

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF THRESHOLDS IN SOUTHAMPTON – THE PATHWAYS DOCUMENT
DATE OF DECISION:	22 JULY 2021
REPORT OF:	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

N/A

BRIEF SUMMARY

Currently Southampton safeguarding partners work to a Continuum of Need when identifying the type of support children need. The Continuum of Need has not been reviewed for some time, despite changes in practice, policy and legislation and was not developed with partnership contributions. This paper outlines the activity that has been taken to develop the new Pathways document, attached as Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(i)	That the Panel note the progress made in reviewing local thresholds and the next steps in embedding the attached Pathways document.
(ii)	That the Panel is provided with a report on progress and impact as part of the 2022/23 work schedule.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	<p>A threshold document is important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a pathway for children and families to promote the best outcomes for positive change To ensure a Restorative approach is utilised when working with families To ensure that the right service, for the right child at the right time is provided Partnership ownership of the Referral pathway promotes working together across the city for the best outcomes for children and their families rather than silo working Statutory Services are then more able to prioritise working with the children most at risk and in need of protection and intervention
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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
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2.	None
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DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
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3.	<p>The Continuum of Need was initiated in 2016 without partnership collaboration. There are a number of reasons why a review was required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Continuum of Need has not been reviewed since that date• There is an absence of focus on children with disabilities and special educational needs• There have been numerous developments in professional understanding and practice including: Contextual Safeguarding, Harmful Practices, Prevent, Modern Day Slavery, Educational Neglect and others; which are not referenced in the Continuum of Need• Partners have repeatedly fed back that they find the Continuum of Need difficult to use• Ofsted have found that partners do not understand thresholds and that this has led to high numbers of contacts into the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); impacting on the capacity to focus on children most at risk and in need of protection and complex needs• A child's journey needs to focus on the best outcomes for them with their family in most cases and it is essential that this is right at the beginning to avoid focus on process and ultimately to ensure the appropriate interventions are provided• The right service for the right child at the right time will ensure that early support and intervention is provided to prevent escalation into statutory services and to reduce the unnecessary accommodation of some children.
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4.	<p>The Pathways document has been developed through the following process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A review was undertaken of the data analysis of disproportionate numbers of children open to statutory services compared to statistical neighbours informed by the Ofsted findings• Partners consistently fed back confusion over the Continuum of Need, which was supported by the Ofsted findings of a lack of understanding of thresholds by partners• Research was undertaken of other local authority threshold documents• Experts from the areas of SEND, children with disabilities, health, Police, Education, CAMHS, Probation, Early Help, CGL, IDVA, No Limits, Health, and YOS were consulted for their views• The use of links to informative documents was found to be valued by partners from other policy documents• Regular consultation and feedback during MASH strategic meetings informed the development of the document• Development of one referral form to a single Children's Resource Service for advice, Early Help and statutory services.
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5.	<p>The next steps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications to be provided to all partners and Children and Learning staff • Training to be provided to all through the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) • Website to be updated and clear pathways to be documented • Development of Children’s Resource Service with an Information and Advice Hub for partners, young people and families to contact for consultation, support and guidance, to work alongside the MASH for consideration of statutory guidance • Destination 22 programme to ensure services are based around the needs of the children in the city based in their communities, with cohesive partnership working to promote the best outcomes for all children.
6.	<p>The draft Pathways Plan is Attached as Appendix 1. The Panel are requested to note the progress made in reviewing local thresholds and the next steps in embedding the document.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
7.	None at this stage
<u>Property/Other</u>	
8.	None at this stage
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
9.	S.111 Local Government Act 1972
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
10.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
11.	The draft Pathways Plan, attached as Appendix 1, has been developed to reduce the risks outlined in this report.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
12.	<p>The threshold review and the Pathways document contributes to achieving the outcomes desired for children in Southampton.</p> <p>The Corporate Plan 2020 sets out the following regarding the wellbeing of children in the city:</p> <p>“Working with partners to deliver the ambitions set out in the five-year Health and Wellbeing Strategy, this area looks at wellbeing across the city, with a focus on adults and children’s social care, education and public health. We work closely with partners to help safeguard vulnerable people across the city. We are focused on delivering strong customer experience across the Adults</p>

	and Children & Families services. We want Southampton to be a city that is recognised for its proactive approach to prevention and intervention early, as well as being a 'Child Friendly City' where children and young people have great opportunities and an aspiration to achieve. We want our residents to have the information and support they need to lead safe, active, healthy lives and to be able to live independently for longer.”
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KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Draft Pathways document

Documents in Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
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Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
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Other Background Documents

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