

DECISION-MAKER:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE UPDATE: AIMING HIGHER, FAMILY SAFEGUARDING AND BUDGET UPDATE
DATE OF DECISION:	30 JANUARY 2025
REPORT OF:	STEPH MURRAY – DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
Not applicable	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
The accompanying presentation, attached as Appendix 1, outlines how Southampton's Children and Learning Service is sustaining good practice and outstanding leadership and is progressing with the implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model. An update regarding the 2025/26 service budget is also included.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	To support further improvements, it is recommended that the Scrutiny Panel consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel visits to teams – to ask questions about focus 5 and our service delivery plans • Aiming Higher and social care reform updates in the 2025/26 work programme • Opportunities to promote and focus on corporate parenting • A briefing on localities and integrated working pilot
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To support the Scrutiny Panel's oversight of the service's progress and direction of travel and its ability to provide a critical friend challenge to Children's Services and Learning.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	Not applicable
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	

3.	Attached as Appendix 1 is a presentation that outlines, alongside the Service Plan summaries attached as Appendix 2, how the service aims to further improve outcomes for children and young people in Southampton.
4.	Aiming Higher: This section introduces the concept of aiming higher for children in Southampton, emphasising the importance of sustaining good practice and outstanding leadership. It discusses the Ofsted ILACS outcome of 2023, which rated the service as "Good with outstanding leadership". The section also outlines the evidence base for continuous improvement and the characteristics of an outstanding service according to Ofsted.
5.	Family Safeguarding Update: This section provides an update on family safeguarding, including the impact on repeat referrals. It discusses various workstreams such as partnerships and governance, recruitment, evaluation, and training.
6.	Children and Learning Budget: This section provides an update on the budget, focusing on the immediate transformation process and workstreams aimed at improving both financial and quality of care outcomes for residents.
7.	Recommendations for Scrutiny Panel: Summarised above, this section outlines recommendations for the scrutiny panel, including oversight activities, corporate parenting focus, and briefings on localities and integrated working pilots.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
8.	The service is delivering against the priorities within agreed budgets. Additional grant funding has been awarded for 2025/26 to support the local authority response to the social care reforms. More detail is provided in the presentation appended.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
9.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
10.	Children Act 1989
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
11.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
12.	The service improvement journey and financial stability is overseen effectively through the director's management team arrangements. Family Safeguarding is a programme delivered with oversight through Southampton's integrated safeguarding partnership arrangements.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
13.	The recommendations and learning from this report are important in achieving better outcomes for in Southampton, as outlined in the Southampton City Council Corporate Plan 2022 – 30.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Aiming Higher, Family Safeguarding and Budget update presentation.
2.	Service Delivery Plans
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