them safe.	474	464	490	468	441	417	399	→ -4%	↑ 22%		429	490	388	439	527		There has been a further reduction in children subject to child protection planning; but, it is noted that Covid 19 may be impacting upon the number of ICPCs and the number of children stepping out of planning. Southampton's rate per 10,000 remains higher than SN, regional and national indicators. The CP advisor continues to undertake a weekly report regarding CPP activity for the attention of the senior management team and this is supporting a continued focus on this area of safeguarding performance.
CP6B-NI	Rate of children with Child Protection Plan (CPP) per 10,000 (0-17 year olds) at end of period	bbc	Stuart Webb	The number of children who require Child Protection Plans is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	93	91	96	92	87	82	78	→ -5%	↑ 20%		85	96	48	44	41		There has been a further reduction in children subject to child protection planning; but, it is noted that Covid 19 may be impacting upon the number of ICPCs and the number of children stepping out of planning. Southampton's rate per 10,000 remains higher than SN, regional and national indicators. The CP advisor continues to undertake a weekly report regarding CPP activity for the attention of the senior management team and this is supporting a continued focus on this area of safeguarding performance.
CP2	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs), excluding transfer-Ins and temporary registrations	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Where it has been assessed that multi-agency intervention is required to keep a child safe, the case is progressed to Initial Child Protection Conference.	34	53	77	17	23	47	27	↓ -43%	↓ -41%		47	81	38	42	51		The number and rate of children subject to ICPC have reduced this month. It will be important to review May's data at the end of the month to assess the impact of Covid 19. ICPC and RCPC are being undertaken virtually and, to quality assure the processes, the CP Advisor has undertaken an audit of conference decision making.
CP2-NI	Rate per 10,000 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The rate of Initial Child Protection Conferences is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	7	11	16	3	5	9	5	↓ -43%	↓ -42%		10	16	6	5	5		The number and rate of children subject to ICPC have reduced this month. It will be important to review May's data at the end of the month to assess the impact of Covid 19. ICPC and RCPC are being undertaken virtually and, to quality assure the processes, the CP Advisor has undertaken an audit of conference decision making.
CP4 (val)	Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Decisions made at Child Protection Conferences will result in appropriate, evidence-based plans for children that respond to, and meet their level of risk and need.	29	46	66	15	18	43	25	↓ -42%	↓ -31%		38	66	32	36	44		Although numbers have fluctuated, the % conversion over the past two months has been >90%; which is higher than SN, regional and national averages. Covid 19 may be impacting, in that professionals may be making more cautious decisions, given the context in which they are working.
CP4	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) resulting in a Child Protection Plan (CPP) (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Decisions made at Child Protection Conferences will result in appropriate, evidence-based plans for children that respond to, and meet their level of risk and need.	85%	87%	86%	88%	78%	91%	93%	→ 1%	↑ 18%	▲	82%	93%	86%	86%	84%		Although numbers have fluctuated, the % conversion over the past two months has been >90%; which is higher than SN, regional and national averages. Covid 19 may be impacting, in that professionals may be making more cautious decisions, given the context in which they are working.
CP2b	Number of transfer-ins	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.	3	5	2	0	1	0	0	- n/a	- n/a		2	5	Local	Local	Local		There were no transfers in this month. Whenever there is a transfer we check to ensure compliance with the transfer policy.
CP2b %	Percentage of transfer-ins where child became subject to a CP Plan during period	bbc	Stuart Webb	Children moving into Southampton receive a good standard of service and protection.	33%	20%	50%	-	100%	-	-	- n/a	- n/a		63%	100%	Local	Local	Local		There were no transfers in this month. Whenever there is a transfer we check to ensure compliance with the transfer policy.

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CP3-QL (val)	Number of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) which were held within timescales (excludes transfer-ins)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.	19	28	53	4	14	28	18	↓ -36%	↓ -14%	▲	25	53	33	33	40		Timeliness of ICPC has improved in the past month; but Southampton still underperforms against SN, regional and national averages. This will be raised at Learning and Improvement Board on 7th May 2020.
CP3-QL	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within timescales (based on count of children)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Child Protection planning is timely, ensuring that the risks to children are discussed and responded to expediently.	56%	53%	69%	24%	61%	60%	67%	↑ 12%	↑ 46%	▲	52%	69%	84%	79%	77%		Timeliness of ICPC has improved in the past month; but Southampton still underperforms against SN, regional and national averages. This will be raised at Learning and Improvement Board on 7th May 2020.
CP8-QL	Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen in the last 15 working days.	tbc	Sarah Ward	The service is in regular contact with children subject to Child Protection planning to ensure that there is ongoing assessment of risk and opportunities to intervene effectively.	81%	79%	80%	68%	81%	64%	40%	↓ -38%	↓ -55%	▲	69%	81%	Local	Local	Local		This drop is disappointing and may be due to the new guidance around Covid which at times workers have become confused by. This is a recording issue largely and there are weekly discussions in the team to address this. The workflow plan will also support with recording as caseloads may begin to reduce appropriately.
CP5-QL (val)	Number of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The service is effective in managing the risks experienced by children and within families and where there is re-referral the issues are understood.	11	7	20	0	4	13	4	↓ -69%	↓ -75%	▼	9	20	7	8	9		In April 2020, 4 of the children (16%) had previously been subject to CPP. This is 6% lower than the SN average (22%), slightly lower than the 12 month trend. Three of the four children had been registered under the same category previously (neglect, emotional abuse). The previous plans ended in 2016 and 2018.
CP5-QL	Percentage of new Child Protection Plans (CPP) where child had previously been subject of a CPP at any time (repeat)	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	The service is effective in managing the risks experienced by children and within families and where there is re-referral the issues are understood.	33%	15%	30%	0%	22%	28%	16%	↓ -43%	↓ -61%	▼	20%	33%	22%	21%	21%		In April 2020, 4 of the children (16%) had previously been subject to CPP. This is 6% lower than the SN average (22%), slightly lower than the 12 month trend. Three of the four children had been registered under the same category previously (neglect, emotional abuse). The previous plans ended in 2016 and 2018.
CP9	Number of children subject to Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) in the month	Phil Bullingham	Stuart Webb	Where children are subject to Child Protection planning, their cases are reviewed regularly to identify progress and any barriers.	132	136	131	110	107	133	71	↓ -47%	→ -5%	▼	104	136	Local	Local	Local		The number of reviews has reduced during April; however, the Easter Holidays fell during this period and this does impact upon professionals availability. ICPC and RCPC are being undertaken virtually and, to quality assure the processes, the CP Advisor has undertaken an audit of conference decision making.
CP7	Number of ceasing Child Protection Plans (CPP), excluding temporary registrations	tbc	Stuart Webb	Where it is assessed that risks to a child have reduced there is a review of risk and the case is stepped down effectively.	23	62	40	42	41	63	25	↓ -60%	↑ 56%	▲	36	63	34	37	47		There has been a reduction in the number of children stepping out of planning and is noted that Covid 19 may be impacting. The CP advisor continues to undertake a weekly report regarding CPP activity for the attention of the senior management team and this is supporting a continued focus on this area of safeguarding performance.
LAC1	Number of Looked after Children at end of period	tbc	Mary Hardy	Where it is assessed that there is no safe alternative, the local authority will take children into its care for their welfare and protection.	512	510	493	494	485	490	487	→ -1%	→ -1%	▼	501	516	496	514	541	420	A slight reduction in numbers of looked after children dropping from 490 in March to 487 in April, this is a generally slowly decreasing trend since September 2019 and is below statistical neighbours, regional and national reported data. However, it remains significantly above the 2019-20 target of 420 which was last achieved in 2011.
LAC1-NI	Looked after Children rate per 10,000	tbc	Mary Hardy	The level of children in care is at a level that is comparable with other local authorities like Southampton.	101	100	97	97	95	96	96	→ 0%	→ -1%	▼	99	102	86	65	53		Variation from March to April was minimal but remains below both the 12 monthly maximum and 12 monthly average.

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LAC2	Number of new Looked after Children (episodes)	tbc	Mary Hardy	Where children meet the threshold and there are no alternatives, they will be safe and have their welfare needs addressed through accommodation by the local authority.	13	18	8	9	10	17	7	↓ -59%	↓ -65%	▼	13	24	16	17	19		The number of new LAC episodes at 7 in April is the lowest number recorded in the last calendar year, with a significant decrease from 17 in March, and well below the monthly average of 13 and maximum in the past year of 24. However this should be viewed with some caution as it is the first full month of "lockdown" due to Covid and it may be that reporting of concerns about children has dropped correspondingly, possibly raising the likelihood of "hidden harm" and potential increase again in LAC numbers post lockdown.
LAC3	Number of ceasing Looked after Children (episodes)	tbc	Mary Hardy	Children will leave care in a planned way with clear networks of support around them.	13	21	23	6	21	9	6	↓ -33%	↓ -45%	▲	14	23	15	16	18		The number of children ceasing to be LAC was 6 in April, also the lowest recorded number in the last calendar year, this may also be Covid related.
LAC6 (val)	Number of adoptions (E11, E12)	tbc	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	1	1	1	3	4	2	0	↓ -100%	↓ -100%	▲	2	4	2	2	3		There has been no orders granted this month as the courts have postponed hearings due to the pandemic.
LAC6 (%)	Percentage of adoptions (E11, E12)	tbc	Martin Smith	Children who are being adopted will receive timely and effective support.	8%	5%	4%	50%	19%	22%	0%	↓ -100%	↓ -100%		17%	50%	15%	12%	18%		This is at 0% as there has been no orders granted this month. As above the courts have postponed hearings due to the pandemic.
LAC12 (val)	Number of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	tbc	Martin Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	3	3	3	1	3	2	0	↓ -100%	- n/a		2	3	Local	Local	Local		There has been no orders granted this month as the courts have postponed or limited hearings due to the pandemic.
LAC12 (%)	Percentage of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) (E43, E44)	tbc	Martin Smith	Children subject to Special Guardianship Orders will receive timely and effective support.	23%	14%	13%	17%	14%	22%	0%	↓ -100%	- n/a		11%	23%	33%	13%	12%		'This is at 0% as there has been no orders granted this month. As above the courts have postponed or limited hearings due to the pandemic.
LAC7-QL	Percentage of Looked after Children visited within timescales	tbc	Mary Hardy	The service is in regular contact with Looked after Children to ensure that there is ongoing assessment of risk and opportunities to intervene effectively.	76%	82%	79%	73%	74%	66%	50%	↓ -24%	↓ -35%	▲	74%	83%	Local	Local	Local		A further fall of 16% for this indicator in the past month when added to the 8 % fall in March means a concerning drop of 24% in 2 months, however this is also very likely Covid linked too as our visits to children are of necessity being undertaken virtually at present , but only count for reporting purposes if the child is seen within that virtual contact. Unfortunately not all SW have a Smart phone that enables them to see the child so whilst I am assured by managers that all our children have had virtual contacts, not all count in our recording process.
LAC10 (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA plan	tbc	Mary Hardy	Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.	95%	95%	94%	94%	94%	93%	95%	→ 1%	→ 0%	▲	94%	95%	Local	Local	Local		Numbers of LAC with an authorised care plan has improved from 93% in March to 95% in April which takes it back to the 12 month maximum but further scrutiny by managers of the remaining 5% is continuing to try to further improve performance in this area.
LAC10-QL	Number of Looked after Children with an authorised CLA Plan	tbc	Mary Hardy	Children have good quality care plans, to which they have contributed, and which meet their needs.	484	482	463	463	454	457	461	→ 1%	→ -1%	▲	470	487	Local	Local	Local		See above LAC10 (%)
LAC13	Number of current Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) looked after at end of period	tbc	Mary Hardy	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.	15	14	12	14	15	15	13	↓ -13%	↓ -13%		15	16	31	33	51		The number of UASC at the end of April has decreased to 13 from 15 in March, this is below the yearly maximum of 16 and yearly average of 15 and significantly below statistical neighbours, regional and national reported numbers. Overall this indicator shows little variation across the past year.
LAC14	Number of new unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	tbc	Mary Hardy	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are identified and supported by the local authority.	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	- n/a	↓ -100%		1	2	Local	Local	Local		There have again been no new minors seeking asylum in the past month which may also be Covid related given ongoing international travel restrictions, notwithstanding that there have only been 4 altogether since May 2019.

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	% change from Mar-20	% change from Apr-19	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 19-20	Commentary (Apr-20)	
LAC11-QL	Number of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	tbc	Mary Hardy	Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.	163	161	163	157	158	157	161	→ 3%	→ -7%	▲	164	174	Local	Local	Local		There has been an increase of 4 young people with an authorised Pathway Plan from 157 in March to 161 in April, managers scrutinised the data last month to try to improve performance on this indicator but it should be noted that this is an ever changing cohort of young people to report on as it is age related so hard to make comparisons month on month.	
LAC11-QL (%)	Percentage of Looked after Children aged 16+ or open Care Leavers with an authorised Pathway Plan	tbc	Mary Hardy	Care Leavers have a good quality Pathway Plans, to which they have contributed, and which meets their needs.	96%	95%	94%	93%	93%	92%	95%	→ 3%	→ -4%	▲	96%	99%	Local	Local	Local		3% improvement noted March to April so now at 95%, see above (LAC11-QL).	
NI147	Percentage of Care Leavers in contact and in suitable accommodation	tbc	Mary Hardy	Care Leavers are in accommodation that is safe and secure.	81%	81%	77%	79%	83%	84%	81%	→ -3%	→ -6%	▲	82%	86%	81%	85%	84%	94%		There has been a further decrease in this indicator to 81% of our care leavers being in contact with us and in suitable accommodation, with the target to achieve being 94% - however there continues to be reporting issues with this indicator which is now a priority in the Service Development Plan and Service Improvement Plan.
LAC9 (val)	Number of Looked after Children (LAC) placed with IFAs at end of period	tbc	Martin Smith	Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.	157	154	150	147	146	146	144	→ -1%	→ 0%	▼	149	157	Local	Local	Local	TBC		The use of independent fostering agencies (IFA) remains stable, below the 12 month average and beginning to show a slight decline. This likely to be associated with the slight decline in the number of LAC. The total number continues to be high - reflecting the need to identify placements for children who present with complex profiles. The profile of in-house carers remains restrictive in terms of the cohort of children that would be deemed a suitable match.
LAC9	Percentage of IFA placements (of all looked after children)	tbc	Martin Smith	Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.	31%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	→ -1%	→ 1%	▼	30%	31%	Local	Local	Local			As above LAC9. Research undertaken by The South East Sector Led Improvement Programme (SESLIP) identified that this percentage is consistent with other local authorities across the South East - our use of in house fosters carers is at 60% and IFA 40% of foster placement.
LAC16	Number of in-house foster carers at the end of period	tbc	Martin Smith	Our Looked after Children will benefit from high quality fostering provision, with our own carers wherever possible.	168	164	164	172	168	168	166	→ -1%	- n/a	▲	-	-	Local	Local	Local	200		In addition to this SCC has a further 27 carers whom are caring for specific children as 'connected' carers. The number of in house mainstream foster carers has remained stable over the year to date. The recruitment strategy for 2020-21 has been drafted with the support of a improvement consultant in an effort to boost recruitment.

Qualitative measures:			Key to direction of travel:			
Positive	Similar	Negative	Increase 10% or more	Similar	Decrease 10% or more	
			↑	→	↓	

Benchmarking
(Updated Mar-19, using 17-18 data)

Ref.	Indicator	Owner	Reporter	Outcome (what impact will monitoring these measures have on the experiences of our children)	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	% change from prev. period	% change from same period prev. yr	DoT	12-mnth avg	12-mnth max.	%?	SN	ENG	SE region	Target 17-18	Target 18-19	Target 19-20	Commentary (Apr-20):
EH1a	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) started in the month	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Children and families benefit from an early help offer that is rooted in a good understanding of their needs.	99	161	127	205	122	113	125	↑ 11%	↑ 108%		118	205	--	-	-	-				Since June 2019, the Early Help pathway has been streamlined with the introduction of the Early Help Hub, which triages new direct referrals and decision making is aligned with the MASH. An Early Help Dashboard is being developed to track the Early Help Pathway so that referral rate, hub decision and service/team destination for EHA's started within the current receiving x3 locality EH, EH Hub Rapid Response, Family Partnership & Inclusion & Diversions teams. Dashboard is now scheduled to go live from May/June due to delays caused by COVID-19.
EH1c	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) completed in the month INCLUDING adults aged 21+	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Assessments are completed for adult family members where a need for support is identified.	192	322	232	175	224	280	272	→ -3%	↑ 71%		226	322	--	-	-	-	288	336	TBC	Early Help Assessments are completed by Early Help Hub Rapid Response, Locality Early Help & Inclusion, Family Partnership & Diversion Teams on the 'whole family' and adhere to the Families Matter principle of a Family Lead Professional co-producing an assessment (& plan) & co-ordinating a TAF approach with the family to meet identified needs, prevent escalation and promote family self-help.
EH1b	Number of Early Help Plans (EHPs) opened in the month (includes EHPs completed, and those still open at end of period)	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Children and families benefit from early help plans that meet their presenting needs.	221	288	196	153	184	205	331	↑ 61%	↑ 167%		211	331	--	-	-	-				Early Help Plans are completed by Early Help Hub Rapid Response, Locality Early Help & Inclusion, Family Partnership & Diversion Teams on the 'whole family' and adhere to the Families Matter principle of a Family Lead Professional co-producing a plan & co-ordinating a TAF approach with the family to meet identified needs, prevent escalation and promote family self-help.
EH14b	Number of Early Help Assessment (EHA) completed, EXCLUDING adults aged 21+	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Assessments are completed for a children where a need for early help support is identified..	145	229	172	153	166	190	191	→ 1%	↑ 84%		161	229	--	-	-	-				Early Help Assessments are undertaken holistically with a child 'lived experience' focus and within the Locality EH teams are mandated to use the Outcome Star tool with individual children (age appropriate) to support engagement and strength based practice.
CIN5	Number of all Children in Need (CiN) (including Child Protection (CP) / Looked after Children (LAC) / Care Leavers	Sharon Hawkins	Stuart Webb	Children and families receive support safely, at the right threshold and in a timely manner; supported by the interface between Early Help and Social Care.	2728	2656	2577	2577	2437	2367	2310	→ -2%	→ -3%		2646	2976	--	-	-	-				
LSCB17a	Percentage of 16-17 year olds NEET or whose activity is not known	Denise Edghill	Debbie Blythe	Young people benefit from an effective work to engage them in education, training and employment.								- n/a	- n/a	▼	6.8%	6.8%	--	-	-	-				
YO2	Number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System per 100,000 10-17 year olds in period	Denise Edghill	Debbie Blythe	Young people are appropriately diverted from entry into the criminal justice system through the local diversion / prevention offer.						tbc	tbc	- n/a	- n/a	▼	-	0	-	417	327	256				
FM011	Families attached per quarter	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Families benefit from a robust local Troubled Families offer. (Families Matter)						tbc	tbc	- n/a	- n/a	▲	100	110	--	-	-	-				The targets for 2020/21 have been revised to account for the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency. Our attachment target is 223 families to be worked with (discreet target for 2020/21). 71 additional families were attached during the last month.

FM012	Payment per result (PBR) claims attached per quarter	Sharon Hawkins	Sean Holehouse	Family engagement in the Families Matter programme translates into PBR, for further investment into the programme.						tbc	tbc	-	n/a	-	n/a	▲	119	153	--	-	-	-										<p>The targets for 2020/21 have been revised to account for the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency. A national lockdown was introduced on 20th March 2020, which has impacted on the contact and referral routes into Early Help. However, staff continue to work with any family requiring support.</p> <p>The revised attachment target can be achieved through existing attachments over and above the previous target (of 2230)</p> <p>The new target of 371 PBR, assuming a 40% conversion rate, would require an attached cohort of around 928 families. We are current tracking 769 families, which means a further minimum attachment of 159 attachments is required - 20 per month (or around 5 per week) between now and December 2020, to allow tracking of outcomes and claims to be submitted by March 2021.</p> <p>Additional attachments can be made by reintroducing wider Children's Services activity back into the cohort (coding issues to be addressed), introducing ECHO</p>
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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GLOSSARY

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Abuse

Abuse is the act of violation of an individual's human or civil rights. Any or all types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance. Different types of abuse include: Physical abuse, Neglect/acts of omission, Financial/material abuse, Psychological abuse, Sexual abuse, Institutional abuse, Discriminatory abuse, or any combination of these.

Advocacy

Advocacy helps to safeguard children and young people, and protect them from harm and neglect. It is about speaking up for children and young people and ensuring their views and wishes are heard and acted upon by decision-makers. LAs have a duty under The Children Act to ensure that advocacy services are provided for children, young people and care leavers making or intending to make a complaint. It should also cover representations which are not complaints. Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) should also provide a child/young person with information about advocacy services and offer help in obtaining an advocate.

Agency Decision Maker

The Agency Decision Maker (ADM) is the person within a fostering service and an adoption agency who makes decisions on the basis of recommendations made by the Fostering Panel (in relation to a fostering service) and the Adoption Panel (in relation to an adoption agency). The Agency Decision Maker will take account of the Panel's recommendation before proceeding to make a decision. The Agency Decision Maker can choose to make a different decision.

The National Minimum Standards for Fostering 2011 provide that the Agency Decision Maker for a fostering service should be a senior person within the fostering service, who is a social worker with at least 3 years post-qualifying experience in childcare social work and has knowledge of childcare law and practice (Standard 23).

The National Minimum Standards for Adoption 2011 provide that the Agency Decision Maker for an adoption agency should be a senior person within the adoption agency, who is a social worker with at least 3 years post-qualifying experience in childcare social work and has knowledge of permanency planning for children, adoption and childcare law and practice. Where the adoption agency provides an inter country adoption service, the Agency Decision Maker should also have specialist knowledge of this area of law and practice. When determining the disclosure of Protected Information about adults, the Agency Decision Maker should also understand the legislation surrounding access to and disclosure of information and the impact of reunion on all parties (Standard 23).

Assessment

Assessments are undertaken to determine the needs of individual children; what services to provide and action to take. They may be carried out:

- To gather important information about a child and family;
- To analyse their needs and/or the nature and level of any risk and harm being suffered by the child;
- To decide whether the child is a Child in Need (Section 17) and/or is suffering or likely to suffer Significant Harm (Section 47); and
- To provide support to address those needs to improve the child's outcomes to make them safe.

With effect from 15 April 2013, Working Together 2013 removes the requirement for separate **Initial Assessments** and **Core Assessments**. One Assessment – often called Single Assessment - may be undertaken instead.

CAFCASS

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) is the Government agency responsible for Reporting Officers, Children's Guardians and other Court officers appointed by the Court in Court Proceedings involving children. Also appoints an officer to witness when a parent wishes to consent to a child's placement for adoption.

Care Order

A Care Order can be made in Care Proceedings brought under section 31 of the Children Act if the Threshold Criteria are met. The Order grants Parental Responsibility for the child to the local authority specified in the Order, to be shared with the parents.

A **Care Order** lasts until the child is 18 unless discharged earlier. An **Adoption Order** automatically discharges the Care Order. A **Placement Order** automatically suspends the Care Order, but it will be reinstated if the Placement Order is subsequently revoked.

All children who are the subject of a Care Order come within the definition of Looked After and have to have a Care Plan. When making a Care Order, the Court must be satisfied that the Care Plan is suitable.

Categories of Abuse or Neglect

Where a decision is made that a child requires a Child Protection Plan, the category of abuse or neglect must be specified by the Child Protection Conference Chair.

Child in Need and Child in Need Plan

Under Section 17 (10) of the Children Act 1989, a child is a Child in Need (CiN) if:

- He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him/her of services by a local authority;
- His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services; or
- He/she is disabled.

A **Child in Need Plan** should be drawn up for children who are not Looked After but are identified as Children in Need who requiring services to meet their needs. It should be completed following an Assessment where services are identified as necessary.

Under the Integrated Children's System, if a Child is subject to a Child Protection Plan, it is recorded as part of the Child in Need Plan.

The Child in Need Plan may also be used with children receiving short break care in conjunction with Part One of the Care Plan.

Child Protection

The following definition is taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010, paragraph 1.23.:

Child protection is a part of Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, Significant Harm.

Child Protection Conference

Child Protection Conferences (Initial – **ICPC** and review – **RCPC**) are convened where children are considered to be at risk of Significant Harm.

Children's Centres

The government is establishing a network of children's centres, providing good quality childcare integrated with early learning, family support, health services, and support for parents wanting to return to work or training.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Corporate Parenting

In broad terms, as the corporate parent of looked after children, a local authority has a legal and moral duty to provide the kind of loyal support that any good parent would provide for their own children.

Criteria for Child Protection Plans

Where a decision is made that a child requires a Child Protection Plan, the Conference Chair must ensure that the criteria for the decision are met, i.e. that the child is at continuing risk of Significant Harm.

Director of Children's Services (DCS)

Every top tier local authority in England must appoint a Director of Children's Services under section 18 of the Children Act 2004. Directors are responsible for discharging local authority functions that relate to children in respect of education, social services and children leaving care. They are also responsible for discharging functions delegated to the local authority by any NHS body that relate to children, as well as some new functions conferred on authorities by the Act, such as the duty to safeguard and protect children, the Children and Young People's Plan, and the duty to co-operate to promote well-being.

Designated Teacher

Schools should all appoint a Designated Teacher. This person's role is to co-ordinate policies, procedures and roles in relation to Child Protection and in relation to Looked After Children.

Discretionary Leave to Remain

This is a limited permission granted to an Asylum Seeker, to stay in the UK for 3 years - it can then be extended or permission can then be sought to settle permanently.

Duty of Care

In relation to workers in the social care sector, their duty of care is defined by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) as a legal obligation to:

- Always act in the best interest of individuals and others;

- Not act or fail to act in a way that results in harm;
- Act within your competence and not take on anything you do not believe you can safely do.

Early Help

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

- Identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
- Undertake an assessment of the need for early help;
- Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child.

Local authorities, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, have a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of children.

Every Child Matters

Every Child Matters is the approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19, which is incorporated into the Children Act 2004. The aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy;
- Stay safe;
- Enjoy and achieve;
- Make a positive contribution and;
- Achieve economic well-being.

This means that the organisations involved with providing services to children are teaming up, sharing information and working together, to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve what they want in life.

Health Assessment

Every Looked After Child (LAC or CLA) must have a Health Assessment soon after becoming Looked After, then at specified intervals, depending on the child's age.

Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)

When an Asylum Seeker is granted ILR, they have permission to settle in the UK permanently and can access mainstream services and benefits.

Independent Reviewing Officer

If a Local Authority is looking after a child (whether or not the child is in their care), it must appoint an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) for that child's case.

From 1 April 2011, the role of the IRO is extended, and there are two separate aspects: chairing a child's Looked After Review, and monitoring a child's case on an ongoing basis. As part of the monitoring function, the IRO also has a duty to identify any areas of poor practice, including general concerns around service delivery (not just around individual children).

IROs must be qualified social workers and, whilst they can be employees of the local authority, they must not have line management responsibility for the child's case. Independent Reviewing Officers who chair Adoption Reviews must have relevant experience of adoption work.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) are specialist caseworkers who focus on working predominantly with high risk victims (usually but not exclusively with female victims). They generally are involved from the point of crisis and offer intensive short to medium term support. They work in partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies and mobilise multiple resources on behalf of victims by coordinating the response of a wide range of agencies, including those working with perpetrators or children. There may be differences about how the IDVA service is delivered in local areas.

Initial Child Protection Conference

An Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) is normally convened at the end of a Section 47 Enquiry when the child is assessed as either having suffered Significant Harm or to be at risk of suffering ongoing significant harm.

The Initial Child Protection Conference must be held within 15 working days of the Strategy Discussion, or the last strategy discussion if more than one has been held.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

A designated officer (or sometimes a team of officers), who is involved in the management and oversight of allegations against people that work with children.

Their role is to give advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations; liaise with the Police and other agencies, and monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible consistent with a thorough and fair process. The Police should also identify an officer to fill a similar role.

Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

LSCBs have to be established by every local authority as detailed in Section 13 of The Children Act 2004. They are made up of representatives from a range of public agencies with a common interest and with duties and responsibilities to children in their area. LSCBs have a responsibility for ensuring effective inter-agency working together to safeguard and protect children in the area. The Boards have to ensure that clear local procedures are in place to inform and assist anyone interested or as part of their professional role where they have concerns about a child.

The functions of the LSCB are set out in chapter 3 of Working Together to Safeguard Children.

See <http://southamptonlscb.co.uk/> for Southampton LSCB.

Looked After Child

A Looked After Child is a child who is accommodated by the local authority, a child who is the subject to an Interim Care Order, full Care Order or Emergency Protection Order; or a child who is remanded by a court into local authority accommodation or Youth Detention Accommodation.

In addition where a child is placed for Adoption or the local authority is authorised to place a child for adoption - either through the making of a Placement Order or the giving of Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement - the child is a Looked After child.

Looked After Children may be placed with family members, foster carers (including relatives and friends), in Children's Homes, in Secure Accommodation or with prospective adopters.

With effect from 3 December 2012, the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 amended the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 to bring children who are remanded by a court to local authority accommodation or youth detention accommodation into the definition of a Looked After Child for the purposes of the Children Act 1989.

Neglect

Neglect is a form of Significant Harm which involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect can occur during pregnancy, or once a child is born.

Parental Consent to Adoptive Placement

Parental consent to a child's placement for adoption under section 19 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 must be given before a child can be placed for adoption by an adoption agency, unless a Placement Order has been made or unless the child is a baby less than 6 weeks old and the parents have signed a written agreement with the local authority. Section 19 requires that the consent must be witnessed by a CAFCASS Officer. Where a baby of less than 6 weeks old is placed on the basis of a written agreement with the parents, steps must be taken to request CAFCASS to witness parental consent as soon as the child is 6 weeks old. At the same time as consent to an adoptive placement is given, a parent may also consent in advance to the child's adoption under section 20 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 either with any approved prospective adopters or with specific adopters identified in the Consent Form.

When giving advanced consent to adoption, the parents can also state that they do not wish to be informed when an adoption application is made in relation to the child.

Parental Responsibility

Parental Responsibility means all the duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which a parent has by law in relation to a child. Parental Responsibility diminishes as the child acquires sufficient understanding to make his or her own decisions.

A child's mother always holds Parental Responsibility, as does the father if married to the mother.

Unmarried fathers who are registered on the child's birth certificate as the child's father on or after 1 December 2003 also automatically acquire Parental Responsibility. Otherwise, they can acquire Parental Responsibility through a formal agreement with the child's mother or through obtaining a Parental Responsibility Order under Section 4 of the Children Act 1989.

Pathway Plan

The Pathway Plan sets out the route to the future for young people leaving the Looked After service and will state how their needs will be met in their path to independence. The plan will continue to be implemented and reviewed after they leave the looked after service at least until they are 21; and up to 25 if in education.

Permanence Plan

Permanence for a Looked After child means achieving, within a timescale which meets the child's needs, a permanent outcome which provides security and stability to the child throughout his or her childhood. It is, therefore, the best preparation for adulthood.

Wherever possible, permanence will be achieved through a return to the parents' care or a placement within the wider family but where this cannot be achieved within a time-scale appropriate to the child's needs, plans may be made for a permanent alternative family placement, which may include Adoption or by way of a Special Guardianship Order.

By the time of the second Looked After Review, the Care Plan for each Looked After Child must contain a plan for achieving permanence for the child within a timescale that is realistic, achievable and meets the child's needs.

Personal Education Plan

All Looked After Children must have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) which summarises the child's developmental and educational needs, short term targets, long term plans and aspirations and which contains or refers to the child's record of achievement. The child's social worker is responsible for coordinating and compiling the PEP, which should be incorporated into the child's Care Plan.

Person Posing a Risk to Children (PPRC)

This term replaced the term of 'Schedule One Offender', previously used to describe a person who had been convicted of an offence against a child listed in Schedule One of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

'Person Posing a Risk to Children' takes a wider view. Home Office Circular 16/2005 included a consolidated list of offences which agencies can use to identify those who may present a risk to children. The list includes both current and repealed offences, is for guidance only and is not exhaustive - subsequent legislation will also need to be taken into account when forming an assessment of whether a person poses a risk to children. The list of offences should operate as a trigger to further assessment/review to determine if an offender should be regarded as presenting a continued risk of harm to children. There will also be cases where individuals without a conviction or caution for one of these offences may pose a risk to children.

Placement at a Distance

Placement of a Looked After child outside the area of the responsible authority looking after the child and not within the area of any adjoining local authority.

This term was introduced with effect from 27 January 2014 by the Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013.

Principal Social Worker - Children and Families

This role was borne out of Professor Munro's recommendations from the Munro Review of Child Protection (2011) to ensure that a senior manager in each local authority is directly involved in frontline services, advocate higher practice standards and develop organisational learning cultures, and to bridge the divide between management and the front line. It is typically held by a senior manager who also carries caseloads to ensure the authentic voice of practice is heard at decision-making tables.

Private Fostering

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 (or 18 if disabled) who is cared for by an adult who is not a parent or close relative where the child is to be cared for in that home for 28 days or more. Close relative is defined as "a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of the full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step-parent". A child who is Looked After by a local authority or placed in a children's home, hospital or school is excluded from the definition. In a private

fostering arrangement, the parent still holds Parental Responsibility and agrees the arrangement with the private foster carer.

A child in relation to whom the local authority receives notification from the prospective adopters that they intend to apply to the Court to adopt may have the status of a privately fostered child. The requirement to notify the local authority relates only to children who have not been placed for adoption by an adoption agency. On receiving the notification, the local authority for the area where the prospective adopters live becomes responsible for supervising the child's welfare pending the adoption and providing the Court with a report.

Public Law Outline

The Public Law Outline: Guide to Case Management in Public Law Proceedings came into force on the 6th April 2010. An updated Public Law Outline (PLO) came into effect on 22nd April 2014, alongside the statutory 26-week time-limit for completion of care and supervision proceedings under the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Public Law Outline sets out streamlined case management procedures for dealing with public law children's cases. The aim is to identify and focus on the key issues for the child, with the aim of making the best decisions for the child within the timetable set by the Court, and avoiding the need for unnecessary evidence or hearings.

Referral

The referring of concerns to local authority children's social care services, where the referrer believes or suspects that a child may be a Child in Need, including that he or she may be suffering, or is likely to suffer, Significant Harm. The referral should be made in accordance with the agreed LSCB procedures.

Relevant Young People, Former Relevant, and Eligible

- **Relevant Young People** are those aged 16 or 17 who are no longer Looked After, having previously been in the category of Eligible Young People when Looked After. However, if after leaving the Looked After service, a young person returns home for a period of 6 months or more to be cared for by a parent and the return home has been formally agreed as successful, he or she will no longer be a Relevant Young Person. A young person is also Relevant if, having been looked after for three months or more, he or she is then detained after their 16th birthday either in hospital, remand centre, young offenders' institution or secure training centre. There is a duty to support relevant young people up to the age of 18, wherever they are living.
- **Former Relevant Young People** are aged 18 or above and have left care having been previously either Eligible, Relevant or both. There is a duty to consider the need to support these young people wherever they are living.
- **Eligible Young People** are young people aged 16 or 17 who have been Looked After for a period or periods totaling at least 13 weeks starting after their 14th birthday and ending at least one day after their 16th birthday, and are still Looked After. (This total does not include a series of short-term placements of up to four weeks where the child has returned to the parent.) There is a duty to support these young people up to the age of 18.

Review Child Protection Conference

Child Protection Review Conferences (RCPC) are convened in relation to children who are already subject to a Child Protection Plan. The purpose of the Review Conference is to review the safety, health and development of the child in view of the Child Protection Plan, to ensure that the child continues to

be adequately safeguarded and to consider whether the Child Protection Plan should continue or change or whether it can be discontinued.

Section 20

Under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, children may be accommodated by the local authority if they have no parent or are lost or abandoned or where their parents are not able to provide them with suitable accommodation and agree to the child being accommodated. A child who is accommodated under Section 20 becomes a Looked After Child.

Section 47 Enquiry

Under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, if a child is taken into Police Protection, or is the subject of an Emergency Protection Order, or there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer Significant Harm, a Section 47 Enquiry is initiated. This enables the local authority to decide whether they need to take any further action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. This normally occurs after a Strategy Discussion.

Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Neglect are all categories of Significant Harm.

Section 47 Enquiries are usually conducted by a social worker, jointly with the Police, and must be completed within 15 days of a Strategy Discussion. Where concerns are substantiated and the child is judged to be at continued risk of Significant Harm, a Child Protection Conference should be convened.

Separated Children

Separated Children are children and young people aged under 18 who are outside their country of origin and separated from both parents, or their previous legal/customary primary caregiver. Some will be totally alone (**unaccompanied**), while others may be accompanied into the UK e.g. by an escort; or will present as staying with a person who may identify themselves as a stranger, a member of the family or a friend of the family.

Special Guardianship Order

Special Guardianship Order (SGO) is an order set out in the Children Act 1989, available from 30 December 2005. Special Guardianship offers a further option for children needing permanent care outside their birth family. It can offer greater security without absolute severance from the birth family as in adoption.

Special Guardianship will also provide an alternative for achieving permanence in families where adoption, for cultural or religious reasons, is not an option. Special Guardians will have Parental Responsibility for the child. A Special Guardianship Order made in relation to a Looked After Child will replace the Care Order and the Local Authority will no longer have Parental Responsibility.

Strategy Discussion

A Strategy Discussion is normally held following an Assessment which indicates that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer Significant Harm. The purpose of a Strategy Meeting is to determine whether there are grounds for a Section 47 Enquiry.

Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)

From 1 September 2014, Statements of Special Educational Needs were replaced by Education, Health and Care Plans. (The legal test of when a child or young person requires an Education, Health and Care Plan remains the same as that for a Statement under the Education Act 1996).

Staying Put

A Staying Put arrangement is where a Former Relevant child, after ceasing to be Looked After, remains in the former foster home where they were placed immediately before they ceased to be Looked After, beyond the age of 18. The young person's first Looked After Review following his or her 16th birthday should consider whether a Staying Put arrangement should be an option.

It is the duty of the local authority to monitor the Staying Put arrangement and provide advice, assistance and support to the Former Relevant child and the former foster parent with a view to maintaining the Staying Put arrangement (this must include financial support), until the child reaches the age of 21 (unless the local authority consider that the Staying Put arrangement is not consistent with the child's welfare).

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker

A child or young person under the age of 18 who has been forced or compelled to leave their home country as a result of major conflict resulting in social breakdown or to escape human rights abuse. They will have no adult in the UK exercising Parental Responsibility.

Virtual School Head

Section 99 of the Children and Families Act 2014 imposes upon local authorities a requirement to appoint an officer to promote the educational achievement of Looked After children - sometimes referred to as a 'Virtual School Head'.

Working Together to Safeguard Children

Working Together to Safeguard Children is a Government publication which sets out detailed guidance about the role, function and composition of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), the roles and responsibilities of their member agencies in safeguarding children within their areas and the actions that should be taken where there are concerns that children have suffered or are at risk of suffering Significant Harm.

Young Offender Institution (YOI)

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is responsible for the commissioning and purchasing of all secure accommodation for under 18-year-olds ('juveniles'), whether sentenced or on remand. Young offender institutions (YOIs) are run by the Prison Service (except where contracted out) and cater for 15-20 year-olds, but within YOIs the Youth Justice Board has purchased discrete accommodation for juveniles where the regimes are specially designed to meet their needs. Juvenile units in YOIs are for 15-17 year-old boys and 17-year-old girls.

Youth Offending Service or Team

Youth Offending Service or Team (YOS or YOT) is the service which brings together staff from Children's Social care, the Police, Probation, Education and Health Authorities to work together to keep young people aged 10 to 17 out of custody. They are monitored and co-ordinated nationally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Sources

Tri.x live online glossary: <http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/> - a free resource, available to all which provides up to date keyword definitions and details about national agencies and organisations.

Southampton Local Safeguarding Board <http://southamptonlscb.co.uk/>