

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 18th July, 2024
at 5.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Conference Room 3 and 4 - Civic Centre

This meeting is open to the public

Members

Councillor Barnes-Andrews (Chair)
Councillor Allen
Councillor Beaurain
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Kaur
Councillor G Lambert
Councillor Webb

Appointed Members

Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church
Vacancy Primary Parent Governor
Vacancy - Secondary Parent Governor
Rob Sanders, Church of England

Contacts

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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 or other IT to silent whilst in the meeting.

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.

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.

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

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2022-2030 sets out the four key goals:

- Strong Foundations for Life.- For people to access and maximise opportunities to truly thrive, Southampton will focus on ensuring residents of all ages and backgrounds have strong foundations for life.
- A proud and resilient city - Southampton’s greatest assets are our people. Enriched lives lead to thriving communities, which in turn create places where people want to live, work and study.
- A prosperous city - Southampton will focus on growing our local economy and bringing investment into our city.
- A successful, sustainable organisation - The successful delivery of the outcomes in this plan will be rooted in the culture of our organisation and becoming an effective and efficient council.

Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year

2024	2025
18 July	30 January
08 August	27 March
26 September	
28 November	

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 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 VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2024-25.

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 - 2)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 21st March 2024 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

8 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

To move 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 report to the following Item.

The report and attached appendix are confidential. The confidentiality is based on Category 7a of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It contains information which is subject to an obligation of confidentiality.

9 OUTCOME OF LOCAL AREA SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) AREA INSPECTION (Pages 3 - 14)

Report of the Executive Director for Children and Learning outlining the outcome of the local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection, conducted by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in April / May 2024.

10 FAMILY SAFEGUARDING MODEL (Pages 15 - 36)

Report of the Executive Director - Children and Learning, providing an introduction to the Family Safeguarding Model.

11 CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE (Pages 37 - 74)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children's Services and Learning in Southampton.

12 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS (Pages 75 - 78)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel considers the responses to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback.

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

Director – Legal and Governance

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2024

Present: Councillors Barnes-Andrews (Chair), Lambert (Vice-Chair), J Baillie, Cox, Mrs Mintoff and Webb
Appointed Members: Rob Sanders

Apologies: Councillor Chapman
Appointed Members: Catherine Hobbs

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

The Panel noted the apologies of Councillor Champman.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

34. **THE YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE IN SOUTHAMPTON**

The Panel considered the report of the Executive Director of Children and Learning providing an overview of the performance of the Youth Justice Service in Southampton.

Councillor Winning – Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Steph Murray – Deputy Director, Children and Learning, Tim Nelson – Head of Young People’s Services, Anna Harbridge – Service Lead: Youth Justice Service and Chief Inspector Chris Douglas – Hampshire Constabulary were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- A renewed emphasis on treating young offenders as children and a stronger emphasis on trying to deal with the child’s issues and avoid where possible custodial sentences;
- The numbers of children on programmes across the City and that where now in custody. The Panel learned that the custodial sentences were reducing and the approximate break down on children on programmes with the City;
- The efforts being made to improve the level of educational attainment for children at risk or on programmes. It was noted that a number of children had been helped to achieve qualification that enabled them to work within the construction industry; and
- The validity of the figures within the report. Members noted that the performance figures detailed in the report were at odds with comments in the report. It was explained that the official figures used were subject to a time delays and that the comments used were a reflection of the progress being made by the service;

RESOLVED that an update report is considered by the Panel at a future meeting, provisionally at the 28 November 2024, to consider performance in the following areas:

- The number of children sentenced or remanded to custody;

- Improvements in education outcomes; and
- Levels of serious youth violence.

35. **CHILDREN AND LEARNING - PERFORMANCE**

The Panel considered the report of the Scrutiny Manager recommending that the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children's Services and Learning in Southampton.

Councillor Winning – Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Steph Murray – Deputy Director, Children and Learning and Laura Trevett – Strategic Performance Manager were in attendance and, with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Panel discussed a number of points including:

- Figures relating to the high numbers of contacts and referrals in January;
- The increase in re-referrals and efforts being made to reduce this number;
- The increase in children in care returning to live with their birth families and the measures being put in place to ensure that this is safe;
- The fall in first time entrants and whether this reflected steps being introduced.

RESOLVED

1. That, reflecting the importance of the Family Safeguarding Model to the service transformation programme, the model is, subject to agreement with the Chair, included on the 6 June 2024 agenda for the Panel.
2. That, in recognition of the insight it may provide on the effectiveness of safeguarding practice, the Panel review the planned analysis by the service of children subject to 2 or more child protection plans when it has been completed.

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

The Chair moved that if members did not have any specific matters for consideration in respect of the exempt Appendix 2 of the following agenda item could be considered without disclosing information that was subject to an obligation of confidentiality and therefore it would not be necessary to exclude the press and the public from the following agenda item.

RESOLVED that the Panel would consider the following agenda item without reference to the exempt appendix and therefore the press and the public would not be excluded from the following agenda item.

37. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel received and noted the report of the Scrutiny Manager which enabled the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to monitor and track progress on recommendations made at previous meetings.

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DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	FAMILY SAFEGUARDING MODEL
DATE OF DECISION:	18 JULY 2024
REPORT OF:	ROBERT HENDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND LEARNING

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director – Children and Learning	
	Name:	Robert Henderson	Tel: 023 8083 4102
	E-mail	robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Head of Quality Assurance – Children & Learning	
	Name:	Stuart Webb	Tel: 023 8083 4102
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

Family Safeguarding (FS) is a whole family approach to working with children and families that supports parents to create sustained change for themselves and for their family. The Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice based at Hertfordshire County Council are the creators of the model and support local authorities to implement and embed the model within social care.

An introduction to the Family Safeguarding Model is attached as Appendix 1. The Children & Learning Service have been implementing FS since September 2023 alongside support from the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	That the Panel note the principles and components of the Family Safeguarding Model.
	(ii)	That the Panel commit to reviewing and challenging progress implementing the Family Safeguarding Model in Southampton.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	To enable the Panel to scrutinise the implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model in Southampton.
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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2.	To not scrutinise the Family Safeguarding Model. This was rejected due to the importance of the programme to outcomes for children and families in Southampton.
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DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3.	The Family Safeguarding Model (FSM) consists of the following five key components:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-disciplinary teams: Provide support to the whole family to address their needs including specialist domestic abuse, mental health, and substance misuse support. • Motivational Interviewing: A strengths-based framework to harness motivation to change, ensuring the same language is used across all professionals working with families. • The FS Workbook: An innovative recording mechanism open to the FS teams allowing shared, multi-agency recording, analysis and decision making. • The FS Programme: Provides a structure to working with the whole family and developing the family's skills. • FS Supervision: Involves all professionals to build a holistic view of needs and share responsibility for decision making.
4.	<p>In order to deliver the five key components of the FSM, seven workstreams have been established. The below list sets out the different workstreams, and this paper sets out progress updates on all areas of implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership & Governance: Governance structures, partnership boards, partnership agreements, partnership engagement, FS budget, and funding streams. • HR & Recruitment: Forming FS teams, recruitment and secondments of adult workers, recruitment strategy, and onboarding. • Systems (Care Director): FS workbook implementation, form development, training, acceptance testing, and launch. • Data & Performance: KPI's, data, and performance monitoring and reporting. • Learning & Development: Roll out of Motivational Interviewing Training, Practice & Change workshops, and Tackling & Preventing Domestic Abuse. • Practice: Remit of Practice & Change workshops and embedding practice development. • Communications: FS branding, stakeholder mapping, communication strategy, partnership engagement events, staff engagement events, launch events, press releases, and anniversary celebrations. <p>Family Safeguarding will launch within the Children and Learning Service in the Autumn of 2024.</p>
5.	<p>The information outlined below details the progress that has been made against each FS project workstream since implementation started in September 2023.</p>
	<p>Partnership & Governance</p>
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children and Learning Service were successful in obtaining a £514,000 grant from the Department for Education (DfE) to support with the implementation of Family Safeguarding. As well as a £500,000 contribution, split across two years, from Public Health to fund the Mental Health specialist roles that will form part of the FS teams. • A SLIP bid to fund the support provided by the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice was approved by the DfE for both the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial year. Resulting in funded support for the entirety of the implementation phase of FS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a monthly Family Safeguarding Operational Board to ensure there is a shared, continued, and focused effort to design and deliver the actions, outputs, and outcomes for the FSM project. This Board oversees the planning, progress, risks, issues, and dependencies associated with this project. • Regular reporting to the Building for Brilliance Programme Board is in place. • Engagement has been undertaken with the Southampton Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (SSCP) on their role within FS. Sessions took place on 30/11/2023, 07/03/2024, and 02/05/2024. Regular progress reporting is in place with the SSCP to ensure they are well updated on the implementation, and adoption of the model. • A Partnership Webinar took place on 04/12/2023 for partners to learn more about the model and the impact to them, as well as an opportunity to ask any questions they had. The webinar was led by Robert Henderson, and supported by Angela Clarke, the Deputy Programme Director at The Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice. • A Partnership Pledge has been written with partners across the city, outlining the commitment partners have to supporting the FS model, and working in that way. A singing event will be held for representatives from Hampshire & IOW Constabulary, the Integrated Care System (ICS), Education (SCC), Social Care (SCC), and SSCP.
	<p>HR & Recruitment</p>
<p>7.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused engagement has taken place with leads at the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice to understand the arrangements required for forming the FS teams. • A service redesign has taken place within the Children and Learning Service, including the reshaping of the Safeguarding service, and the creation of the internal Family Safeguarding Service. Five FS teams have been created within the new service, all containing a Service Manager, Team Manager, Assistant Team Manager, Senior Social Worker, Social Workers, Family Practitioners, Team Standards Coordinator, Domestic Abuse Specialists, Mental Health Specialties, and Substance Use Specialists. • Work has been undertaken in order to utilise resources within the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) team to support the FS model. Five FTE roles will move into the Children and Learning Service in June and will form part of the FS teams to support with addressing domestic abuse within Southampton. • Alongside the Domestic Abuse Specialist within the IDVA team, work has been undertaken to second two FTE Outreach Workers from STOP Domestic Abuse to complete the Domestic Abuse Specialist cohort within the FS teams. • Recruitment activity has started with Change Grow Live for the Substance Use Specialist roles. Once these posts have been recruited to, three FTE roles will move into the Children and Learning Service and form part of the FS team. • Work has been undertaken to recruit to Mental Health Specialist roles within Solent to form part of the FS teams. In total there will be four FTE Mental Health Specialist roles embedded into the Children and Learning Service as part of FS. In recent weeks we have identified challenges in

	<p>this aspect of our recruitment; we are working on contingency planning to ensure that we can implement the full model and that families receive the support they need.</p>
	<p>Systems (Care Director)</p>
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice provided SCC leads with a briefing in October 2023 setting out what the FS workbook is, and how it is used in practice. • Lessons learned were obtained following a dedicated session with Swindon Council in November 2023 on how their system works within Care Director for them. • Eight Care Director forms have been created and will form the FS workbook for all practitioners to use when working with children and families in Southampton. • The FS Workbook has been built within Care Director and meet the requirements set out by the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice. • FS Workbook testing is ongoing to ensure the FS workbook is ready for the teams to use. • FS Workbook training is planned for June 2024 to ensure all practitioners understand how to use the new system.
	<p>Data & Performance</p>
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement has taken place with the data lead at the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice to better understand the level of reporting which was adopted as part of the model, both in Hertfordshire itself, and the other LA's that have implemented FS. • Engagement has taken place with key leads across the council, to create a core list of KPI's to monitor as part of FS roll out, and to ensure that data is shared across agencies to form a FS Dashboard. • The KPI's have been drafted and agreed by the FS Operational Board. • KPI's will be monitored by the FS Operational Board following the model going live, and regular reporting on the KPI's will be shared with the SSCP.
	<p>Learning & Development</p>
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An MI impact survey was completed at the start of implementation in order to gain a better understanding across the Children & Learning service on the level of MI training the staff had already undertaken, and how they use their knowledge in practice. • A direct award procurement process was agreed by key commissioning leads and the Cost Control panel to ensure that the preferred provider for MI training was agreed. • A contract has been written, and signed by both SCC leads and the MI trainer provider, Alistair Cant & Associates. • The MI training schedule has been approved by both the provider, and the Children and Learning Service. • MI training has taken place with Directorates and Senior Leaders, partners, Service Leads, and Managers. Training for phase 1 is ongoing and will conclude on Wednesday 19th June 2024. Phase 2 training will start on Monday 1st July 2024, and conclude on Thursday 12th September 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, the feedback on the quality of training provided by Alistair Cant & Associates has been extremely positive. • Embedding MI sessions have been organised for all staff members undertaking the MI training. These sessions will take place four to six weeks after the initial training. • The Practice & Change workshop schedule has been approved by both the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice, and the Children and Learning Service. In total there are up to 15 different topics to be covered as part of the Practice & Change workshops, all of which have/will be delivered via a ‘train the trainer’ approach. • The ‘train the trainer’ cohort has been agreed and the leads have undertaken training delivered by the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice to ensure they are equipped and prepared to roll out training across the Children and Learning Service. • A FS introduction video was shared with Children and Learning staff, and partners. • Throughout January, February, and March ‘Thresholds, Duties, and Family Rights’ training was delivered to Children and Learning staff. • Thresholds training has been rolled out and continues to be rolled out to partners. • In May, both a ‘Culture Workshop’ and the ‘Being a Manager in FS Teams’ training was delivered. Training will also be rolled out in May to the CP Chairs & IROs in May. • Throughout June, Children and Learning staff will be trained on ‘Assessment & Recording’, ‘FS Supervision’, the ‘FS Workbook’ as well as various Reunification topics.
	<p>Practice</p>
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October 2023 11 leads from Southampton (Children & Learning, Commissioning, Adult Services, and Public Health) attended a visit to Hertfordshire County Council to see the FS model in practice. • In November, the Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice undertook an audit of 40 children's case files and interviewed various members of the Children and Learning Service in order to assess how ready the service were to implement FS. • The final feedback on the audit stated ‘Overall, very solid foundations on which to build further, some great practice, and skilled and committed workforce’. The feedback of the audit helped shape the practice workstream and identified areas to build on. • FS was the focal point for both the Winter Practice Week (w/c 04/12/2023) and the Spring Practice Week (w/c 18/03/2024). Various activities took place during both those weeks to further inform staff members and partners on the model and what it means for them, as well as to gather reflections and thoughts on the implementation. • Work has been undertaken to update the ‘Thresholds’ document, the ‘Practice Framework’, and the ‘Practice Standards’, in order to reflect the change in practice following adoption of the FSM.
	<p>Communications</p>
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communications plan has been written which sets out month by month the engagement that has/will be undertaken to ensure all the relevant leads are aware of the project progress.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date, multiple Bulletins have been sent to both internal Children and Learning staff, and partners on all aspects of FS throughout the implementation phase. Multiple Cabinet Member Briefings have taken place in order to present progress against the FS implementation. A Members Bulletin has also been circulated. FS branding has been finalised and is being used within FS materials. A FS external webpage has been created for partners to view information about the FSM. The FS intranet page is in development. FS resources, materials, and guidance have been drafted ready for the FS launch. A pre-launch event for FS took place in March at Itchen College. Staff from SCC, partners, and young people gathered to plant an Apple Tree at the college to represent planting the foundations for partnership working across the city. Work is being undertaken to plan the FS launch event in Summer, including the formal signing of the Partnership Pledge.
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RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

13. Identified above.

Property/Other

14. N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

15. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

16. None

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

17. Identified above.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

18. The 2024 updated Corporate Plan includes the following strategic objective:

- Safe and stable home environments

Effectively implementing the Family Safeguarding Model will contribute to achieving this objective.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	FSM introduction presentation.

Documents in Members' Rooms

1.	None	
Equality Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (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		
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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**Family
Safeguarding**

Family Safeguarding Model (FSM)





- **What is the Family Safeguarding Model (FSM)?**
- **What are the benefits?**
- **What is the impact?**
- **What people think of the model**

Family Safeguarding Model

Family Safeguarding is a **whole family approach** to working with children and families that supports parents to create **sustained change** for themselves and for their family.

Family Safeguarding takes a **multi-disciplinary approach** to working with families including Children and Families Social Workers and Family Support Practitioners, working alongside Adult Specialist Workers to provide help and support in relation to issues associated with **parental domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental ill-health**.

Family Safeguarding teams work with children **aged pre-birth to 17** where the issues relate to **abuse and neglect of the children by their families**.

The Centre for Family Safeguarding Practice

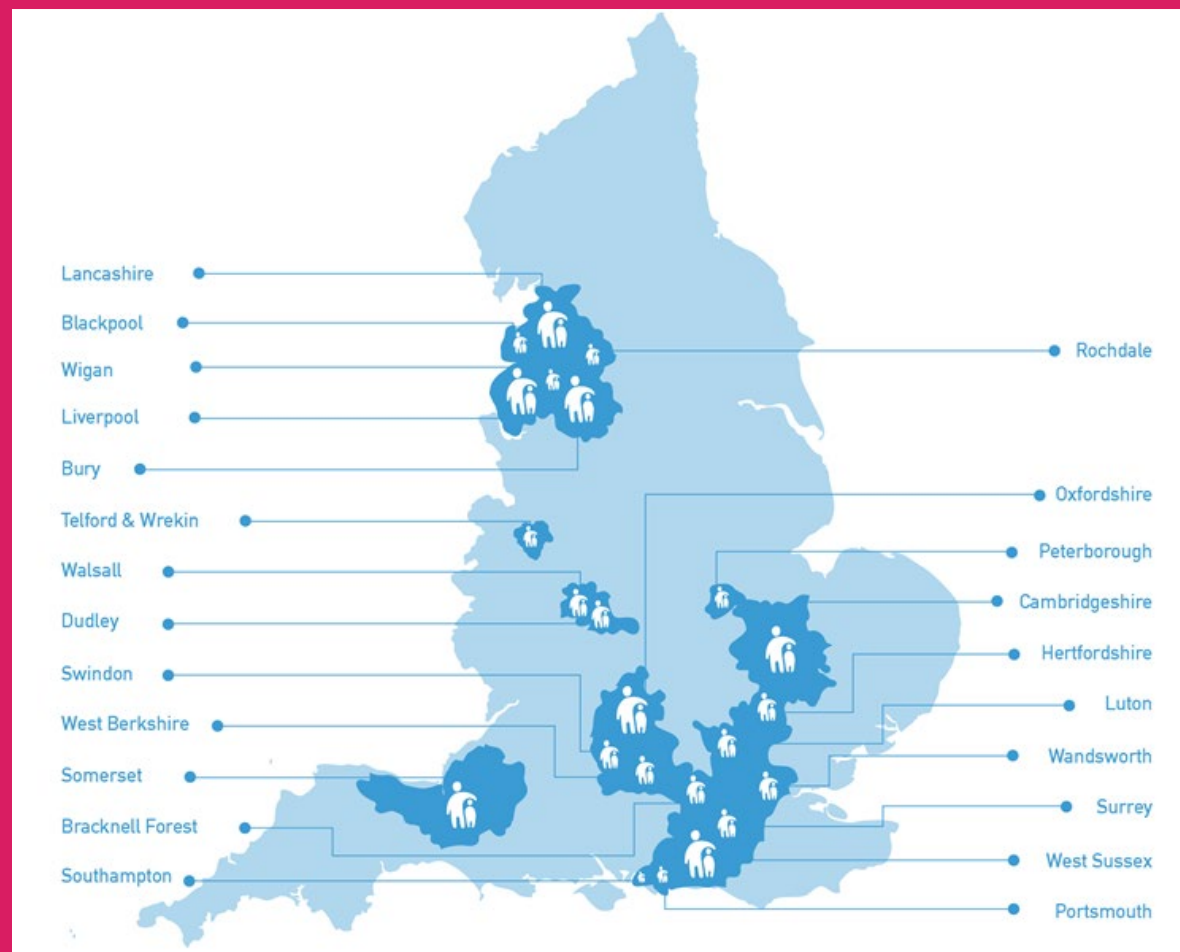


Hertfordshire County Council designed and put into practice the Family Safeguarding Model in 2015, following a successful bid to the Department for Education's (DfE) Innovation Programme.

The incredibly successful outcomes from the changes made in the first year were evidenced in an evaluation report commissioned by the DfE and published in 2017.

Following this success, currently 24 Local Authorities have adopted or are adopting Family Safeguarding as their chosen model of delivery.

Hertfordshire continue to support authorities through the Strengthening Families Protecting Children (SFPC) programme and as a Sector-led Improvement Partner (SLIP).





What is it?

A multi-disciplinary team approach - working **with** parents; providing help and support to create lasting change. Reducing bureaucracy to free up more time for purposeful direct work with families

Our Vision

To keep more children safe at home with their families

The 5 core components of FSM



Multi-disciplinary teams Provide support to the whole family to address their needs including specialist domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse support

Motivational Interviewing A strengths-based framework to harness motivation to change, ensuring the same language is used across all professionals working with families

The Family Safeguarding Workbook An innovative recording mechanism open to the Family Safeguarding teams allowing shared, multi-agency recording, analysis and decision making

The Family Safeguarding Programme Provides a structure to working with the whole family and developing the family's skills

Family Safeguarding Supervision Involves all professionals to build a holistic view of needs and share responsibility for decision making

The multi-disciplinary team

The Multi-disciplinary Family Safeguarding Team encompasses professionals, specialist support workers and social workers, who share information, make collaborative decisions and work alongside each other to address families' needs.

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Benefits of the Model

Page 30

Reducing
likelihood of
abuse and neglect
in families

Fewer children
needing to be
in care or
adopted

Families becoming
more resilient &
developing greater
confidence in their
skills

Impact of Family Safeguarding



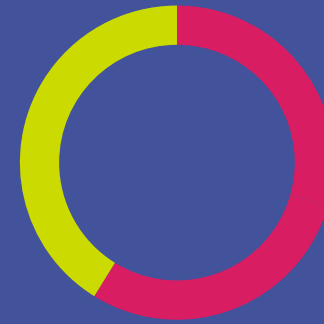
50%

**Up to 50%
reduction in
children needing
a CP Plan**



50%

**Up to 50%
fewer Children
needing to
come into care**



60%

**Up to 60%
reduction in repeat
police call outs to
DA incidents**

What Ofsted says...

Positive feedback from Ofsted around the quality of partnership working for areas that have been inspected since adopting the model

What families say...

Positive feedback from families, including comments around feeling less worried to work with services, how they have brought people together to help, feeling like someone is listening and that practitioners really care.

What professionals say...

Professionals have commented: “When in a silo agency, you have a preconception in regard to other professionals practice, it’s been amazing working with all the different professionals.”

Impact of the FSM Model

What the Department for Education says...

There have been statistically significant reductions in looked after children numbers and/or Child Protection Plans in the two years following the introduction of Family Safeguarding. Police call-outs have reduced by up to two-thirds and there are signs that Family Safeguarding is reducing the frequency of unplanned, reactive mental health contacts amongst the adults it supports. The data available to the evaluation suggests that the financial case for Family Safeguarding is strong.” DfE 2020

Feedback from Evaluations

Hertfordshire 2020 -

A clear finding from this evaluation – Practitioner appetite, there is no desire to return to the previous ways of working.

Parents and carers that contributed to the evaluation usually became more receptive to the Family Safeguarding approach over time and recognised that they were being worked with and not done to.

Parents and carers placed great value on the availability of specialist support and in most cases feel that their chances of making lasting, positive change have improved.

Re-referral rates in Hertfordshire reduced significantly in the first two years of Family Safeguarding and have stayed broadly at that level in the subsequent two years.



Governance

Building for Brilliance (BfB) Programme Board:

Regular highlight reports will be produced and shared with the BfB Board showing key process and areas of concerns.

Workstream Groups:

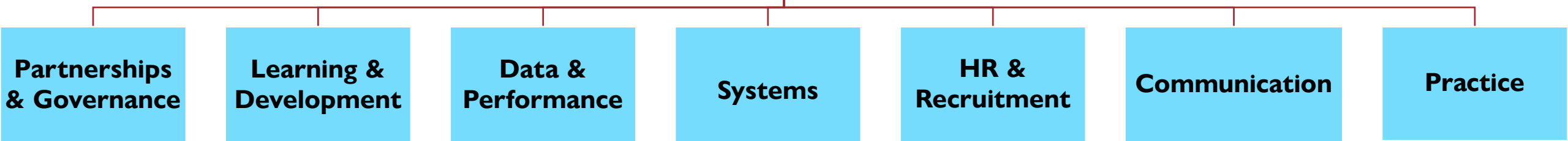
Workstream Groups lead on their part of the project plan. They report to the Project Manager, including reporting progress, highlights, risks, and delays. They should include relevant partner representatives as well as LA leads.



Southampton's Safeguarding Children's Partnership: The Partnership Board has overall responsibility for programme delivery. It is made up of strategic decision makers from all relevant partner agencies.



The Operational Board: The Operational Board develops and implements the project plan and monitors progress on the plan. It receives highlight/ progress reports from the Project Manager and workstream leads. It identifies risks and project delays to report to the Partnership Board. Typically chaired by the LA Director of Children's Social Work.



Key Leaders



Robert Henderson

Executive Director Wellbeing
(Children & Learning)

Programme Sponsor, Building for Brilliance



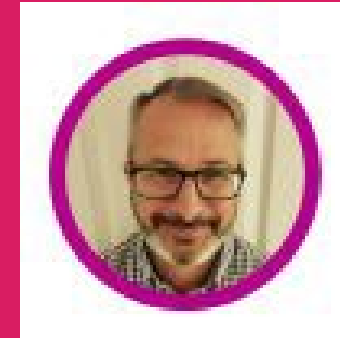
Steph Murray

Deputy Director, Children's Social Care and
Children and Families First
Transformation Lead, Family Safeguarding Model



Stuart Webb

Head of Quality Assurance
Transformation Lead, Family Safeguarding Model



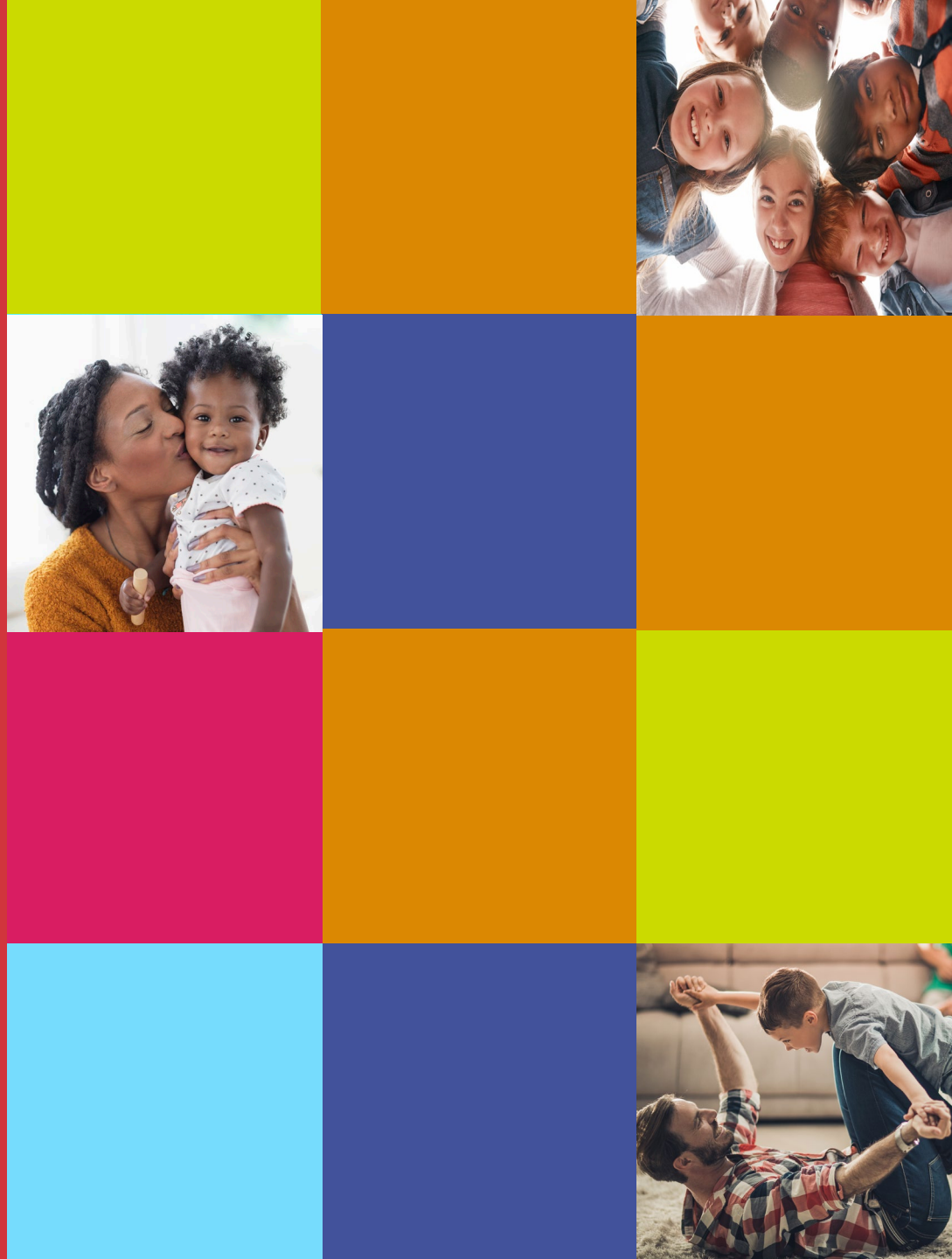
Matt Jenkins

Head of Safeguarding
Project Sponsor, Family Safeguarding Model



Family Safeguarding

Thank you



DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN AND LEARNING – PERFORMANCE & TRANSFORMATION
DATE OF DECISION:	18 JULY 2024
REPORT OF:	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director – Enabling Services	
	Name:	Mel Creighton	Tel: 023 8083 3528
	E-mail	Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Scrutiny Manager	
	Name:	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
Attached as Appendix 1 is a summary of performance for Children’s Services and Learning up to the end of May 2024. At the meeting the Cabinet Member and senior managers from Children’s Services and Learning will be providing the Panel with an overview of performance across the directorate.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the Panel consider and challenge the performance of Children’s Services and Learning in Southampton.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To enable effective scrutiny of Children’s Services and Learning 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 monthly performance information and an explanation of the measures.
4.	Performance information up to 31 May 2024 is attached as Appendix 1. An explanation of the significant variations in performance has been included.
5.	The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, and representatives from the Children’s Services and Learning Senior Management Team, have been invited to attend the meeting to provide the performance overview.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u>	

6.	None directly as a result of this report.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
7.	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>	
8.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
9.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
10.	<p>The 2024 updated Corporate Plan includes the following strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and stable home environments • Accessible education and skills pathways. <p>By delivering consistently good outcomes for the city's children and young people, Southampton's Children's Services and Learning Directorate will contribute to achieving these objectives.</p>

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Summary of performance and commentary – May 2024
2.	Children and Learning Glossary

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

Children & Learning Service Performance Report

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June 2024



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SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 11
Appendix 1

Contents

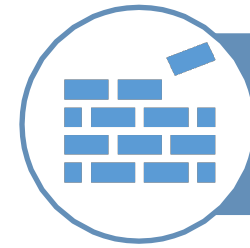
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Purpose

In order to evidence that Children & Learning Services are making a positive difference for children in the city, we consider our monthly performance data that is linked to the key outcomes of our governing strategy, Building for Brilliance 2023.

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Building for Brilliance; Building for Sustainability; Building for Families, with Families



Ensure that children get the **right support at the right time**, meeting need early, reducing demand and spend on statutory services



Develop **strong, vibrant localities** where families can receive the help they need and practitioners can share their knowledge and expertise



Support children to **remain within, or return to, their birth families**, seeking out and reuniting family members, reducing care costs and freeing up placements for other children.



Promote **permanence and placement stability**, creating strong forever families and reducing increasingly costly alternatives



Build a **permanent, stable, energised workforce**, increasing consistency for children and reducing agency spend



Embed our **practice framework and practice standards** across the whole service, doing the basics brilliantly and being ambitious in our practice expectations





Right support at the right time – Family Help

Indicator	May-22	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of referrals into Early Help	246	181	154	172	162	109	139	166	142	144	129	90	87	127		-	⬆️	-	-	-	-
Number of referrals that were stepped down from CSC (no assessment required)		35	35	21	46	27	16	23	18	36	24	15	15	20		-	⬆️	-	-	-	-
Number of Early Help assessments started	133	74	82	119	71	66	89	91	80	79	86	65	71	70		-	⬇️	-	-	-	-
Number of contacts in the month	2100	1828	1948	1804	1471	1532	1923	1763	1459	2018	1818	1780	1705	1709		-	⬇️	-	-	-	-
Rate of contacts per 10,000 population under 18 years old		4213	4229	4272	4173	4123	4166	4159	4171	4207	4251	4201	4233	4205		-	⬆️	-	-	-	-
Number of referrals into statutory service in the month	354	301	285	310	263	267	276	315	216	308	197	202	191	187		-	⬆️	-	-	-	-
Rate of referrals per 10,000 population under 18 years old		770	762	761	760	754	747	732	720	715	691	645	627	604	581	🔴	⬆️	759.8	640.1	-	544.5
Number of C&F assessments completed	285	425	283	292	259	231	222	255	216	266	200	233	186	227		-	⬇️	-	-	-	-
Rate of assessments per 10,000 population under 18 years old		830	827	829	807	776	756	736	716	707	685	651	627	588	580	🔴	⬆️	778.4	628.5	-	557.4
Percentage of assessments completed within 45 days		75	90	89	90	80	87	92	81	89	90	85	83	89	81	🟢	⬆️	81.6	81.1	-	82.5
Number of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD)	312	524	493	467	462	433	388	464	449	480	453	396	377	372	-	-	⬆️	-	-	-	-
Number of children with Child in Need Plan (CWD)		238	244	254	243	243	237	230	228	221	222	212	213	209	-	-	⬆️	-	-	-	-



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Right support at the right time – Family Help

Desired outcome

Improved shared understanding of thresholds resulting in less contacts a month, an increase in referrals and assessments for Early Help, a reduction in statutory referrals and assessments and children open to statutory services. This will result in more focused and intensive work with families requiring statutory services resulting in less children subject to CP planning and coming into our care.

Progress analysis

- It is encouraging to see a rise in the referrals into Early Help in May, up 46% from April.
- May had 1709 contacts, similar to April 2024. This is down 7% from May 2023.
- The rate of referrals, 604, has reduced by 21% since May 2024 and exceeds the statistical neighbour average of 640. We have set a new target for March 2025 of 581, which would place us in the top 5 performing statistical neighbours. We are currently on target to achieve this.
- Similarly, our rate of assessments has reduced by 29% since May 2023 with a current rate of 588.
- We have consistently met or exceeded our statistical neighbour average rate (81%) of completing assessments within 45 days since May 2023.





Right support at the right time – Family Safeguarding

Indicator	May-22	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Number of strategy discussions held		185	207	144	161	152	152	173	124	147	97	144	121	109	-	-	⬆️	-	-	-	-
Number of Section 47 enquiries completed		126	124	121	86	81	131	112	101	77	86	90	75	84	-	-	⬇️	-	-	-	-
Rate of Section 47 enquiries completed		356	355	346	336	320	323	306	301	297	285	274	261	251	247	🟡	⬆️	352.2	253.0	-	191.6
Percentage of Strategy discussions resulting in Section 47		68	60	84	53	53	86	65	81	52	89	63	62	77	-	-	⬇️	-	-	-	-
Percentage of Section 47s (not already CP or in our care) resulting in ICPC		26	43	21	45	20	20	33	12	22	21	28	24	19	31	🟢	⬇️	23.9	31.1	-	33.0
Number of children subject to CP Plan at end of month	432	355	351	345	346	318	311	320	309	304	307	276	257	256	-	-	⬆️	-	-	-	-
Rate of children subject to CP plans	88	72	71	70	70	64	62	64	62	61	60	56	52	51	49	🟡	⬆️	63.90	52.90	-	43.20
Number of children in our care	559	505	517	518	507	510	503	507	510	494	492	490	488	489	-	-	⬇️	-	-	-	-
Rate of children in our care per 10,000	113	102	105	105	103	103	101	102	102	99	99	98	97	98	87	🔴	⬇️	114.00	100.90	56.00	70.00
Number of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL)	2406	2326	2304	2297	2259	2112	2085	2111	2036	2069	1986	1973	1905	1865	-	-	⬆️	-	-	-	-
Rate of children open to the service (Assessment, CIN, CP, CLA, CL)	483	455	453	448	422	414	418	423	408	415	396	396	382	374	350	🔴	⬆️	524.8	428.8	-	642.7



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Right support at the right time – Family Safeguarding

Desired outcome

Improved shared understanding of thresholds around strategy discussions and section 47 enquiries alongside focused and effective interventions with families during assessments and child in need plans. This will result in less children subject to CP planning and coming into our care.

Progress analysis

- Our rate of Section 47s, 251, has now reached the statistical neighbour of 253. This was previously our target, but we have set a new one for 24/25 of 247 which is a reduction by 10% from March 2023 (274).
- The rate of children subject to CP planning has reduced to 51, below our previous target and statistical neighbour average of 53. This is down 22% from May 2023 and 42% from May 2022. Our new 24/25 target is 49, a 10% reduction from March 2023 (56).
- The number of children in our care reduced to 489 with a rate of 98. This is down 3% from May 2023, and 13% from May 2022. Whilst we have met the statistical neighbour average target consistently since January 2024, we have set a new target of 87 to achieve by March 2025.
- The number of children open to the service overall reduced by 19% from May 2023 to 1865 with a rate of 374, this is below the statistical neighbour average of 429.





Strong, safe & vibrant localities

Indicator	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel	So'ton 22/23	Statistical Neighbours	South East	England
Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months	25%	35%	26%	19%	21%	21%	32%	25%	30%	24%	28%	26%	20%	20%	🟢	⬆️	22%	20%		21%
Percentage of referrals leading to NFA	5%	8%	9%	10%	10%	8%	4%	5%	4%	2%	4%	5%	9%	7	🟡	⬇️	14%	7.6%	-	7.1%
Percentage of children subject to 2nd or more CP plan	34%	33%	33%	31%	31%	32%	33%	34%	37%	35%	36%	38%	38%	25%	🔴	➡️	33%	25%		24%
Percentage of children subject to child protection plans with recent core group held in time	85%	83%	79%	69%	85%	84%	89%	74%	88%	89%	93%	88%	86%	95%	🔴	⬇️	-	-	-	-
Percentage of children with Child in Need Plan (not CWD) with CIN review within last 12 weeks	84%	83%	86%	79%	80%	70%	76%	81%	70%	70%	87%	87%	82%	95%	🔴	⬇️	-	-	-	-
Percentage of initial health assessments delivered within 20 working days of date child became looked after.	60%	50%	76%	20%	57%	9%	0%	33%	92%	67%	43%	71%	92%	95%	🔴	⬆️	-	-	-	-
Percentage of children in care for at least 12 months for whom health assessments are up to date.	86%	85%	84%	82%	80%	79%	78%	78%	83%	87%	88%	87%	85%	95%	🔴	⬇️	-	-	-	-



Strong, safe & vibrant localities

Outcomes

Stronger partner relationships will lead to a better understanding of referral thresholds. Multi-agency plans will be effective at increasing the safety and wellbeing of children. This will lead to a reduction in the referrals from schools, increase in partner agency led Team Around the Family plans, timeliness of Core Group activity, decrease in children with more than one period of CP planning, and increase in Child In Need Plans concluding within 6 months.

Progress analysis

- The percentage of re-referrals reduced from 26% to 20% in May, achieving our target to be in line with the statistical neighbour average.
- The percentage of referrals leading to No Further Action (NFA) increased to 9%, which is above our target and the statistical neighbour average. This will be monitored if it arises as a pattern in coming months.
- An in-depth review of children subject to child protection planning has been undertaken by the Independent Chairs and identified that of those returning for a child protection plan, only 2% had been subject to a CP plan within 12 months, and 7% within 24 months.
- Core group recording for April increased from 75% to 88%, which reflects the recording can be delayed in being put on the system. In May, the recording was 86%, and will be higher next month as the system is updated. Core group activity is a key focus in Assurance Clinics for the Family Safeguarding service.
- In May, of the 13 new children into care, 12 had an initial health assessment in timescales. The 1 that didn't was a child placed out of area where the provider could not meet timescales.
- There is creative work ongoing regarding the health reviews for looked after children to encourage the engagement of older children who are currently choosing not to attend these.





Children remain within or return to their birth families

Indicator	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Number of children in our care	517	518	507	510	505	504	507	510	494	492	490	488	489	-	-	↓
Rate of children in our care per 10,000	105	105	103	103	102	101	102	102	99	99	98	97	98	87	🔴	↓
Number of new CLA in month	31	17	10	17	15	13	17	21	8	7	14	17	15	11	🔴	↑
Number of new CLA in month who are UASC	2	2	2	3	4	2	1	1	2	2	4	2	0	-	-	↑
Number of Ceased CLA in the month excluding UASC	15	18	13	14	17	13	10	15	17	6	15	18	9	-	-	↓
Number of CLA achieved CAO or SGO	4	4	2	3	5	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	3.5	🔴	↓
Number of CLA returned home as part of care planning	2	5	3	5	6	6	6	5	9	1	4	4	1	6.5	🔴	↓
Number of CLA placed with parents at the end of the month	48	44	39	39	34	33	38	43	49	49	45	43	40	34	🔴	↓
Number of CLA placed in Connected Carer placements at the end of the month	52	50	47	40	42	41	51	56	54	57	65	73	71	-	-	↑



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Children remain within or return to their birth families

Outcomes – Children in our care return to live with their birth families, and more children are enabled to remain with their birth families, so we bring less children into our care through intensive working with families at child in need and child protection.

Progress analysis –

- The rate of children in our care has remained below our statistical neighbour average target of 100. We have 28 less children in our care than we did in May 2023.
- In May, 15 children came into our care, 2 have returned to family. Our plan is to reduce the number of children entering our care to an average of 11 a month, this is linked to the Family Safeguarding approach being fully launched in September 2024.
- We had 14 children leaving care, of these 5 were UASC. Of the 9 non-UASC, 2 achieved permanence with a family member, and 1 was returned home as part of care planning.
- We have a high number of children placed with family members, family seeking is an essential part of keeping children within their families and this role is being strengthened within the new Family Safeguarding structure. For those children remaining within families long term, we are keen to pursue permanence through Special Guardianship Orders and Child Arrangement Orders with more rigour.

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Promote permanence and placement stability

Indicator	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Number of children in our care	517	518	507	510	505	504	507	510	494	492	490	488	489			↓
Percentage of CLA at end of month with 3 or more placements during the year	15	14	16	18	17	19	18	19	18	19	18	17	16	10	🔴	↑
Number of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	144	146	141	147	142	141	137	133	132	131	131	129	127	91	🔴	↑
Percentage of CLA placed in IFA placements as at the end of the month	27	26	27	29	28	28	27	26	27	27	27	26	26	20	🔴	→
Number of CLA placed in children's homes	43	43	42	43	43	39	38	35	34	33	35	35	36	31	🔴	↓
Percentage of CLA placed in children's homes	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	🟡	→
Number of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month	30	36	42	42	44	48	48	49	46	47	46	43	42	20	🔴	↑
Percentage of CLA placed in unregulated/ unregistered settings at the end of the month	6	7	8	8	8	10	9	10	9	10	9	9	9	4	🔴	→
Number of CLA placed for adoption at period end	19	19	13	15	15	17	15	13	13	16	15	13	13			
Number of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers)	213	206	195	193	198	201	206	205	204	200	202	212	221	285	🔴	↑
Percentage of children placed with SCC foster carers (including connected carers)	40	39	38	38	39	40	41	40	41	41	41	43	45	58	🔴	↑





Promote permanence and placement stability

Progress analysis

- Placement stability remains a key focus for leaders and staff as our percentage of children in our care with 3 or more placement moves remains about 16%, down from 19% in February. Systems and processes within fostering, pathways through care and family safeguarding are being reviewed to ensure earlier identification of placements that may be at risk or under pressure, and that the placement stability panel and the new Building Bridges Team are accessed for intensive support as required.
- The number of children placed in independent fostering agencies has reduced to 127 from 147 in August 2023, this is the lowest for the last 12 months.
- 221 children are placed within our own foster placements, this is 45% of the overall cohort and up from 193 in August 2023. The ambition is for this to reach 58%, but this will depend on successful recruitment and assessment of new fostering households alongside retaining current carers. Nationally there are significant challenges to recruiting foster carers with significant competition from independent fostering agencies that are able to pay foster carers significantly more per child in their care. We are working with Newton on fostering placement sufficiency as part of their wider remit.
- There are 36 children in children's homes, down from 43 in May 2023.
- We have 42 young people in unregulated or unregistered placements, down from 49 in December 2023. All of these settings are in the process of being registered with Ofsted. These young people have additional Service Lead and Head of Service oversight and are reviewed by the Deputy Director monthly.
- Introduction of the Mockingbird model of fostering is in the implementation phase.



Promote permanence and placement stability

Education

- There are 8 children in our care aged 16 or under that are out of education, or not accessing education, 7 have Special Educational Needs.
- 1 is a newly arrived unaccompanied asylum seeking child, the virtual school are liaising with the virtual school where he is placed to secure a school placement.
- Of the remaining 7, 1 has applied to college and the virtual school are clarifying any funding arrangements. 1 is receiving tuition while school consults are active. 1 has a school place identified and is waiting for a transition plan. 1 child is about to move placements, accessing education is part of his care plan. 1 child is receiving tutoring whilst post 16 option being sought for September. Another child requires significant emotional and mental health support, current school struggled and gave notice, Alternative Provision programme provided whilst alternative school identified.
- 22 looked after young people aged 16 and 17 are not in employment, education or training. This is down from 29 in March. 4 of these have Special Educational Needs. 1 of these is a parent, 3 are not yet ready for education, employment or training. 18 are seeking EET.



Permanent, stable workforce

Indicator	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Total number of children held by social worker		1497	1467	1366	1258	1166	1261	1398	1365	1332	1293	1228	1210			↑
Average number of children per primary caseholder (based on 1 FTE)	16.19	15.87	16.40	15.64	14.50	14.21	15.12	15.82	16.00	15.93	15.72	15.26	14.81			↑
Average number of children per qualified Social Worker (1 FTE)	16.38	15.76	16.67	16.46	14.98	14.76	16.33	17.92	17.73	17.76	17.47	16.59	15.71			↑
Total number of case holders with 20+ children	50	43	47	36	37	34	43	48	44	44	41	41	32			↑
Average number of children per worker with 20+ children (1 FTE)	22.76	22.65	22.74	22.88	22.30	21.53	22.16	22.54	22.77	22.84	22.76	22.56	22.75			↓
Average number of children per worker in top 40	23.45	22.85	23.23	22.40	22.05	21.15	22.33	23.05	23.05	23.05	22.83	22.63	22.00			↑
Percentage of CLA that have been in care for 12+m, with same social worker for last 6 months	59	62	68	74	75	80	78	73	73	73	71	56	54	75	🔴	↓
Percentage of children open for 6+ months that have had 2 or more social workers in the last 6 months	34%	35%	33%	32%	39%	38%	36%	37%	38%	38%	32%	33%	34%	25	🔴	↓



Children & Learning
Making a difference



Permanent, stable workforce

Progress analysis

- Caseloads for social workers have decreased from 17.76 in February to 15.71. At our peak we had 110 caseholding social workers (due to high levels of agency), and currently have 85. We are currently holding a small number of vacancies in our Pathways Through Care service and have reduced the number of agency social workers in the system to 12.
- The number of social workers with 20 or more children on their caseload has reduced from 48 in December 2023 to 24 in May 2024. This is down from 54 in March 2023.
- Employee turnover has remained stable in Children & Learning. In our neighbouring local authorities, they have seen an increased reliance on agency staff, which drive up costs and create increased instability for families.
- Maintaining a stable and high-quality workforce remains a key priority for leadership, especially at a time of change and where neighbours offer higher wages to attract permanent staff. The recent launch of the re-design proposals can create uncertainty for staff and there are attractive opportunities for them within neighbouring authorities. Focussed consideration is being given to supporting staff through this process.

Outcomes

Children and families maintain working relationships with consistent practitioners, who benefit from stable management support and oversight. Agency staff numbers will reduce contributing towards financial responsibility.





Embedding Practice Framework and Standards

Outcomes

Audits will evidence:

- An improved quality of supervision and standard of practice.
- Contingency planning will be clear in all plans from the beginning of interventions and involvements.
- Systemic practice will be evidenced in care recording audits of visits, assessments, plans, supervisions, chronologies.
- Safe & Together will be evident in work with families increasing involvement of perpetrators, partnering with survivors and achieving long term safety for children.

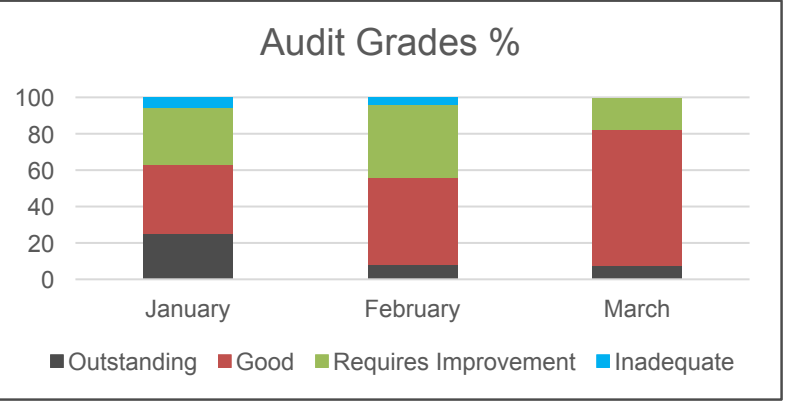
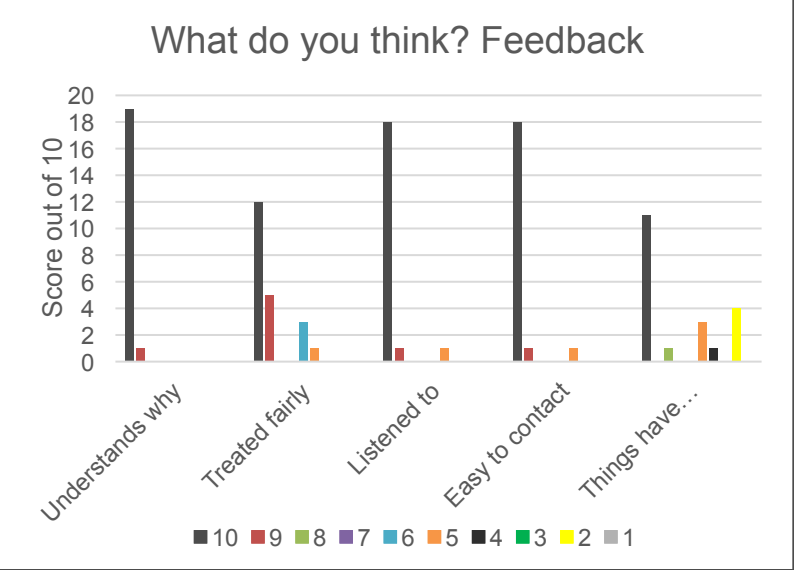
Progress analysis Quarter 4 Audit overview:

Social Work with Families

- 'L believes that even small steps of the plan make this better for her family and she fully understands why we are involved.'
- 'More than one worker - Felt this was very annoying as having to meet new people and tell story over again is not ideal and they struggle to trust people.'
- 'There isn't anything I would change about the support Sarah has offered to myself and my family. She should continue to be her authentic self, to spend time getting to know the family and building rappsots before bringing in interventions as we personally found this made a huge difference.'
- 'Wanted help so was happy to have a social worker and understood both roles of assessment social worker and longer term social worker'
- 'Better changing workers as she feels more listened to.'
- 'Has not had positive experiences with other workers but appreciates this was when they were in more need. Felt more listened to now and that I wish to keep the family together. Feels that she can approach her worker and tell her things without being looked down upon'.

Young People's Service

- 'The family were telling me all about how brilliant Kara [social worker] is. Dad was saying how much she has done for them and how she is like the backbone of the family and their son really listens to what she says to him, which is a huge help for the family. His son was saying how much he enjoys seeing Kara and has missed her over Christmas/new year and is looking forward to seeing her on Friday!'



Performance - Visiting

Progress analysis

- Early Help recording of visits dipped in May, but remains higher than months prior to April 2024.
- Visits to children within Jigsaw (children with disabilities team) remains below expectations. The service now has a Service Manager, and there are recruitment processes for two team manager positions. There is a clear improvement plan in place for the service, and the team is now fully staffed following the restructure.
- The Pathways Through Care team are also finding that higher than average caseloads resulting from staff vacancies are impacting on the recording of visits, and achieving these all in timescales. Recruitment processes are underway and additional agency workers have been moved into the service. They are also recruiting to two team manager posts, that will help to drive the performance improvements.

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Indicator	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children open to Early Help with a visit in the last 4 weeks	61%	60%	66%	67%	58%	71%	69%	62%	66%	62%	74%	81%	75%	95%	●	↓
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 6 weeks	98%	95%	96%	94%	96%	96%	95%	96%	95%	97%	97%	98%	99%	95%	●	↑
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (not CWD) visited within last 3 weeks	81%	74%	77%	77%	77%	86%	85%	89%	85%	87%	88%	90%	94%	90%	●	↑
Percentage of children with an active Child in Need Plan (CWD) visited within agreed timescales	86%	95%	88%	77%	73%	80%	82%	77%	73%	74%	84%	81%	77%	95%	●	↓
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 10 working days	92%	90%	84%	86%	90%	88%	92%	85%	93%	94%	91%	98%	98%	95%	●	→
Percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plan visited within last 4 weeks	98%	98%	97%	96%	98%	97%	99%	96%	99%	98%	95%	92%	90%	95%	●	↓
Percentage of CLA for whom a visit has taken place within agreed timescales	92%	89%	89%	83%	81%	81%	85%	83%	83%	79%	83%	80%	84%	95%	●	↑

Performance - Supervision

Progress analysis

- Supervision within Jigsaw and Pathways Through Care have dipped for the same reasons as set out above for the visiting recording in terms of staff and management vacancies.
- Early Help have also struggled due to managers absence, and staff vacancies. Through the recent restructure this has been redressed, and recording will be focus for the new Service Managers in place.

Indicator	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Target	RAG	Direction of travel
Percentage of children open to Early Help with supervision in timescales	82%	72%	82%	89%	82%	81%	68%	79%	74%	87%	79%	79%	78%	95%	Red	Down
Percentage of children open for assessment who had supervision in timescales	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	97%	97%	96%	92%	95%	Yellow	Down
Percentage of children with a Child in Need Plan (not CWD) who had supervision within timescales	96%	85%	79%	84%	86%	89%	91%	97%	88%	90%	94%	88%	97%	95%	Green	Up
Percentage of children open to the Children with Disabilities team who had their supervision within timescales	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	97%	94%	85%	95%	Red	Down
Percentage of CPP who had their supervision and within timescales	98%	87%	85%	89%	93%	96%	94%	96%	91%	96%	92%	93%	95%	95%	Green	Up
Percentage of CLA who had their supervision and was within the timescale	94%	88%	90%	78%	73%	81%	83%	83%	94%	88%	81%	77%	80%	95%	Red	Up
Percentage of Care Leavers who had their supervision and was within the timescale	92%	92%	88%	83%	79%	83%	81%	77%	90%	91%	87%	87%	88%	95%	Red	Up



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Acronyms

ADM	Agency decision maker
ASYE	Assessed and Supported Year in Employment
BIT	Brief Intervention Team
C&FF	Children and Family First (Early Help service)
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CiC	Children in Care
CLA	Children Looked After
CP	Child Protection
CRS	Childrens Resource Service
CYP	Children and Young People
EH	Early Help
FEW	Family Engagement Worker
HoS	Head of Service
ICAS	Intervention and Complex Assessment Service
ICAT	Intervention and Complex Assessment Team
Jigsaw	Children with Disabilities Team
KCSiE	Keeping Children Safe in Education (safeguarding legislation and guidance for education settings)
ROTH	Risk Outside the Home
PM	Practice Manager
PTC	Pathways through Care
SL	Service Lead
SW	Social Worker
SWF/SWWF	Social Work with Families
YJS	Youth Justice Service
YPS	Young Person Service

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.

Brief Intervention Team

Brief Intervention Service undertakes S47 Child Protection Investigations and S17 Single Assessments. They work towards five different outcomes for families.

1. If there are no identified concerns then the case can close.
 2. If the family require ongoing support at an early help level then the social worker will present the case at Step Down Panel in order to access Children and Families First and Universal Services.
 3. Children who require ongoing support with social worker intervention can be made subject to a Child In Need Plan.
 4. Children considered to be at risk of significant harm can be made subject to a Child Protection Plan.
 5. The service are also active in some initial court proceedings.
- The Brief Intervention Service do not hold cases long term therefore when a plan is identified that case will transfer to the appropriate team. All CIN plans and CP plans transfer to the Social Work with Families Service.

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 Arrangement Order

Child Arrangements Orders replace residence orders and contact orders. Child Arrangements Orders are governed by section 8 of the Children Act 1989. A Child Arrangements Order decides where a child lives, when a child spends time with each parent and when and what other types of contact take place (phone calls, for example). Each Child Arrangements Order is decided on the circumstances of the individual family and on what is in the best interests of that particular child.

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.

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.

Children and Families First

Parents or professionals can referral for Children and Families First case holding services through the Children's Resource Service. Families can access our family hubs by contacting us directly in the community. The Children and Families First Case holding locality teams provide the right support to families, at the right time, to achieve change that lasts. It can be provided at any stage in a child or young person's life, from pre-birth through to teenage years.

The service provide targeted intervention using a multi-disciplinary approach that can be delivered to parents, children, or whole families, but the focus is to improve outcomes for children and help prevent any situation from escalating, or further problems arising.

Families should be enabled and supported to have the right conversations, with the right people and at the right time about their needs or concerns, so that statutory interventions can be avoided where this is appropriate. Intervening as early as possible, regardless of the age of the child or young person, can positively improve their outcomes.

Targeted support through Children and Families First is voluntary and consent from children, young people, and their families to work with them should always be sought.

Children with Disabilities

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), children with disabilities "include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis".

JIGSAW (Children with Disabilities Team) is a specialist and statutory multi-agency health and social care service in Southampton that undertakes assessments and provides services at the complex level of needs.

The Team supports disabled children, young people and their families whose main need for service arises from their disability or their intrinsic condition, and where these conditions have a complex impact on the quality of the child's life or/and the lives of their families.

The Service intervenes where their needs cannot be fully met by universal and targeted services alone.

Children are defined as 'children in need' by the Children Act 1989 because of their disability. Some of those children are also assessed as having complex needs that may require specialist support from JIGSAW (Children with Disabilities Team), in addition to universal and targeted services, because they have disabilities or illnesses that are severe and enduring, including one or more of the following;

- Learning disabilities within the moderate, severe or profound range.
- A severe physical (including visual and hearing) health condition or impairment which is life limiting, or significantly affects, or is predicted to affect, everyday life functioning or a child's access to education (e.g. in a wheelchair, has adapted living, requires total personal care support, requires communication aids) and their ability to achieve outcomes appropriate to their age related potential. These children are likely to be subject to Children's Continuing Care Arrangements because of the complexity of their health needs or an Advance Care Plan. They may also have Autism, and their behaviour is likely to present a serious risk of harm to self or others.

Other disabled children may have additional needs but the impact of their disability on their day to day living arrangements means that they do not require specialist statutory support and their needs can be met appropriately with additional support from universal and targeted services, including mainstream Children's Services.

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.

Children's Social Care

Children's services used to be called 'social services'. Children's services/social care are responsible for supporting and protecting vulnerable children. This includes providing children and their families with extra help. Where children are thought to be at risk of harm, children's services will take steps which aim to make sure they are kept safe. The 2004 Children Act made local authorities responsible for ensuring and overseeing the effective delivery of services for children, working closely with others. They must also promote children's welfare and well-being as defined by the five outcomes. In Southampton all services for children come under the umbrella of the Children and Learning Service.

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.

Intervention and Complex Assessment Service

The services provided by IACS are:

The Brief Intervention Hub is a team who work intensively with children, young people and their families to support them in making and sustaining positive change, so that needs are met, children and young people are safe and to prevent children needing to enter local authority care unnecessarily.

The Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) is a multi-disciplinary team who work with families whose issues with substance abuse has led to the local authority issuing Care Proceedings. FDAC is an alternative approach to proceedings, with a problem-solving focus, working intensively with parents to try and tackle their substance addictions and have children safely in their care.

The Specialist Assessment Team works with parents to complete complex assessments, interventions and reunification work, in particular when families are involved in Care Proceedings, Public Law Outline (PLO) or Child Protection.

The Phoenix Team is working in collaboration with Pause, a National Charity and are the Phoenix Team @ Pause Southampton. This is a multidisciplinary team of professionals which support mothers post Care Proceedings who have had their children (two or more of) permanently removed from their care within the past two years. The team work intensively with women and support them in all areas of their lives. The ultimate aim is to prevent recurrent removals of children and subsequent Care Proceedings.

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.

Pathways Through Care

The Pathways Through Care team complete statutory duties on behalf of the Local Authority as pathways Through Care to looked after children and care leavers. For looked after children, the aim of the social workers is to establish trusting relationships with the children in order to gain their wishes and feelings so that their voice is heard in their future planning. The aim is for children to be in stable placements, to be achieving academically, to have consistent contact with significant others that is right for them, for them to have support with their past traumas and to understand their journey in to and through care. Where appropriate, we aim to reunite children with their birth families. We also work with care experienced young people and adults up to the age of 25 years old.

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.

SENCO

A SENCO, or Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, is a qualified school teacher who is responsible for assessing, planning and monitoring the progress of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They are a key point of contact for colleagues and can offer support and advice for the identification of needs and suitable provision to meet those needs.

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.

Social Work with Families

The Social Work with Families Service is a frontline service which supports vulnerable children. They work closely with children, families and different agencies to undertake assessments and intervention and work with children subject to child in need plans, child protection plans and court proceedings.

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 Education 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 Children

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. While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a local authority.

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/>

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DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS
DATE OF DECISION:	18 JULY 2024
REPORT OF:	SCRUTINY MANAGER

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director – Enabling Services	
	Name:	Mel Creighton	Tel: 023 8083 3528
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
This item enables the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to monitor and track progress on recommendations made at previous meetings.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the Panel considers the responses to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To assist the Panel in assessing the impact and consequence of recommendations made at previous meetings.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	Appendix 1 of the report sets out the recommendations made at previous meetings of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel. It also contains a summary of action taken in response to the recommendations.
4.	The progress status for each recommendation is indicated and if the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel confirms acceptance of the items marked as completed they will be removed from the list. In cases where action on the recommendation is outstanding or the Panel does not accept the matter has been adequately completed, it will be kept on the list and reported back to the next meeting. It will remain on the list until such time as the Panel accepts the recommendation as completed. Rejected recommendations will only be removed from the list after being reported to the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	

<u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u>	
5.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
6.	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>	
7.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
8.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
9.	None

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 18 July 2024

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (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	
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

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Monitoring – 18 July 2024

Date	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
21/03/24	Youth Offending Service	1) That an update report is considered by the Panel, provisionally at the 28 November 2024 meeting, to consider performance in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of children sentenced or remanded to custody • Improvements in education outcomes • Levels of serious youth violence 	The service will prepare the report for the November 2024 panel. (Scrutiny Manager – Update provisionally scheduled for 26 th September meeting of the panel to accommodate the educational attainment discussion in November.)	Not complete.
21/03/24	Children and Learning - Performance	1) That, reflecting the importance of the Family Safeguarding Model to the service transformation programme, the model is, subject to agreement with the Chair, included on the 6 June 2024 agenda for the Panel.	Paper completed for July 2024 panel.	Complete.
		2) That, in recognition of the insight it may provide on the effectiveness of safeguarding practice, the Panel review the planned analysis by the service of children subject to 2 or more child protection plans when it has been completed.	To be presented at August 2024 panel, after panel members training. Paper is drafted.	Partially complete.

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