

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 11 February 2021

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
01/10/20	Children's Services - Performance	1) That the planned threshold review is considered at a future meeting of the Panel.	The threshold review is underway. It is recommended that a date for presentation to panel is confirmed after end-March 2021	
01/10/20	Recruitment of In-House Foster Carers	1) That consideration be given to providing full time funding for the proposed specialist foster carers.	The funding for specialist foster carers sits within the overall fostering recruitment budget and therefore provides the service with the capacity to grow the specialist offer.	
		2) That examples of the feedback provided by enquirers who did not progress to become foster carers is circulated to the Panel.	Recommendation that this is rescheduled as part of a broader fostering discussion.	
03/12/20	Children's Services Improvement Plan	1) That when the Improvement Plan item is presented at the February 2021 meeting of the Panel, consideration is given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How social worker turnover is presented given the level of agency staff reported alongside this indicator. b. Including staff turnover within specific social work teams. c. Including performance information that identifies the social worker changes for children in Southampton (how many social workers a child has had). 	Included in improvement plan report.	Complete
		2) That, to enable the Panel to be consulted, the developing vision for children and young people in Southampton is considered at the February 2021 meeting, alongside the draft Children and Young People Strategy.	Paper and documents provided.	Complete
03/12/20	Children's Services - Performance	1) That the analysis of the increasing number of referrals into the safeguarding service is circulated to the Panel.	Paper provided – Attached as Appendix 2	Complete

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
		2) That the findings from the audit of re-referrals into the safeguarding system is considered at the next Panel meeting when discussing Children's Services performance.	An audit of re-referrals was completed in December 2020. Feedback regarding individual and team performance has been shared with senior management. There was a headline theme around the impact of the pandemic upon contact with (and therefore accurate assessment of) family's needs. Other themes arising were: lack of parental engagement in the original assessment and the quality of social work recording regarding the efforts made to work with families. There were examples where wider or historic information relevant to families' levels of need and risk had not been considered. Improving the quality of assessment and analysis of chronologies to inform decision making are included in the service's 'Focus Five' practice priorities; which will be launched in our next Practice Week in March 2021.	Complete