



Meeting: **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date/Time: **Monday, 1 September 2014 at 2.00 pm**

Location: **Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield**

Contact: **Mr. S. J. Weston (0116 305 6222)**

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REMINDER: AN ALL MEMBER BRIEFING ON CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY AND THE CHANGES ARISING FROM THE C&F ACT WILL BE HELD ON THE MORNING OF THIS MEETING AT 10.00AM IN SPARKENHOE ROOM.

Membership

Mr. L. Spence CC (Chairman)

Mr. K. Coles CC Mr. T. J. Pendleton CC
Mr. J. Kaufman CC Mr. J. Perry
Ms. K. J. Knaggs CC Mrs. C. M. Radford CC
Mr. P. G. Lewis CC Mr. E. D. Snartt CC
Mr B. Monaghan Mr. G. Welsh CC

Please note: this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's web site at <http://www.leics.gov.uk/webcast> – Notices will be on display at the meeting explaining the arrangements.

AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2014.	(Pages 5 - 14)
2. Question Time.	
3. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).	
4. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.	
5. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.	
6. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance	



with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule
16.

7. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order
36.
8. Quarter 1 2014-15 Performance Report Chief Executive and Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 15 - 22)
9. Reform of SEN and Disability. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 23 - 44)
10. Service Developments and Plans to Meet MTFs Savings. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 45 - 60)
11. Childrens' Social Care Panel. Director of Children and Family Services (Pages 61 - 78)
12. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on 3 November 2014 at 2.00pm.

13. Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.

QUESTIONING BY MEMBERS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Members serving on Overview and Scrutiny have a key role in providing constructive yet robust challenge to proposals put forward by the Cabinet and Officers. One of the most important skills is the ability to extract information by means of questions so that it can help inform comments and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny bodies.

Members clearly cannot be expected to be experts in every topic under scrutiny and nor is there an expectation that they so be. Asking questions of 'experts' can be difficult and intimidating but often posing questions from a lay perspective would allow members to obtain a better perspective and understanding of the issue at hand.

Set out below are some key questions members may consider asking when considering reports on particular issues. The list of questions is not intended as a comprehensive list but as a general guide. Depending on the issue under consideration there may be specific questions members may wish to ask.

Key Questions:

- Why are we doing this?
- Why do we have to offer this service?
- How does this fit in with the Council's priorities?
- Which of our key partners are involved? Do they share the objectives and is the service to be joined up?
- Who is providing this service and why have we chosen this approach? What other options were considered and why were these discarded?
- Who has been consulted and what has the response been? How, if at all, have their views been taken into account in this proposal?

If it is a new service:

- Who are the main beneficiaries of the service? (could be a particular group or an area)
- What difference will providing this service make to them – What will be different and how will we know if we have succeeded?
- How much will it cost and how is it to be funded?
- What are the risks to the successful delivery of the service?

If it is a reduction in an existing service:

- Which groups are affected? Is the impact greater on any particular group and, if so, which group and what plans do you have to help mitigate the impact?
- When are the proposals to be implemented and do you have any transitional arrangements for those who will no longer receive the service?
- What savings do you expect to generate and what was expected in the budget? Are there any redundancies?
- What are the risks of not delivering as intended? If this happens, what contingency measures have you in place?

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Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Monday, 9 June 2014.

PRESENT

Mr. K. Coles CC
Mr. D. Jennings CC
Mr. J. Kaufman CC
Mr. P. G. Lewis CC

Mrs. C. M. Radford CC
Mr. E. D. Snartt CC
Mr. L. Spence CC
Mr. G. Welsh CC

1. Appointment of Chairman.

That Mr. L. Spence CC be appointed Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period ending with the date of the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2015.

(Mr. L. Spence CC in the Chair)

2. Election of Deputy Chairman.

That Mr. P. Lewis CC be elected Deputy Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period ending with the date of the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2015.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

4. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 35.

5. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

The Chief Executive reported that three questions had been received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5) from Mr P. Lewis CC.

Mr Lewis CC asked the following questions:

“Context:

Leicestershire County Council currently administers all admissions and appeals to schools in the County, including Academies. While the schools administer the process, the County Admissions Office inform the schools of the number of applications following the closing date.

Following this, parents either give up or move to their second or third choice, or they go on a waiting list for their first choice. If that is not open to them, or they are too far down the waiting list so as to appear pointless, they may then decide to proceed with appeals.

It should be noted that, when a school is informed it is full but there are numbers on the waiting list, there is no certainty those offered a place will arrive. They have time to consider before accepting such offers.

Schools rarely know how many have gone to formal appeal. Nor does a school know why or on what evidence decisions have been made to uphold or reject an appeal. They are simply informed that X numbers have been successful and which children must be admitted.

Each appeal - successful or not - is charged to the school and costs the school £460 on average.

The appeal cost has to be paid by Academies out of their budget, unlike in County run schools where it is a paper accounting transfer, not an actual charge to the budget. As Academies have no knowledge of the numbers involved, planned budgeting becomes very difficult.

Academies are increasingly concerned over this charging when they have no control whatsoever over this process prior to them receiving a bill.

Question:

- (i) Is the above an accurate reflection of the current process and costs?
- (ii) Would it not be fairer to levy a charge *only if the parents appealing are successful*?
- (iii) Is it considered fair that the cost of indeterminate numbers of unsuccessful appeals should fall upon and penalise individual schools?"

Mr Spence CC replied as follows:

- “(i) In accordance with the national coordinated scheme, the Authority administers all admissions, but only administers appeals for those academies that elect to buy into our service level agreement. Not all academies have bought in.

The process outlined in paragraph 2 of Mr Lewis’ question is broadly correct, but it will vary depending on each individual circumstance.

It is incorrect that schools rarely know how many have gone to formal appeal or on what evidence decisions have been made to either uphold or reject an appeal. Schools are advised of the number of appeals as part of the appeal preparation process. The Academy as Admission Authority is entitled to reasons for the decisions of the appeal panel and copies of decision letters can be provided.

In respect of the cost detailed in paragraph 5 of Mr Lewis’ question the current charge made by the County Council to schools is the Department for Education’s (DfE) recommended rate of £180 (plus on costs). This cost covers the costs of the appeal presenting officer and legal support for the clerking of the appeal. Panel members are all volunteers and there is no charge for their time.

It is correct that the above charges have to be paid by Academies out of their budget and academies are free to choose who to engage to run their appeals. Academy business managers can always contact the Authority's admissions service to assess how many appeals were lodged, heard, etc., in the preceding year in order to budget plan.

The Authority's School Admissions Service only charge to recover its costs and it works closely with several school business managers to ensure value for money.

- (i) The Authority charges academies the standard recommended DfE rate of £180 per appeal plus on costs, i.e. refreshments, panel training, room booking, etc., which are incurred by the Authority in providing this service. If an academy has more than 20 appeals, it can apply to the Education Funding Agency to assist with such costs. It should be noted that there is no mechanism to charge parents for appeals.
- (ii) As detailed above, the current operating model seeks only to recover costs. It is the responsibility of the Academy, as its own Admissions Authority, to make arrangements for appeals. It would not be appropriate for this to be funded by the Authority and there is no budget to meet these costs."

6. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

7. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

Mr D. Snartt CC, Mr L. Spence CC and Mr G. Welsh CC declared personal interests in matters relating to schools as they had family members who taught in Leicestershire.

Mr L. Spence CC indicated that, whilst this did not amount to an interest to be declared at this meeting, he felt it relevant to report that he sometimes worked for an academy within the County.

8. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

There were no declarations of the party whip.

9. Presentation of Petition: Request to build a primary school in the Birstall area of Hallam Fields.

A petition submitted and signed by 192 local residents was presented to the Committee by Mr Simon Sansome, a District Councillor for Charnwood Borough Council. The petition requested that the County Council build a primary school in the Birstall area of Hallam Fields, as currently children had to walk to Riverside Primary School crossing a busy dual carriageway twice a day, placing children at risk.

With the consent of the Chairman, Cllr. Sansome addressed the Committee and advised of the concerns raised by local families who had signed the petition. In particular, residents were concerned that Riverside Primary School was becoming overpopulated due to the development at Hallam Fields where in the region of 550 homes had now been completed. Cllr Sansome highlighted that the County Council had entered into a S106 planning agreement for a new school to be constructed at Hallam Fields as part of the development and suggested that this was now needed to support future primary school places in the area.

Cllr. Sansome raised a query regarding the number of residents that had signed the petition, as he had calculated this to be in excess of 250, and not 192 as stated on the agenda. The Chief Executive undertook to confirm the number of signatories listed on the petition received from Cllr Sansome after the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Sansome for the work he had done in speaking to local residents and bringing their concerns to the attention of both the Department and the Committee.

With the consent of the Chairman, Mr I. Bentley CC, the local member for Birstall, addressed the Committee and confirmed that work had been undertaken to address the concerns raised locally and to plan for future school places in the area. He confirmed that a report would be considered by the Cabinet at its next meeting which related to this issue.

Arising from the discussion, the following points arose:

- (i) Concerns had been raised by local residents that as part of the Hallam Fields development, a new community centre had been constructed in line with the S106 agreement, but that priority should have been given to the construction of the new school, which could also have served any community needs. Members agreed there was a general need to ensure any request made by the County Council for S106 developer contributions and the terms agreed for payment were robust. It was suggested that the terms of future agreements may need to be tightened to ensure appropriate emphasis was given to priority infrastructure requirements;
- (ii) Members supported the Lead Member on the need for all District Council's to support requests made by the County Council to ensure any infrastructure required to facilitate a development was provided. Developers were increasingly challenging such agreements on the grounds of viability and this was beginning to have a significant impact on the County Council and on local residents;

In response to questions raised, the Director and Lead Member confirmed the following:

- (iii) The need for school places had fluctuated since the commencement of the development at Hallam Fields. Under the previous government, the availability of surplus places had to be taken into account when considering developer contributions. This had now changed;
- (iv) Recent projections had identified that there would be a need for further primary school places in the Birstall area from 2015 and work had been undertaken to

identify a way forward;

- (v) The Cabinet would be considering a report in private session at its meeting on 17 June regarding the revision of the developer contribution agreement for Birstall to meet the requirement for school places for 2015;
- (vi) The Cabinet on 17 June would also be considering the draft new Strategy for the provision of school and other learning places and a revised planning obligations policy, both of which would go out for public consultation shortly. The Chairman encouraged members, parents and local residents to respond to these consultations.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of the petition be noted and Cllr Sansome and parents in Birstall be thanked for bringing its concerns to the Committee's attention;
- (b) That it be noted that the Cabinet on 17 June would be considering a report in private session which would consider the revision of a Developer Contribution Agreement in Birstall;
- (c) That it be noted that the County Council would shortly be consulting on the County Council's draft Strategy for the provision of school and other learning places and the revision of the County Council's Planning Obligations Policy, both of which would be considered by the Cabinet on 17 June, and that members, parents and local residents in Birstall be encouraged to respond to that consultation;
- (d) That the information provided regarding the walking routes to Riverside Primary School contained in the Briefing Papers attached to the agenda be noted.

10. Local Safeguarding Children Board/Safeguarding Adult Board Business Plan 2014/15 and Performance Management Framework.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services, the purpose of which was to present the Local Safeguarding Children Board/Safeguarding Adult Board (LSCB/SAB) Business Plan for 2014/15 and the LSCB/SAB Performance Management Framework, as requested by the Committee at its meeting on 11 November. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Paul Burnett, the independent Chair of the LSCB/SAB, to the meeting.

Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- (i) The Performance Framework had been used to identify key priority areas that formulated the Business Plan for 2014/15;
- (ii) Several organisations, including the County Council, had rated themselves as 'partially compliant' in the 2013-14 section 11 audit (i.e. a self-assessment audit required under the Children Act 2004 to check an organisations functions

are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people). This had been due to the 2013 Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance that introduced several changes which were still being adopted at the time of the audit. The independent Chair of the LSCB confirmed that such ratings were not a concern to the Board at this stage;

- (iii) There had been a significant increase in the number of referrals into the First Response, Central Duty team. This was a trend being seen nationally. The Board would monitor progress, but it was hoped that over the next 18 months figures would decline, as the introduction of Early Help Services fully bedded in;
- (iv) The timeliness of carrying out initial assessments for childrens social care had been highlighted as an issue. An action plan had been put in place to respond. However, the delays shown in the data resulted from a technical problem with the current electronic system, Framework-i. This had automatically logged a number of children as requiring an assessment when one was not needed. The Director reported that a manual assessment had confirmed that 97% of initial assessments required were conducted within the required 10 working day timescale, but acknowledged that it was important for this data was captured correctly;
- (v) Leicestershire County Council had a low number of private fostering arrangements notified to it when compared to its statistical neighbours. The reasoning for this was being looked at by the Board and there were future proposal to hold a publicity campaign to raise awareness and encourage people to come forward with such information. It was likely that some families feared contact with social services and providing information on the help and support that could be provided by the service would form a key part of this campaign to break down such barriers;
- (vi) Further work would take place with partners (e.g. GP's and schools) to ensure information regarding private fostering arrangements was being shared with the Authority. Close joint working on this issue had proved successful in other authority areas;
- (vii) In response to questions raised regarding the private fostering publicity campaign, the Committee noted that this would be funded out of contributions made by the statutory agencies (resources had already been allocated as this had been identified as a priority within the Business Plan) and all age groups would be targeted as well as schools and other agencies that would have contact with children under 5 and young people over 16 years.
- (viii) The LSCB now had a responsibility to monitor children placed out of county to ensure they were being regularly seen and reviewed. This would be an area assessed by Ofsted under the new inspection framework. Often children were based out of county for a specific reason. However, it could result in them being more at risk of issues such as child sexual exploitation. The Chair of the LSCB had written to some authorities in other areas who had not notified the Board of all children they had placed out of county;

- (ix) In response to questions raised, the Chair of the LSCB confirmed that the Board had no concerns regarding partner engagement in serious care reviews (SCR). The Board oversaw the conduct of any such reviews, looked at the recommendations made and drafted the necessary action plans arising from these.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of the report and the information now provided be noted;
- (b) That the priority and risk areas relating to children identified within the Business Plan for the Local Safeguarding Children Board/Safeguarding Adult Board for 2014/15 be supported;
- (c) That the contents of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Performance Management Framework together with the proposals to address areas of concern be noted.

11. The Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub - Further Developments in Music Education.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services, the purpose of which was to update the Committee on national developments in music education, plans to reshape and refocus the Leicester-Shire Music Service (the Service) and music opportunities offered in response to the Nation Plan for Music Education. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman reported that Diane Rivaud, Service Manager for Music Services, had been unable to attend the meeting but thanked her on behalf of the Committee for the detailed report provided.

Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- (i) The Committee welcomed the good work being achieved by the Service and acknowledged the significant progress it had made in the development of a number of broad music activities for children and young people across the County and the City;
- (ii) Many teachers teaching music across the County were not permanently employed by the Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub (the Music Hub) but were commissioned as necessary. Each teacher was assessed and quality assured in advance;
- (iii) The Pupil Premium received by schools could be used as it thought appropriate to help children in care achieve their potential. This was currently used to support the free hire of instruments for approximately 70 such children;
- (iv) Although 22% of county primary schools were not engaged in Whole Class Ensemble Teaching this did not mean they were missing out. Such children still received good music education but accessed this through a different programme. It was a national programme that required all schools to be engaged in music education, but it was up to each individual school to determine how to take this forward. For parents interested in their child taking part in some form of music education, they would need to contact their local

school;;

- (v) It was noted that Ofsted would assess each schools music education provisions as part of an inspection;
- (vi) Music played an important role in a child's education. The Committee noted that the Children in Care choir had gone from strength to strength and would be performing at the Curve Theatre shortly;
- (vii) The Music Hub provided a county wide service and it was questioned to what extent transport difficulties acted as a barrier in some areas. The Director of Children and Family Services undertook to obtain such information from the Music Service and provide this to members after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report and the good work undertaken by the Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub be noted.

12. Quarter 4 2013/14 Performance Report.

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Children and Family Services and the Chief Executive, the purpose of which was to present the Children and Family Services performance data as at the end of quarter four of 2013/14. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- (i) The format of future reports would change as Supporting Leicestershire Families and Safer Communities performance data was incorporated;
- (ii) It was questioned what would be done with the information obtained from the wellbeing survey conducted by the Children's Society. It was suggested that this did not provide any meaningful data as responses to the three questions raised could change on a day to day basis. Issues such as, 'what was a healthy diet', were also very subjective. It was acknowledged that this was a difficult topic to assess and the Committee suggested that further in depth questions now needed to be raised to obtain a better understanding of the responses provided;
- (iii) The Committee discussed age range changes made by schools and agreed that securing the best outcomes for children should form the basis of any decision by a school to make such changes. It would be important to see which schools were getting better outcomes and whether age range changes had affected educational performance over the last 12 months. The Committee noted that it would be receiving at its meeting in November a report on Key Stage 3 and 4 performance. The Committee noted that there was no longer an obligation on academies to consult the Authority on any proposal to make age range changes;
- (iv) To support Children in Care professionals had acknowledged the need to ensure help was provided early and that it was understood that trauma could manifest itself in a young person's behaviour at any time. It was noted that

broadening the understanding of issues affecting children in care more widely was important.

- (v) In response to questions regarding the role of members as corporate parents, it was noted that the involvement of members through the Virtual School to observe, listen and engage with young people would be helpful. In addition, members as school governors could work to ensure that the pupil premium for each child in care was being utilised to its full potential. Members were also invited to attend meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board where young people were present and were able to voice their concerns on a range of issues.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

13. Children Missing Education and Pupils Missing Out on Education.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services, the purpose of which was to inform the Committee about the new statutory guidance issues by the Department for Education (DfE) on 'Children Missing Education' and the Ofsted report on 'Pupils Missing Out on Education'. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

- (i) Children and Family Services had taken action to tighten its systems for dealing with children missing education and a project had been developed for managing pupils missing out on education. The Authority was working collectively with partners, particularly schools, and good progress had been made. However, information sharing and ensuring a quick response would be critical going forward;
- (ii) Notification of when a pupil was excluded from school, including private schools, should be given to the Authority. It was the statutory responsibility of the Authority to ensure that every child received 25 hours a week of education. For children permanently excluded from school the Authority would work with a child's family to ensure alternative schooling arrangements were established;
- (iii) A key area of concern related to those children who were not on a school roll and the whereabouts of the child were not known to the Authority. This was an area of particular focus for the Department and the Lead Member who received fortnightly reports on young people recorded as being absent or missing out on education;
- (iv) In response to questions raised, the Director confirmed the following:
 - a. If a child was removed from school to be home educated, the Department worked closely with parents to ensure an education plan was in place and regular visits and inspections were undertaken;
 - b. Information sharing with schools in bordering county schools was a priority issue and regional meetings with peers were being held to ensure a common framework was in place to support information sharing both with

and by the County Council;

- c. There was no statutory requirement for an authority to be informed of when a child was born. Links were established, however, through Children Centres, health visitors, GP's, schools and school nurses to ensure the County Council was made aware, as far as possible, of children and young people living in the area and those moving to and from it;
- (v) It was questioned if and how links with families in the armed forces were made to ensure their children accessed school and education services and what the Authority's role was, if any, in monitoring the movement of armed forces children in and out of the area. The Committee further requested information on the number of CME/PME cases that involved armed forces children who were in mainstream schools. The Director undertook to confirm what arrangements were in place and to report back to members after the meeting;
- (vi) The Authority monitored and held discussions with Head Teachers where concerns over reports of forced marriage had been raised, particularly when a child was taken out of school as a result.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) That the Director of Children and Family Services be requested to clarify to members the role of the County Council in ensuring that children from families in the armed forces that move to the area do not miss out on education.

14. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 1 September 2014 at 2.00pm.

2.00 - 4.40 pm
09 June 2014

CHAIRMAN



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
- 1 SEPTEMBER 2014

QUARTER 1 2014/15 PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update of Children and Families performance at the end of quarter 1 of 2014/15.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. Children and Families performance is reported on a quarterly basis to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The previous report covered performance to quarter 4 of 2013/14.

Background

3. The report is based on the set of performance measures aligned with the priorities set in the new County Council Corporate Strategy to 2017/18, agreed by the Council in May. This has increased the number of indicators reported from 28 to 54. However, data is not yet available for all 54 indicators listed.
4. Full year data and comparative information is still being collated and these will be reported in a more comprehensive annual report and performance compendium later in the Autumn. The Annual Report will be presented to the full Council.
5. The report is now divided into the four key priority areas identified by the Children and Families department:
 - Children and Young People are Safe;
 - Children and Young People achieve their potential;
 - Children and Young People have their Health and Wellbeing and Life Chances Improved;
 - Thriving Communities.

Performance Summary

6. From 29 measures that have data available, 19 have improved since 2013/14 year end. Of 10 measures that have a national benchmark, 1 is in the top quartile, 2 are in the second quartile, 5 are in the third quartile and 2 are in the fourth quartile.

Children and Young People are Safe

7. Indicators in the section 'Children and Young People are Safe' were generally similar in Quarter 1 when compared to 2013/14 Quarter 4, with some downward movement. Where national comparisons were available, indicators were in the 3rd quartile in all cases. No indicators in the outcome area 'Children and Young People are Safe' were in the top or bottom quartiles using the comparative figures available.
8. 'Care Leavers in Suitable accommodation' and the 'Care leavers in education, employment or training' figure are now both measured using different government criteria. Therefore no comparative figures are available.

Children and Young People Achieve their Potential

9. The number of eligible families taking up Free Early Education Entitlement for 2 year olds increased by 9.6% to 74.6%
10. The early indications are that education performance in Leicestershire at Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 is much improved compared to 2013 with notable improvements at Key Stage 2. Key Stage 2 was highlighted as an area of underachievement for Leicestershire in 2013. Provisional data is included on the performance dashboard Appendix A.
11. A full suite of 2014 education data will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November.

Ofsted outcomes

12. The percentage of Leicestershire schools rated as Good or Outstanding is currently 83.2%. This is above the national figure of 80%.
13. The percentage of Leicestershire pupils attending a Good or Outstanding school is currently 78%. This is 0.1% above the national figure. The Leicestershire percentage has been broadly in line with the national figure over the past year, being slightly above or below in equal measure.
14. The number of Special Schools rated as Good or Outstanding is currently bottom quartile. However, it should be noted that 5 out of 6 are rated as Good or Outstanding and each school represents 16.7% of the total.

Economy/Employment and Skills

15. NEET in Leicestershire reached a record low of 2.8% by the end of Q1.

Children and Young People have their Health and Wellbeing and Life Chances Improved

16. The Harborough cluster of Children's Centres was recently inspected and judged to be 'Good'. Five of the six clusters in Leicestershire have now been inspected with all receiving a 'good' rating from Ofsted.
17. The 2014 Children's Centres Satisfaction Survey took place between April and May 2014. A county headline summary report has been produced showing

analyses of the 1,769 parents who responded. Initial results have found that 91% would recommend their centre.

18. Health indicators provided by Public Health are generally positive. Of the 5 indicators with national comparisons, 4 are 'better'.
19. The percentage of Looked After Children having health checks increased by 0.9% 2013 to 2014 and is now 74.2%. The percentage of Looked After Children having dental checks increased by 0.2% from 2013 to 2014 and is now 73.5%. The percentage of Looked After Children up to date with immunisations increased by 5.9% from 2013 to 2014 and is now 86.4%.

Thriving Communities

20. Supporting Leicestershire Families is working with 299 families. This is at the target number of 6 families per support worker. The number of cases closed because the intended outcomes for the family have been met is increasing and is the most common reason for case closure.
21. Feedback and evaluation from families has been collated from all Early Help and family support services. This includes Children's Centres, Family Steps, Youth Service, Supporting Leicestershire Families and the Youth Offending Service. High satisfaction rates were reported in all individual areas without exception.
22. Two Youth Offending targets – to reduce youth offending and to reduce first time entrants - showed improved performance for the most recent figures.

Conclusion

23. This report provides an update on Children and Families performance at the end of quarter 1, 2014/15. The first set of education data for 2014 is included in this report with Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 expected during Q2. Progress will continue to be monitored in other outcome areas, with a particular focus on indicators with declining performance.

Recommendation

That the Committee note performance at Quarter 1 and comment on any significant performance issues.

Background papers

None.

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officers to Contact:

Stewart Smith, Business Partner – Performance and Business Intelligence
 Tel: 0116 305 5700
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Neil Hanney, Assistant Director, Commissioning and Development – Children and Families Department.

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Michelle Nicholls, Head of Strategy, Business Support – Children and Families Department

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Appendices

Appendix A - Children and Families Department performance dashboard for quarter 1, 2014/15

Equality and Human Rights Implications

24. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report. The corporate dashboard highlights a number of elements of performance on equalities issues. The education of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium is recorded in this report with other pupil groups reported on directly to the relevant Assistant Director.

Children and Families Performance FY2014/15 Q1

* denotes 2013 year end comparative data (earlier for some health measures)

Outcome	Supporting Indicator	Latest data		Direction of travel	Change from 2013/14 year end	Status RAG	National benchmark (quartile 1 = top)	Statistical Neighbour benchmark	2017/18 target
Children and Young People are Safe	% child protection cases which were reviewed within timescales	Q1 2014/15	97.2% (277)	→	-0.70%		n/a	98.17%*	100%
	Number of serious case reviews	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	minimise
	Number of missing children in care reports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	% children with 3 or more placements during the year	Q1 2014/15	15% (60)	↓	+7.3%		3*	12.5%*	<9%
	% children in same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption	Q1 2014/15	65.1% (69)	↓	-2.50%		3*	64.30*	70%
	% children who wait less than 20 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65%
	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Q4 2014/15	61.1% (118)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Top quartile
	Care leavers NOT in education, employment or training	Q4 2014/15	38.9% (75)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Top quartile
	Number of children's social care assessments undertaken	Q1 2014/14	1903	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Reduce
	Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more	Q1 2014/15	5.2% (8)	→	+0.4%		3*	2.96%*	n/a
Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for second or subsequent time	Q1 2014/15	14.6% (21)	↓	+2%		3*	16.83%*	n/a	
Children and Young People Achieve their Potential	% eligible 2 year olds taking up FEEE	Jun-14	74.6%	↑	9.60%		n/a	n/a	80%
	% eligible 3 year olds taking up FEEE	Jun-14	88.4%	→	0.0%		n/a	n/a	95%
	% of reception pupils reaching a Good Level of Development	2014	58%	↑	+11.7%		n/a	n/a	60%
	% inequality gap in achievement across all early learning goals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Top quartile
	% pupils achieving L4 in Reading, Writing and Maths	2014	78.50%	↑	+4.3%		n/a	n/a	85%
	% pupils progressing by 2 levels in Maths between KS1 and KS2	2014	87.70%	↑	+2.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	Above national average

% pupils progressing by 2 levels in Reading between KS1 and KS2	2014	89.80%	↑	+3.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a	Above national average
% pupils progressing by 2 levels in Writing between KS1 and KS2	2014	91.50%	↑	+3.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	Above national average
% pupils eligible for FSM achieving L4 in Reading, Writing and Maths	2014	63.90%	↑	6.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	Above national average
% pupils achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs (inc. Eng and Maths)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70%
% pupils making expected progress from Key Stage 2 to 4 in English	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Above national average
% pupils making expected progress from Key Stage 2 to 4 in Maths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Above national average
% pupils eligible for FSM achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C (inc. Eng and Maths)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Above national average
Secondary School persistent absence rate	2013	7.40%	↑	-1.2%		4*	6.7%*	6.40%
A Level - average points per entry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	215
17 year old participation	Q1 2014/15	95.10%	↑	+0.3%		n/a	n/a	94.60%
NEET 16-18	May-14	2.80%	↑	-0.2%		1*	4.91%*	Below 4%
% L2 by age 19	2013	85%				2*	85%*	
% Children in Care achieving L4 in Reading, Writing and Maths at KS2	2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Children in Care achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE (inc. Eng and Maths)	2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
% Schools assessed as Good or Outstanding	Jun-14	83.20%	↑	+1.2%		2	79.60%	>84%
% Pupils in Good or Outstanding schools	Jun-14	78%	↑	+1%		3	77.60%	-
% Special schools assessed as Good or Outstanding	Jun-14	83.30%	↓	-16.7%		4	88.20%	100%
% of pupils offered first choice primary school	2014	90%	-	-		n/a	n/a	90%
% of pupils offered first choice secondary school	2014	96.20%	-	-		n/a	n/a	98%

Children and Young People have their Health and Wellbeing and Life Chances Improved	Under 18 conception data	2012	21.7	n/a	n/a		Better*	27.7*	-
	% women smoking at time of delivery	2012/13	11.30%	n/a	n/a		Better*	12.7%*	10.80%
	Emotional health of looked after children - mean SDQ scores	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Waiting times for assessment by CAMHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Number of looked after children having health checks	2013/14	74.20%	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
	Number of looked after children having dental checks	2013/14	73.50%	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
	Number of looked after children with up to date immunisations	2013/14	86.40%	↑	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
	% children with excess weight 4-5 year olds	2012/13	21%	-	-		Better*	22.2%*	<20%
	% children excess weight 10-11 year olds	2012/13	31.13%	-	-		Better*	33.3%*	Top quartile
	% children aged 5 with one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth	2011/12	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	Reduce
% mothers breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks	2012/13	44.30%	-	-		Worse*	47.2%*		
Thriving Communities	Reduced youth re-offending compared to 2005	2012/13	1.01%	↑	n/a		n/a	n/a	Top quartile
	Reduced first time entrants compared to 2005	Q1 2014/15	55	↑	-7		n/a	n/a	Top quartile
	Minimal use of custodial sentences for young people	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	<5%
	Reduce % people reporting they have been a victim of ASB	2013/14	7.7%	↑	n/a		n/a	n/a	Significant reduction
	Numbers of families supported through SLF service	Jun-14	299	↑	+21		n/a	n/a	480
	% of SLF payment by results families target achieved	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	-
	Feedback from families and evaluation provides evidence of positive impact	Q1 2014/15	-	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	-

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 1 SEPTEMBER 2014

REFORM OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the reform of Special Educational Needs and Disability Services and Leicestershire County Council's response to the required changes.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Children and Families Act received Royal Assent on 13th March 2014 and the requirements of the Act are set out later in this report.
3. The Care Act 2014, which will be implemented from April 2015, will also introduce greater flexibilities for children's and adults' services to work together to better support young people moving from one service to another.
4. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its planning meeting of 11 February 2014 requested an update of the reform of special educational needs and disability, including information about the current arrangements for out of county placements (See Appendix A).
5. The Health and Well Being Board, at its meeting in March 2104 agreed that health commissioners should be involved in the development of Leicestershire's holistic approach to special educational needs and disability reform.

Background

6. Part 3 of the Children and Families Act outlines new responsibilities across education, health and social care teams for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and/or a disability. This includes a new Code of Practice which has undergone several revisions and which was finalised in July 2014. It is expected that all partners will work together to deliver a person centred approach through:

- Education, health and care plans and assessment processes;
 - A local offer;
 - Personal budgets offered in education, health and care plans;
 - Mediation and dispute resolution arrangements;
 - Joint commissioning arrangements.
7. By September 2014 implementation of these five key areas must be progressing and there must be clear engagement with children and families to ensure that they understand the changes and the implications whether they have already been identified as having special educational needs or a disability, or are beginning the assessment process. The Department for Education timeline is attached at Appendix B. It is important to note that this is the beginning of reform which is expected to take place over at least three years to ensure that there is both cultural and system change. This has been described by Edward Timpson MP as a gradual and orderly transition to full implementation.
8. The Children and Families Act seeks to deliver cultural, as well as organisational change. In implementing the Act, local authorities must have regard to the importance of children and young people, and their parents and carers, participating as fully as possible in decisions about their individual care. Local authorities must ensure that children, young people, parents and carers are provided with the information, advice and support necessary to participate fully in those decisions that affect their lives. Appendix C provides additional information about the principles underpinning the Code of Practice.

Leicestershire's approach to SEND reform

9. Leicestershire places a high priority on improving the outcomes and raising aspirations of children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disability. The vision for all children and young people is that they live in safe and thriving communities where they enjoy good health and well-being and achieve their potential. The reform of SEND services is a fundamental element of this vision. It is one of the County Council 24 priority transformation projects.
10. Within Children and Family Services this project is closely aligned to the three other departmental transformation projects. The successful implementation is dependent on an integrated approach between education services, social care services and health services, as well as Adult and Community Services teams, particularly with regard to the development of a 'whole age approach'..
11. The SEND project reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Integration Executive for Health and Social Care. The Assistant Director for Education, Learning and Skills oversees the project within Children and Family Services and, in February 2014, commissioned external advisers to provide an assurance assessment of our readiness to deliver, a summary of which is attached at Appendix D.

12. The Department for Education is monitoring the progress of all local authorities and visited Leicestershire in May and August 2014. They recognise the long term vision for special educational needs or disabilities and how this sits within the broad ambition of the Council.

Resourcing the reform programme

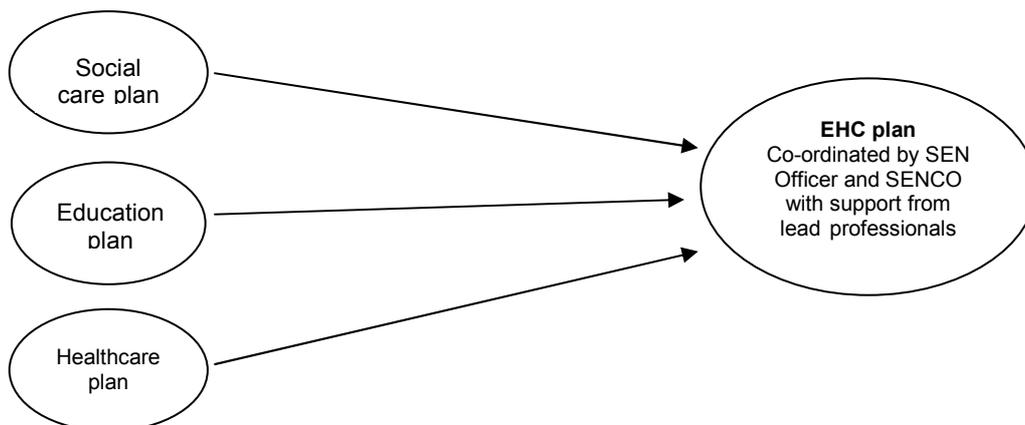
13. Local authorities are receiving a share of government funding to help prepare for this transformation. In Leicestershire this amounts to £1.2m which is being used in full on start up activities and investment in infrastructure to optimise sustainability. This grant is a one off sum from central government. It is recognised at local and national level that the requirements of SEND reform impose additional burdens on local authorities which need to be addressed by central government when considering future budget settlements. The project is, where possible, developing solutions that are based on existing infrastructures. Additional staff have been recruited to provide the capacity required to transfer systems and embed cultural change.
14. The Department for Education has provided resources for authorities to be able to respond to the changes which has totalled £1.2m for Leicestershire.
15. The SEND reform grant has been used to provide additional capacity to the SENA service to ensure that new requirements can be met. In particular additional resource has been allocated from the grant to manage the conversion of statements to EHC plans between 2014-2018.
16. There are a number of components that will require ongoing funding as they move from transformation to business as usual. These include, for example:
- Local Offer – revising and responding to feedback and changes to services;
 - Administration of personal budgets;
 - Extending services to Further Education sector, young offenders and training/apprenticeships;
 - Contract management and compliance.

Addressing the key changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice

17. The key changes are set out below regarding:
- Education, health and care plans;
 - The Local Offer;
 - Personal budgets;
 - Disagreement resolution and mediation arrangements;
 - Joint commissioning;
 - Person centred planning.

Education, Health and care plans (EHC plans)

18. The Children and Families Act 2014 has not changed the definition of special educational needs (SEN), but statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments are being replaced by a single education, health and care plan for children and young people with complex needs. The EHC plan will place more emphasis on individual outcomes and will set out the support children and young people will receive while they are in education or training to achieve those outcomes. EHC plans can continue to support young people up to the age of 25 if the council considers that the young person needs more time to complete their education or training. Transitional arrangements have been pre-determined by the Department for Education for specific groups of children and young people with a statement of educational need or a learning disability assessment.
19. The operating model in Leicestershire will provide a co-ordinated education, health and care assessment process which can be used to issue a final EHC plan within 20 weeks. It is intended that the EHC plan will be a co-ordination of various assessments and plans across education, health and social care, leading to a single assessment. The Department for Education states that the 'trigger' for an EHC plan will be a child having significant special educational needs requiring support over and above that normally available in mainstream settings.



20. Leicestershire currently has 2800 children and young people with a statement of special educational need and approximately 300 with a learning disability assessment (LDA), also known as 139A Assessment. The EHC plan template has been developed and tested and a detailed plan has been developed for Leicestershire to outline how current statements and LDAs will be transferred to EHC plans by 1 April 2018. In order to manage this transfer process additional staff have been recruited to the SENA team.
21. A SEN support plan has been developed and is designed for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability but without an education, health and care plan. This is in recognition that many young people with special educational needs and disability would be in early years' settings, schools and colleges who will still require a person centred and holistic approach to meeting needs but do not have the complex difficulties requiring

an education, health and care plan. The proposal is that the SEN support plan can be used for making a referral for statutory assessment along with an accompanying letter (template letters are being provided to educational settings). As the SEN support plan will be co-produced by the family, young person and school then it will be the basis of any subsequent education, health and care plan.

The Local Offer

22. From September 2014, councils will be required to consult with local families and providers of services and publish a 'local offer'. The local offer will inform parent carers and young people with SEN or disabilities about services across education, health and social care from birth to 25. The local offer should provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities available. It should be responsive to local needs and aspirations and should directly involve children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities, parents and carers, and service providers in its development and review. It should not simply be a directory of existing services. It is acknowledged that local offers will be developed and revised over time.
23. Existing published information from the Leicestershire County Council website from education, children and adult social care services will form the basis for the local offer. Children's health services will also be included. From 1st September it is expected that the local offer is compliant with national requirements. As the County Council develops its online presence, then the local offer will evolve to incorporate a broader range of information, shaped by service users' needs and views. The longer term view is that the local offer will be jointly commissioned with health services.
24. Leicestershire is participating in a pilot called SEND direct. This is a government sponsored project to provide a national online brokerage service for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Initial feedback about this has been positive. Our parent representative has written a blog about SEND direct in which she states: "here in Leicestershire, we are hugely lucky to have a very close relationship with the County Council and working together on SENDirect can only strengthen that bond and those links". The following link can be used to access further information - www.sendirect.org.uk. The Local Offer will set out eligibility criteria for accessing services across education, health and care. Access eligibility and level of impact will be determined by service areas own policy and statutory responsibility.

Personal budgets

25. A personal budget is a sum of money (additional provision) which can be used to fund provision as set out and agreed in an EHC plan, to meet agreed outcomes. All parents in receipt of a new EHC plan will be able to request a personal budget. Clinical Commissioning Groups should commit to ensure that personal health budgets are available to people who would benefit with

continuing healthcare funding from April 2014 or with any long term condition by April 2015.

26. Important features at the introduction of the Local Offer is both managing demand for services offered by the County Council or our partners, and in ensuring that the expectations of parents and carers are realistic.
27. In Leicestershire, from 1st September, access to a personal budget will be based upon existing policies for direct payments with Health, Children and Family Services and Adults and Communities. The local authority will also be ready to respond to requests for personal budgets from families that have been assessed as needing an EHC plan. It is anticipated that an early offer for personal budgets will be SEN transport. The project team is working with colleagues in Environment and Transport to determine how this will operate.
28. The escalation processes within each of the services regarding direct payments will remain 'as is' for 1st September 2014. The Children and Families Act requires that statutory duties for assessing and determining need across children's and adults' social care and health services should run concurrently for children with or without an Education, Health and Care plan. The target operating model is for assessments currently conducted across education, health and social care services to provide indicative budgets through an assessment of need. The indicative budgets will then be totalled at an EHC plan panel to provide a total budget to a family if the child or young person if this is agreed as a result of the assessment process. The longer term vision is to develop a model which is aligned to the aspirations of the Care Act.

Disagreement resolution and mediation arrangements

29. Local authorities must make known to parents and young people the possibility of resolving disagreements across education, health and social care through disagreement resolution and mediation procedures and education, health and social care providers should have complaints procedures which, along with details about appealing to the Tribunal, should be made known to parents and young people through the local authority's information, advice and support service.
30. Leicestershire's existing mediation provider (Together Trust) will be used to provide mediation and dispute resolution for families from 1st September 2014 to March 2015. Leicestershire is working with the nine local authorities in the East Midlands to carry out a tender exercise for both mediation and independent dispute resolution from April 2015. Leicestershire's Parent Partnership Service will provide information, advice and guidance in the first instance. This service will also issue certificates if a family does not want mediation and wants to lodge and appeal with the Tribunal.

Joint Commissioning

31. Councils are required to establish joint commissioning arrangements with health partners with responsibility for commissioning health services in the council area. Local authorities, CCGs and other partners **must** work together in local Health and Wellbeing Boards to assess the health needs of local people, including those with SEN or who are disabled. This assessment, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, informs the local Health and Wellbeing Strategy which sets priorities for those who commission services. Local authorities **must** keep their educational and training provision and social care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities under review.
32. In March 2014 it was agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board that the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS England will work together with parents/carers and partners at a strategic level to develop an integrated approach. Health commissioners are working as part of the SEND project board.

Person centred planning – user voice

33. As stated earlier, a significant shift in practice is to ensure that children and young people and their families are given more choice and control in regard to their support. To ensure that this is achieved practitioners will be trained in the person centred principles approach. This is a strength focused model with support being designed around what is important to the person receiving it. Person centred principles also seek to enable children and young people with SEND to increase their self-determination and independence. Section 19 of the Act provides a clear set of principles which underpin this cultural shift.
34. In Leicestershire, training will be delivered to professionals and practitioners across education, health and care partners between September 2014 and July 2015, in the first instance. Families have contributed to the design of the training that will include face to face sessions as well as e-learning packages. There will also be training for families about for example, how to use personal budgets so that they can be more active in contributing to the support plan.

Communication and Engagement Strategy

35. Raising awareness is a priority and there is a communications and engagement strategy which has been drawn up with the council's communications team, working with the communications lead person in Health to ensure a joined up approach. Information has already been sent to schools and other providers and officers have attended a number of briefings for Headteachers and Chairs of Governors and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators to ensure that they are aware of the implications and expectations of these changes. All families of children who have a statement of educational need have received a letter to explain what will be happening and proposals for how information will be shared have been developed with families who have contributed to the content and design.

ICT requirements

36. Transfer from the current assessment processes to an integrated education, health and care plan requires changes to the current ICT platform, Capita One. The upgrade is not able to take place until the end of August 2014 which means that there will be limited time for testing before implementation in September. This is the case for all local authorities using Capita. There will be some testing required in early September for both the EHC planning and the personal budget processes.

Conclusion – Leicestershire’s readiness for SEND reform

37. The first phase of implementation is to ensure that the milestones for September 2014 have been met and that communication and training is underway. An overview is attached in Appendix F which shows the current picture and next steps for the priority areas.
38. Feedback indicates that the most significant priorities for development and attention are the arrangements for joint commissioning; making sure that we are working closely with partners in health services, in particular, to establish a shared, coherent framework which has been influenced and shaped with children and families.

Risk Assessment

39. The risks to the County Council arising from the development and implementation of SEND reform are kept under regular review by lead officers in Children and Family Services and are recorded in the Departmental Risk Plan.

Background Papers

40. None.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

41. None

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Out of County Placements

Appendix B – Department for Education Timeline

Appendix C – Principles underpinning reform

Appendix D – Readiness summary June 2014

Appendix E – Overview summary – short term plan

Equality and Human Rights Implications

43. As outlined in the introduction to the new Code of Practice, The Equality Act 2010 sets out the legal obligations that schools, early years providers, post-16 institutions, local authorities and others have towards disabled children and young people.
44. Public bodies, including further education institutions, local authorities, maintained schools, maintained nursery schools, academies and free schools are covered by the public sector equality duty and when carrying out their functions **must** have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between disabled and non-disabled children and young people.
45. School governing bodies and proprietors **must** also publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and their accessibility plans.
46. Where a child or young person is covered by SEN and disability legislation, reasonable adjustments and access arrangements should be considered as part of SEN planning and review. Where school governors are publishing information about their arrangements for disabled children and young people, this should be brought together with the information required under the Children and Families Act 2014.

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Out of County Placements

Following the Children & Young People's Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee 4th March 2013, please see below update information for placements of children and young people with Statements of Special Education Needs in the independent and non-maintained special school sector.

Type of SEN	Number of pupils as at 31.7.14	Forecast fees for 2014/15
Austic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	82	6,015,050.17
Behavioural, emotional and social disorder (BESD)	140	7,034,963.44
Dyslexia (DYS)	7	142,919.70
Hearing Impaired (HI)	4	165,267.00
Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)	8	800,080.68
Visual Impaired (VI)	2	85,353.00
Grand Total	243	14,243,633.99

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Relevant legislation

Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014

Principles underpinning this Code of Practice

1.1 Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014 makes clear that local authorities, in carrying out their functions under the Act in relation to disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs (SEN), must have regard to:

- the views, wishes and feelings of the child or young person, and the child's parents
- the importance of the child or young person, and the child's parents, participating as fully as possible in decisions, and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions
- the need to support the child or young person, and the child's parents, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood

1.2 These principles are designed to support:

- the participation of children, their parents and young people in decision-making
- the early identification of children and young people's needs and early intervention to support them
- greater choice and control for young people and parents over support
- collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support
- high quality provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEN
- a focus on inclusive practice and removing barriers to learning
- successful preparation for adulthood, including independent living and employment

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Readiness for Special Educational Needs and Disability Reform External Assurance

Summary of findings of external advisers

The review was carried out by Donald Rae and John Freeman. Both are experienced in working in local government children's services and both have worked closely with the Department for Education to inform the development of the SEND reform agenda.

The aim of this review was to support the County Council to prepare for and implement the national reforms of special educational needs and disability. The review gathered evidence from a range of sources including documentation, and data analysis. However, the main source of evidence was a series of workshops and discussions with local authority officers, school, Post 16 and FE representatives, Parent Carers Council, Parent Partnership, Menphys, Early Years providers, CCGs, Lead Member for Children and Family Services. The evidence base was gathered between February and June 2014.

Main Findings

The priority themes which have emerged from this process are:

- The need to ensure that all partners are fully engaged in the process of transformation
- The need to develop a broad and strategic policy framework whilst allowing local solutions to emerge

The review recognised that the broader changes within Leicestershire County Council may have had an impact on partners' perceptions of this particular piece of work. It was also noted that the review began before the Children and Families Bill was enacted and was completed just before the new Code of Practice was published.

A number of recommendations have been made. These include:

- Refreshing the accountability strategy for SEND reforms so that there is clarity about reporting arrangements to the Health and Wellbeing Board, the CCGs and Cabinet.
- Ensuring that there is an effective communication strategy which involves all partners spreading the message through their networks
- Developing a robust workforce development programme
- Focusing on the long term outcomes when developing the SEND pathway
- Ensuring that the local offer is available in a range of formats and that there is a mechanism for users to give feedback

Next Steps

These recommendations are being addressed by the project team. A workstream lead has been appointed to lead workforce development and training. There is increased capacity to develop engagement and involvement through the communications team. The long term planning for the SEND pathway needs to be developed as the assessment and planning processes are reviewed and as closer, integrated working between education, health and social care partners is embedded.

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SEND Reform – Short Term Outline Plan: August 2014

Vision

In line with the departmental vision for children and their families – Leicestershire is the best place for children and young people and their families to live. For children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities the vision is that, as with all children and young people, they achieve independence, have relationships in their communities, are healthy and economically active, and are safe.

Priorities

- Removing barriers to enable children with special educational needs or disabilities access high quality co-ordinated provision
- Improving the experience of children and their families who need support and guidance to ensure that their needs are met
- Empowering communities to provide effective local support

Principles

- Listening to the views of children and their families
- Ensuring a high quality service
- Aspiration and ambition for all children
- Early help
- Needs and outcomes led with a strong supporting evidence base

Theme	Development areas	What is happening	When	What needs to happen next	When
Organisation and cultural change	Joint commissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint commissioning strategy in draft form • Identifying links with whole life approach to SEN and disability 	July 2014 August 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of steering group meetings • Use the JSNA and market analysis to further develop the commissioning strategy 	August 2014 Sept 14
	Workforce development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training needs analysis and strategy developed • Briefings arranged for Autumn term for SENCOs, headteachers, Chairs of Governors and multi-agencies- i.e. health, social care, education 	June 2014 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop training materials including those which support practitioners to deliver person centred principles and outcome focused support • Publish training plan for schools/colleges/early years providers • Design e-learning module 	July-October 14 Sept 2014 January 2015
	Engagement and involvement of families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with parent/carer forums taking place • Parents involved in development of local offer/EHC plan testing • Parent/carer representatives involved in workstream meetings 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging children and young people through linking with the youth service, existing groups across the county, student councils, workshops • Recruitment of a workstream lead to develop engagement work 	Ongoing August 2014

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Menphys events 			
	Communications/stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND webpage developed as central point of information Contact pathways established- CSC telephone and email Information distributed to education settings, partners and families Press release issued 	<p>May 2014</p> <p>July 2014</p> <p>July 2014</p> <p>July 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications pack developed to facilitate 'communications champions' approach Materials developed for families to support their understanding of changes Development of case studies 	<p>August 2014</p> <p>Sept - Oct 2014</p> <p>August-Dec 14</p>
Infrastructure set up	Education Health Care Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EHC/Support plan templates and assessment process developed and shared with partners/parents carers Draft conversion strategy developed 	<p>June-July 2014</p> <p>July 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End to end testing prior to go-live Conversion strategy further developed with families 	<p>August 2014</p> <p>August 2014</p>
	Local Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering together current information in one place Website development Workshop with parent carers Settings using templates to develop their 'local offer' 	<p>July-Sept 14</p> <p>Until Dec 15 July 2014</p> <p>June-Oct 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End to end testing prior to go-live Ensuring content meets code of practice requirements Accessibility strategy Finalising phase 2 requirements 	<p>August 2014</p> <p>August 2014</p> <p>August 2014</p> <p>October 2014</p>
	Personal Budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal budgets offer and process for September 2014 agreed Scoping to understand services that could be offered as a personal budget 	<p>July 2014</p> <p>May-Oct 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including personal health budget in the offer for September 2014 Widening scope of personal budgets post September 	<p>August 2014</p> <p>Sept 14-March 2015</p>
	Mediation and Dispute resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement that together trust to undertake role until March 2015 	<p>July 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish wording about mediation and dispute resolution on local offer Tender exercise with LA's across east midlands to meet requirements post March 2015 	<p>August 2014</p> <p>October-March 2015</p>
	Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEND web page and local offer being developed Capita one upgrade in 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information/data sharing protocols to be reviewed and SENA consent forms revised Phase 2 requirements to be developed 	<p>Aug-Sept 2014</p> <p>Sept-Dec 14</p>

		progress	May-Sept 14	(i.e. EHC plan digitisation, single view framework)	
Policy Framework	Personal budgets policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current LCC policies reviewed • Best practice examples from pathfinders reviewed 	July 2014 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing draft personal budgets policy using existing policies 	August 2014
	EHC plan policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing statementing policy • Visual representation of process developed 	July 2014 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing EHC plan policy including eligibility 	August - Sept 2014
	Policy for children and young people with medical needs in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleagues reviewing and revising current policy in line with code of practice 	July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools to ensure policies reflect Code of Practice 	Sept - Dec 2014
	Positive risk management policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with colleagues regarding current policies and mental capacity act 	June 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a policy that reflects requirements under the mental capacity act and supports increased responsibility being given to families 	August 2014

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**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 1 SEPTEMBER
2014**

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANS TO MEET MTF S SAVINGS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - (a) provide information about the planned programme of departmental savings across Children and Family Services that are required as part of the County Council's agreed Medium Term Financial Savings (MTFS) plan for the financial years 2014/18, and the way in which they will impact service developments;
 - (b) provide information about the County Council's Transformation Programme and the way in which the Children and Family Services MTF S savings fit with that Programme;
 - (c) enable the Committee to consider the implications of the planned programme of departmental savings across Children and Family Services.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the proposals for departmental MTF S savings at its meeting on 20th January 2014.
3. The County Council's budget, including the MTF S, was agreed at the County Council meeting on 19th February 2014.

Background

4. Taking into account the national funding changes as a result of education reform since 2010, the removal of various national ring fenced grants and other funds, and the local MTF S requirements, the Children and Young People's Service has delivered £30.24m of savings between the financial years 2010/11 and 2013/14. Whilst these savings were formulated to achieve efficiencies and therefore have the minimum impact on children, young people and their families, the savings achieved thus far equates to 49.9% of the 2010/11 opening MTF S position for the department and thereby significantly affects the ability to generate further efficiencies.
5. At its meeting on 20th January 2014 the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the MTF S as it related to the Children and Young People's Service. That report set out the details of the revenue budget, growth, savings, grants (specifically the Dedicated Schools Grant, or DSG), and capital funding. The 2014/18 MTF S savings target for the department was £12.7m and 19 separate areas of savings

were identified. The relevant page of the budget book setting out these areas is attached at Appendix A. The Committee was informed that further details regarding savings would be presented to September meeting. The Committee also asked for further information to be provided about proposed changes to the schools budget and this is provided separately in an information paper.

6. The Youth Offending Service (YOS), the Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF) programme, and the County Council's Community Safety team were combined with the Children and Young People's Service in January 2014 to create the Children and Family Services department. The 2014/18 MTFs savings target identified for the YOS is £550k bringing the MTFs savings target for the department to £13.24m as set out in Table 1 below. Additionally, from 2016/17 there is an estimated budget shortfall of £2m per year to continue the SLF programme that is currently not factored into the MTFs or any other departmental budget plan. Discussions with partners regarding the future funding of SLF will begin in the autumn.

Table 1:

	Children and Young People's Service £000	Youth Offending Service £000	Children and Family Services £000
2014/15	3,400	0	3,400
2015/16	8,290	350	8,640
2015/16	1,000	90	1,090
2017/18	0	110	110
	12,690	550	13,240

7. The 2014/15 savings have already been secured as a result of operational decisions made in the previous financial year. This leaves a remaining £9.84m to be saved between the financial years 2015/18.
8. The department has created a coherent transformation programme for the 19 previously identified savings areas, plus YOS, and has been reporting its progress through the County Council's 'Star Chamber' process, the last meeting of which took place in June 2014.
9. A number of the separate savings areas have been pulled together to create 4 major transformation projects:
- remodelling children's social care;
 - remodelling early help services;
 - remodelling special educational needs and disability services;
 - remodelling education services.
- These 4 major transformation projects are detailed later in this report. They contribute 4 of the County Council's 24 priority MTFs Transformation Projects as set out below in paragraphs 11-13.
10. The department is working hard to ensure that it can focus on innovation in transforming its services, as well as making savings. Examples of this are set out in paragraphs 45-51 below. In July 2014 a request was made by the department to the Star Chamber to re-schedule £1.5m of the planned savings from 2015/16 to 2016/17 in order to do things

well as opposed to quickly and to provide the time required to maximise the opportunities for innovation.

County Council Transformation Programme

11. Following a robust period of review the County Council has agreed 5 overarching themes and 24 priority transformation projects as set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2:

Work the Leicestershire pound	Manage demand through prevention	Integrate with partners	Recognise communities and individuals	Work effectively
1. Review of in-house 'regulated' adult social care services 2. Help to live at home 3. Remodelling children's social care 4. Looking after Leicestershire's highways 5. Streetlighting 6. Incentivising waste reduction and recycling	7. Adult social care customer journey simplification 8. Remodelling early help 9. Health improvement 10. Social care and health information and advice 11. Customer-focused approach to highways maintenance	12. Unified prevention 13. Integrated support for coroners services 14. Integrated urgent response 15. Hospital discharge and reablement 16. Remodelling special educational needs and disability services 17. Long term conditions	18. Market development for public health services 19. Support to voluntary organisations and communities 20. Education programme 21. Community library model	22. Adult social care funding reform 23. Redesign business support 24. Process simplification and self-service
Savings £10.8m	Savings £6.5m	Savings £15.2m	Savings £3.4m	Savings £4.3m
Total £40.2m				

12. The County Council has also identified 5 'enabling' projects that underpin all of the priority transformation projects, each led by a departmental director:
- Building resources and governance – Brian Roberts, Director of Corporate Resources;
 - Data and Business Intelligence – Phil Crossland, Director of Environment and Transport;
 - Customers and Communities – Mick Connell of Director of Adults and Communities;
 - Effective Commissioning – Mike Sandys, Director of Public Health;
 - People and Organisational Development – Lesley Hagger, Director of Children and Family Services.
13. Corporate resources are being provided to the departments in order to secure additional capacity to support transformation alongside the demands of 'business as usual'.

Children and Family Services Transformation Programme - context

14. The departmental transformation programme is set within the context of a stable vision and mission:
 - (a) **Vision:** Leicestershire is the best place for children, young people and their families.
 - (b) **Mission:** Children and young people are safe and can live in families where they can achieve their potential and have their health, wellbeing and life chances improved within thriving communities.

15. The department will continue to meet its statutory obligations (although it is not possible to predict how these may change during the period of the MTFs) to:
 - (a) ensure that children are safeguarded and the appropriate services are made available to protect them;
 - (b) early help is targeted to children and their families to prevent problems from worsening;
 - (c) high quality places are provided by schools and other learning providers, including early years providers, are all providers are supported and challenged to ensure that the attainment gap closes and achievement is raised at all levels;
 - (d) a single point of access ensures a single assessment of needs that can inform service delivery.

16. The Department's strategic approach is to:
 - move from control to influence and promote independence (promoting, enabling and influencing more autonomous communities);
 - collaborate through partnerships and integrate locality based services;
 - provide proportionate response and support – the right help at the right time;
 - secure a commissioning approach through effective needs analysis, evidence based service planning, robust performance management and quality assurance, and regular monitoring and review.

17. Across the 4 departmental transformation programmes there are a number of shared themes and interdependencies for consideration such as:
 - the voice and views of children, young people and families in the service design and delivery;
 - the role of the private, voluntary and independent sectors and choices between internal and external service provision;
 - the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014;

- the requirements of Ofsted and other inspection regimes;
- opportunities to innovate current organisational and partnership arrangements.

18. Of the 20 identified savings areas (19 plus YOS) that total £13.24m:

- (a) 9 are either completed or on track for completion (S1, S4, S5, S10, S11, S12, S13, S14, S15) and total £4m;
- (b) 2 are subject to reports to the Cabinet on 19th September 2014 and total £1.45m:
- S7 – review and consolidation of voluntary sector support (report to Cabinet to seek approval to consult);
 - S8 - re-focus of careers information, advice and guidance (report to Cabinet to seek approval to enter into a new contractual arrangement).
- (c) 9 have been brought together into major project areas as set out below and total £7.8m.

Children and Family Services Transformation Programme – the 4 major projects

19. The 4 major projects will all transform the way in which current service provision is organised and three of the projects contribute to the MTFs savings target as set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3:

Transform' Project code	Transformation Project descriptor	MTFS budget codes	Overall savings requirement
T3	Remodelling children's social care	S2, S6, S9a, S17	£3.2m (from a current budget of £32.3m, 9.9%)
T8	Remodelling early help services (including children's centres, youth service, SLF and YOS)	S3, S9b, S16, S18, S80	£3.59m (from a current budget of £11.6m, 30.9%)
T16	Remodelling special educational needs and disability services	S19	£1m (from a current budget of £5.5m, 18.1%)
T20	Remodelling education services	n/a	n/a

20. An overview of each project is set out below:

T3 - Remodelling children's social care

21. The project started in April 2014 and is planned to complete in 2016. The project is currently in the strategic development stage. The scope of the project covers three service areas:

- (a) locality social care teams;
- (b) provision of placements for children with complex need and behaviours;
- (c) commissioning and use of independent fostering agencies (IFAs);

The project has significant interdependencies with T16 and the redesign of services for disabled children towards a whole-life approach to commissioning support as part of b) above.

22. The service teams in the scope of redesign are:

- First Response;
- Emergency Duty Team;
- Family Safeguarding Service;
- Child Protection Service;
- Fostering Service;
- Adoption Service;
- Placements Team;
- Children in Care Teams including Leaving Care;
- Support after adoption;
- Other aftercare, eg family placement orders, etc.

23. The redesign will also impact on contracted services from IFAs, spot purchase residential providers and other private, voluntary sector and independent providers of services for children in care and disabled children.

24. Whilst making savings of £3.2m the aim of the project is to ensure that children and young people with complex needs requiring specialist intervention and/or safeguarding are provided with the right service, at the right time by the right provider in line with:

- the Permanence Strategy agreed by the Cabinet in December 2013;
- the Department for Education statutory guidance 'Working Together 2013';
- the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 regarding adoption reform and the Public Law Offer;
- the requirements of the Ofsted single inspection framework 2013.

25. The project's intentions are to:
- i) integrate adoption, fostering and placement services to streamline decision making and placement provision for children and young people;
 - ii) develop a new model of care shifting children's social work practice (assessment and planning) from a compliance culture to a learning culture;
 - iii) reduce the cost of external foster care placements through efficiencies in procurement and increase in in-house foster carers;
 - iv) design the best match between workforce skills and capacity in the development of the new operating model;
 - v) develop and implement a new approach to screening by the children's duty service, First Response, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of front line decision making based on identified priority areas and accepted functions of partner agencies).
26. In addition to realising savings of £3.2m the project deliverables are:
- i) a new social care practice model that provides effective and valued help to improve outcomes for children and young people and support them within their families and in their communities;
 - ii) a new operating model and standard operating procedures and business processes for integrated services;
 - iii) a new children's social care organisational structure;
 - iv) a system fit to secure an Ofsted judgement of at least good;
 - v) a commissioning approach to service delivery.
27. The benefits that are expected to accrue from transformation are:
- an increasingly confident and skilled workforce that can build stronger families who are more resilient, less dependent on services and better able to nurture their children so that as adults they are able to contribute to their communities;
 - a social care service that is affordable to the community as a whole;
 - fewer children being in the care of the LA and more cared for within their extended families and communities;
 - high quality performance and management information being used to inform and drive a more commissioning based approach to service provision;
 - the right mix of placements within the county to meet identified needs of children who are or may become children in care as cost effectively as possible and where placements contribute positively to improving outcomes for the children

placed within them;

- a good range of high quality services for children in care;
- better market and supply management;
- effective placement planning so that children have stability and permanence and do not remain in the LAs care for longer than necessary and are able to leave care positively.

T8 – Remodelling early help services

28. The project started in April 2014 and is planned to complete in 2016. The project is currently in the strategic development stage. The scope of the project covers a broad range of service areas for children, young people and families and has significant interdependencies with the County Council's Community Strategy. The project development is closely aligned to the other 3 transformation projects.
29. The service teams in scope of redesign are:
- children's centre teams;
 - family steps;
 - youth inclusion and support;
 - youth service;
 - youth offending service;
 - young carers;
 - strengthening families team;
 - Supporting Leicestershire Families teams;
 - community safety team.

The redesign will also impact current contracted services from voluntary sector providers and current inter-agency arrangements for shared staff and other resources and assets that support the provision of early help to children, young people and their families.

30. Whilst making savings of £3.6m the aim of the project is to ensure that children, young people and families in need of early help are provided with the right service, at the right time by the right provider in line with:
- the statutory requirement for the County Council to provide a SureStart offer that also meets the requirements of the Ofsted framework for inspection;
 - the requirement of the Children and Families Act regarding young carers and parent carers;
 - the requirements of the Ofsted single inspection framework 2013 to evidence improved outcomes through the provision of early help.

31. The project's intentions are to:
- i) develop a model that supports vulnerable families to support their children in achieving positive outcomes;
 - ii) reduce the number of children requiring intervention from statutory services;
 - iii) identify the communities that could play a role in supporting and providing early help related services to build social capital and inform the LA approach to community development;
 - iv) build an integrated service with partner agencies that eliminates duplication and ensures a seamless and effective experience for users;
 - v) create a flexible workforce that has a sufficient breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and experience (multi-skilled) to deliver agile and responsive services (see paragraphs);
 - vi) improve the effectiveness of commissioning decisions and the allocation of resources to ensure that they are outcome based and always evidenced.
32. In addition to realising savings of £3.6m the project deliverables are:
- i) a new children's centre delivery model;
 - ii) a new organisational structure;
 - iii) standard operating procedures and business processes for integrated services;
 - iv) a system fit to secure Ofsted judgements of at least good;
 - v) a commissioning approach to service delivery including the sustainability of an early help programme that incorporates the current Supporting Leicestershire Families programme.
33. The benefits that are expected to accrue from transformation are:
- reduced duplication and simplified systems and processes so that families and professionals know how to get the support they need and tell their story only once;
 - early identification of emerging need resulting in the right support being commissioned at the right time from the right provider, and preventing high cost, high needs along the continuum;
 - reduced demand on 'acute' services and fewer children reaching the point where they need statutory intervention;
 - a strong 'whole family' approach ensuring the needs of the whole family are addressed whilst retaining the focus on the child so that they can live safely and can flourish within their own families;

- the right structures and support mechanisms in place to ensure that family difficulties do not escalate but prompt access to more specialist support is facilitated where necessary;
- the provision of high quality and effective interventions to positively change the lives of children, young people and their families;
- a community based approach with greater focus on extended family and friends to form part of the support network.

T16 – Remodelling Special Educational Needs and Disability Services

34. The project started in April 2014 and is planned to complete in 2016. The project aim is to improve the education, health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and provide appropriate integrated care by adopting a whole life approach to planning support. Services will be coordinated, aligned and integrated to make better use of collective resources ensuring that demand can be better managed and independence can be enhanced.
35. The service teams in scope of redesign are:
- Special Educational Needs Assessment (SENA) service;
 - Disabled children's service;
 - Specialist teaching services;
 - Educational psychology service;
 - Transitions team (adults and communities);
 - All other disability related services across the LA.

The redesign will also impact current contracted services from voluntary sector providers and current inter-agency arrangements with health, schools and other providers.

36. Whilst the deliverables are primarily focused on the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014, there is also an expectation that, combined with the placements work stream in T3 - remodelling social care, savings of £1m are realised. The other deliverables are:
- i) standard operating procedures and business processes for integrated services;
 - ii) service redesign;
 - iii) a new organisational structure;
 - iv) a joint SEN and Disability Strategy clearly setting out a single commissioning approach across education, health and social care.
37. The benefits expected to accrue are:
- children and young people are safe, healthy and can achieve their potential;
 - young people are prepared for independence;

- young people have a positive transition into adulthood and can live in communities;
- families are empowered to make decisions;
- families can take control of their own support packages which can lead to more creative, flexible and cost effective solutions;
- a whole life approach to planning the support required for children and young people into adulthood.

T20 - Education Programme

38. The project starts in September 2014 and is planned to complete in July 2015. Considerable change has taken place since 2010/11 with regard to LA education services resulting in the removal of many LA functions and the passporting of resource to schools. Nevertheless there remains a strong statutory role for the LA:
- a) to ensure that there are sufficient high quality learning places available from providers of early years education and care through to post-16 provision;
 - b) that the quality of provision is good and that the achievement gap is narrowed and children make good progress;
 - c) that vulnerable children are championed and supported in their learning.
39. There are well-defined and robust systems in place within the department to meet the sufficiency duty (a). The arrangements currently in place to support and challenge school performance are working well (b) and at the end of the academic year 2013/14 83% of Leicestershire's schools received good or better Ofsted judgments. The area of support to vulnerable children and young people (c) is in need of review and the scope is set out in paragraph 39 below. This is even more significant as a result of:
- the high profile changes required for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and for young carers as a result of the Children and Families Act 2014;
 - the new statutory duty for LAs to employ a Virtual Head and deliver virtual school support to improve educational outcomes for children in care;
 - the new statutory duty for LAs to ensure that action is taken to support Pupils Missing out on Education (PME);
 - the requirements of the Ofsted single inspection framework 2013 to evidence appropriate support to vulnerable children and children in care.
40. The service teams in scope of redesign are:
- Pupil Services team;
 - Education of Children in Care team;
 - Oakfield School (Pupil Referral Unit – primary phase);
 - Special Educational Needs Assessment (SENA) service;

- Disabled children's service;
- Specialist teaching services;
- Educational psychology service.

The redesign will also impact services from a range of external providers and has interdependencies with current arrangements with schools for behaviour support. The project is closely aligned with all 3 other transformation projects.

41. The deliverables and benefits are currently being defined. Key to the success of this area of work is the LAs ongoing relationship with all Leicestershire schools. In July 2014 the DfE published an independent report that it commissioned from the Isos Partnership which identifies good practice in Leicestershire and its approach to working in partnership with schools. The report can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-evolving-education-system-in-england

There are a number of new opportunities emerging regarding the way in which the LA, Leicestershire Educational Excellence Partnership (LEEP) and other schools partnerships could work together in the future and these will be explored as part of the transformation project.

Engagement and Consultation

42. All four projects have mapped their interdependencies with other LCC departments to ensure that there is joint working on all aspects of change and there is representation of project change boards where necessary. The strategic leads for Children and Family Services transformation projects, and the relevant Assistant Directors, also ensure that there is good communication about project developments by ensuring that they attend other organisational change boards and look for opportunities to join up.
43. All 4 projects have engagement strategies in place to ensure that the complex multi-agency partnership arrangements that support work with children, young people and families are appropriately involved. These partners include:
- Health;
 - Police;
 - District councils;
 - Schools and other learning providers.

Where appropriate, partner agencies are represented on change boards. In some cases, specific partnership groups have been brought together for engagement (eg for S8 – remodelling early help). Discussions with partners regarding the future funding of SLF will begin in the autumn.

44. Extensive work has taken place to engage parents in T16 – remodelling special educational needs and disability services. Our parent representative on the project board has written a blog about her involvement in which she states that: “here in Leicestershire, we are hugely lucky to have a very close relationship with the County Council”. Further engagement activity will take place with children, young people and families throughout the progress of transformation programme.

45. The County Council met with voluntary sector providers towards the end of 2013 and a specific workshop took place to discuss children's services. Further discussions have continued with the voluntary sector through Voluntary Action Leicester (VAL). The voluntary sector organisations currently in receipt of funding from Children and Family Services have been invited to an engagement meeting at County Hall on 2nd September. Full consultation with the voluntary sector is planned to take place during the autumn pending agreement by the Cabinet at its meeting on 19th September 2014. A copy of the Cabinet paper will be provided separately to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Service Innovation

46. The department is working hard to ensure that it can focus on innovation in transforming its services, as well as making savings. Some examples of this are set out below.

DfE Innovation Fund

47. The department has been approached by Professor Eileen Munro to work with her and two associates, and 8 other LAs, to make a significant bid to the DfE Innovation Fund to transform children's social work practice. This supports our intention as set out in paragraphs 24. ii) to develop a new model of care shifting children's social work practice (assessment and planning) from a compliance culture to a learning culture.

DCLG Transformation Challenge Award

48. The department, with partners in health and district councils, has submitted a bid that will support our intention as set out in paragraph 30. iii) to identify the communities that could play a role in supporting and providing early help related services to build social capital and inform the LA approach to community development. The bid has three strands: to work with communities to capacity build approaches to family support; developing the workforce to be able to work differently; and building financial sustainability by working with local business to harness their social and corporate responsibility.

Regional Collaboration

49. The department is working closely with other LAs in the region to develop a regional commissioning framework that could reduce placements costs. This supports our intention set out in paragraph 25 iii) to reduce the cost of external foster care placements through efficiencies in procurement.
50. The department is the lead LA for a regional bid that has been made to the DfE to develop workforce change in children's services, enabling more multi-skilled professionals to broaden and deepen the support that they are able to provide for children, young people and families. This supports our intention set out in paragraph 30. v) to create a flexible workforce that has a sufficient breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and experience (multi-skilled) to deliver agile and responsive services.

Transfer of NHS 0-5s commissioning into the LA

51. From October 2014 the commissioning of health visiting services and the family nurse partnership service will transfer from the NHS into LAs. National and regional discussions are currently in train to finalise the details of the transfer and in Leicestershire we have already established a transfer group, chaired by Public Health. This provides an opportunity to consider the relationship between current children's centre services provided by LA teams and the opportunity for service redesign.

Trading

52. There is interest from a number of service areas within the department to trade their services, particularly in the area of training provision for school based staff where there is a limited supply of other high quality providers. This is currently being explored but must be able to be a fully cost-recoverable option and cannot be established as an alternative form of funding for services that must be provided as a statutory responsibility of the local authority.

Background Papers

Cabinet – 15th January 2014 - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15-2017/18

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20th January 2014 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15-2017/18

Circulation under local issues alert procedure

53. None.

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Appendices

Appendix A - 19 February County Council Meeting

Equality and Human Rights Implications

54. The majority of the work of Children and Family Services is targeted towards vulnerable and disadvantaged children, young people and families. Where proposed savings are likely to have an adverse impact on service users protected under equalities legislation, an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is carried out prior to any final decisions being made. At this stage in the transformation programme there are no specifically identified adverse implications, and the opportunities to innovate are providing mitigation. However, the EHRIAs are re-visited at various stages in the project plans and so any adverse implications that may arise can be identified and taken into account.

Reference	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
<u>SAVINGS</u>				
<u>CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</u>				
<u>Efficiency savings</u>				
S1	-730	-730	-730	-730
S2			-1,000	-1,000
S3	-500	-500	-500	-500
S4	-100	-100	-100	-100
S5	-300	-300	-300	-300
Total	-1,630	-1,630	-2,630	-2,630
<u>Service Reductions</u>				
S6		-1,500	-1,500	-1,500
S7		-800	-800	-800
S8	-290	-650	-650	-650
S9		-400	-400	-400
S10		-120	-120	-120
S11	-600	-700	-700	-700
S12	-530	-1,280	-1,280	-1,280
S13	-350	-410	-410	-410
S14		-240	-240	-240
S15		-120	-120	-120
S16		-240	-240	-240
S17		-500	-500	-500
S18		-2,100	-2,100	-2,100
S19		-1,000	-1,000	-1,000
Total	-1,770	-10,060	-10,060	-10,060
TOTAL	-3,400	-11,690	-12,690	-12,690

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 1
SEPTEMBER 2014

CHILDRENS' SOCIAL CARE PANEL

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a narrative commentary to accompany the structure chart for the new children's social care governance arrangements.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. Member scrutiny and oversight of children's social care services has been a fundamental feature of committee and panel structures throughout the life of the County Council. However, in recent times members have expressed a wish to revise these arrangements to ensure that the scope of the children's social care service can be considered and that there is clarity of accountability.

Background

3. The Member Panel on Safeguarding and Serious Case Reviews requested officers to carry out a stock take of bodies in children's welfare and child protection issues at its meeting on 16 October 2013. A copy of this stock take is attached as Appendix A to this report. Around the same time, Ofsted issued a new inspection framework which highlighted the need for a rethink of current arrangements.

Proposals/Options

Ofsted Requirements

4. With effect from November 2013 Ofsted introduced a new framework for inspecting services for children. The focus of the new inspection regime is on the 'effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, the experiences and progress of children looked after, including adoption, fostering, the use of residential care, and children who return home'.
5. Under the new framework the judgement of the overall effectiveness of the local authority will be made having regard to the following:
 - Experiences and progress of children who need help and protection;
 - Experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving.

6. Permanence which will include graded judgements on:
 - Adoption performance;
 - Experience and progress of care leavers;
 - Leadership, Management and Governance.
7. The new framework highlights the key role of leadership, management and governance in ensuring good quality services for children and young people. Set out below are key extracts from the framework document:-
8. 'Leadership, management and governance arrangements comply with statutory guidance and together establish an effective strategy and good-quality services for children, young people and their families. The Director of Children's Services (DCS), the lead elected member and the senior management team have a comprehensive knowledge about what is happening at the 'front line' to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively.'
9. 'Leadership, management and governance are likely to be judged good if local authority senior managers, leaders and elected members discharge their individual and collective statutory responsibilities. There are clear lines of accountability and governance with a clear distinction between political, strategic and operational roles. Leaders, including elected members and managers, have a comprehensive and current knowledge of what is happening at the 'front line' and how well children and young people are helped, cared for and protected'.
10. Leadership, management and governance are likely to be outstanding if, in addition to meeting the requirements of a 'good' judgement, there is evidence that leaders (both professional and political) and managers are inspirational, confident, ambitious and influential in changing the lives of local children, young people and families, including children who are looked after and those who have left or who are leaving care. They innovate and generate creative ideas to sustain the highest-quality services, including early help services, for all children and young people. They know their strengths and weaknesses well and can provide evidence of improvement over a sustained period of time. Professional relationships between the local authority and partner organisations are mature and well developed.
11. Accountabilities are embedded and result in confident, regular evaluation and improvement of the quality of help, care and protection that is provided.

New Structure

12. The new structure, as illustrated in Appendix B to this report, will absorb the work of the following Panels:
 - Community Homes Monitoring Panel;
 - Safeguarding and Serious Case Review Panel.

These Panels will cease to operate once the new structure is in place.

Operational Bodies

13. The new structure is divided into operational and strategic bodies. The following operational bodies will continue to exist in their current form:
 - Fostering Panel;
 - Adoption Panel;
 - Secure Accommodation Review Panel.
14. Each of these bodies has a specific remit which does not extend beyond considering individual cases. A criticism of the current arrangements for member involvement in child protection and child welfare issues is that there is no forum for strategic or policy issues arising from the work of these Panels to be considered. The new Children in Care Panel will enable members to consider standards for the Fostering and Adoption Service and policy issues relating to the Secure Accommodation Review Panel.

Strategic Bodies

15. The new structure creates three member Panels focused on considering children's social care issues. The overarching Panel is the Children's Social Care Panel, which will be made up of the following elected members:
 - Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Families;
 - Cabinet Support Member for Children and Families;
 - Chairman and Spokesmen of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
16. Its role will be to have strategic oversight of all children's social care issues, having particular regard to the following areas:
 - (i) Children in Care;
 - (ii) Child Protection;
 - (iii) Partnership Working.

(Detailed terms of reference are attached as Appendix C to this report)

17. The Panel will form part of the 'other regulatory business pool'. This means it is neither an Executive nor a Scrutiny Panel but that both Executive and Scrutiny members can serve on it. It is not a formal committee of the County Council so it is able to meet in private. Membership will be determined through the same process as membership of other regulatory panels, i.e. by the Chief Executive following consultation with the political groups. The Panel will be listed in Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) Section E (Panels) of the Constitution.

18. The Children's Social Care Panel will have two sub-Panels, each focused on a specific area. The first is Children in Care. Its purpose will be to provide assurance at elected member level that the County Council is discharging its duties in relation to children in care, having particular regard to the following:
 - (i) Corporate Parenting;
 - (ii) Education of Children in Care;
 - (iii) Consideration of children and young people causing the most concern, such as those in Secure Accommodation;
 - (iv) Standards in Fostering, Adoption and Community Homes provided by or commissioned by the County Council.
19. For clarification, this Panel will absorb the work currently undertaken by the Community Homes Monitoring Panel, including visiting children's community homes. Detailed terms of reference are attached as Appendix D to this report.
20. Membership has not yet been determined. However, it is proposed that the Panel consists of five members with the political balance 3 Con: 1 Lab: 1 Lib. At least two of the members should also serve on the Children's Social Care Panel.
21. The status of this Panel will be the same as that of the Children's Social Care Panel, as described in paragraph 11 above.
22. The other sub Panel is the Child Protection Panel. Its purpose will be to provide assurance at elected member level that the County Council is discharging its duties in relation to child protection, having particular regard to the following:
 - (i) That the response is proportionate;
 - (ii) That the emergency response is appropriate and effective;
 - (iii) The long term maintenance of child safety;
 - (iv) That lessons are learnt from local and national sources.
23. For clarification, this Panel will absorb the work of the Member Panel on Safeguarding and Serious Case Reviews, including receiving advice at an early stage on cases of a sensitive or high profile nature which are likely to be the subject of Serious Case Reviews or attract adverse criticism. Terms of Reference are attached as Appendix E.
24. Membership has not yet determined. However, it is proposed that the Panel consists of five members with the political balance 3 Con: 1 Lab: 1 Lib. At least two of the member should also serve on the Children's Social Care Panel.
25. The status of this Panel will be the same as that of the Children's Social Care Panel, as described in paragraph 11 above.

Relationships with other bodies

26. The top level of the Structure Chart is intended to illustrate the relationship between the three Panels and other relevant bodies and individuals.

Health and Wellbeing Board

27. The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for producing and delivering a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the population of Leicestershire. One of the strands in the strategy is to give children the best possible start in life. It therefore follows that any issues relating to the health and wellbeing of children are within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Any relevant issues or concerns identified by the Children's Social Care Panel could therefore be referred to the Health and Wellbeing Board and vice versa.

Children and Families Partnership Bodies

28. Any issues identified by the Children's Social Care Panel which would best be addressed through a partnership approach can be referred to the Children and Families Partnership bodies and vice versa.

Local Safeguarding Children Board

29. The Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory responsibility to ensure that key organisations co-operate with one another to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure that these collective services are effective. Any relevant issues or concerns identified by the Children's Social Care Panel could therefore be referred to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and vice versa.

Overview and Scrutiny

30. The role of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is as follows:
- (i) The executive functions of the County Council in respect of Children and Young People's Service;
 - (ii) The executive functions of the County Council in relation to the Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme;
 - (iii) To monitor the performance and activities of the Leicestershire Children and Young People's Commissioning Board, the Supporting Leicestershire Families Board and any other partnerships that are associated with the executive functions outlined in 1 and 2 above.
31. To enable the Scrutiny Committee to discharge this role successfully, the Children's Social Care Panel will submit regular reports to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on its work. This will provide members with confidence that children's social care issues are subject to

proper scrutiny. Additionally, any matters of concern or matters which raise policy issues can be referred by the Children's Social Care Panel to Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. It is expected that this relationship will be reciprocal.

32. The Children's Social Care Panel and sub Panels will not duplicate the role of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee; it is merely intended to ensure strategic oversight of children's social care issues at elected member level. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to receive reports on the following children's social care issues:

- Fostering and Adoption Annual Report;
- Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officers;
- Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board: Annual Report.

The Cabinet

33. It is unlikely that the Children's Social Care Panel will have a direct relationship with the Cabinet. However, the Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Families will be a member of the Panel and through this mechanism a 'line of sight' between the Panel and the Cabinet will be established. In addition, for areas where the Cabinet Lead Member has a statutory responsibility, other members of the Panel will be able to hold him directly to account.

Director of Children and Family Services

34. The terms of reference for the Children's Social Care Panel specifically include holding the Director of Children and Family Services to account for delivery of her statutory duties in relation to children in care and child protection.

Leader and Chief Executive

35. The relationship between the Children's Social Care Panel and Leader and Chief Executive will be discharged through the Director of Children and Family Services and the Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Family Services

Consultations

36. The development of this approach has benefitted from consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Family Services, members of the existing Safeguarding and Serious Case Review Panel, officers in Democratic Services and County Solicitors Office and within Children and Family Services.

Resource Implications

37. Existing resources will be used to support the Children's Social Care Panel.

Background Papers

None.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

38. None.

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List of Appendices

- Appendix A: Mapping of bodies appointed to consider child welfare and child protection issues
- Appendix B: New structure
- Appendix C: Children's Social Care Panel Terms of Reference
- Appendix D: Children in Care Panel Terms of Reference
- Appendix E: Child Protection Panel Terms of Reference

Equality and Human Rights Implications

39. These panels shall consider those children, young people and their families who are most likely to be disadvantaged. Therefore equality of opportunity for those groups will be at the heart of their work.

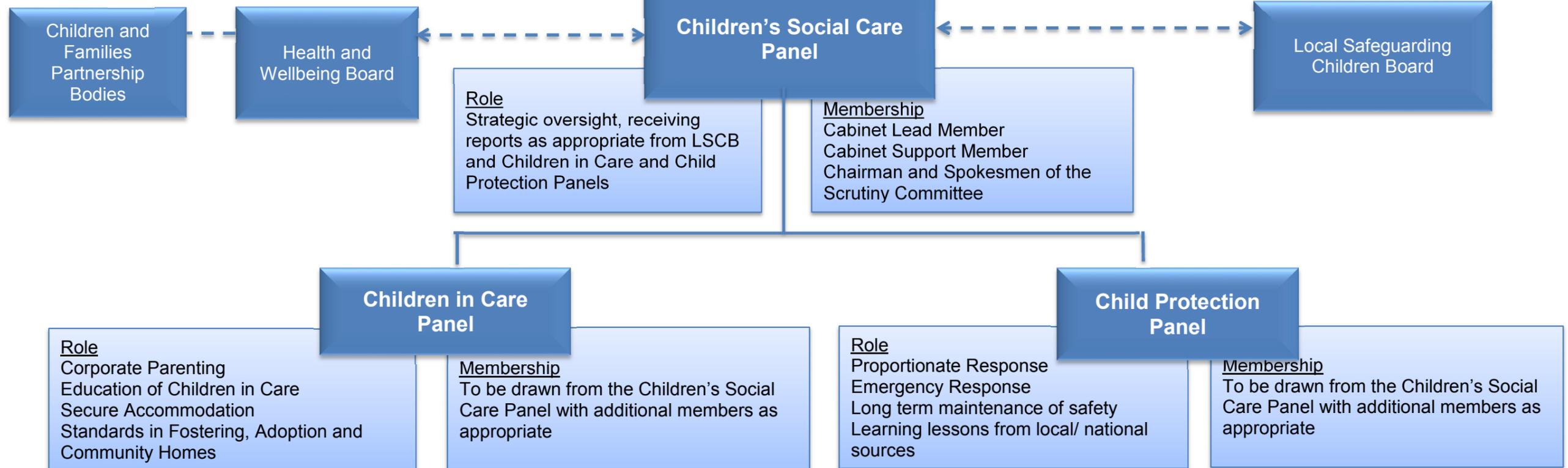
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MAPPING OF BODIES APPOINTED TO CONSIDER CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES

	EXECUTIVE/PARTNERSHIP		REGULATORY			SCRUTINY
BODY	CORPORATE PARENTING	LSCB	FOSTERING & ADOPTION PANEL	SECURE ACCOMMODATION	COMMUNITY HOMES PANEL	SAFEGUARDING & SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS
ELECTED MEMBER INVOLVEMENT	Cabinet Lead Member Cabinet Support Member Chairman of the CHMP (Mrs Radford)	Cabinet Lead Member	<u>Fostering</u> Mr Lewis <u>Adoption</u> Mr Lewis	Messrs Kershaw, Lewis, Shepherd, Sheahan and Welsh (Mr Bates serves as an Independent person – required by regulations)	Dr Hill, Ms Knaggs, Mrs Radford and Messrs Coxon, Shepherd.	Chairman of the Commission Chair and Spokesmen of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee + Mrs Radford and Messrs Pendleton and Snartt.
ROLE AND REMIT	Identifying needs of Looked After Children/Care Leavers and how these can be met CYPS is the Lead Dept with responsibility for this area and also ensures other relevant Depts/agencies are involved	Links all agencies in Leics & Rutland involved with working with children & young people and their families It aims to promote the welfare of children and ensure that cross agency arrangements are in place to ensure that children are safeguarded and monitor and quality assure such arrangements	<u>Fostering</u> Considers applications from prospective foster carers and reviews of newly appointed foster carers, oversees assessments carried out by Fostering Service and advises on procedures for reviewing Foster Carers. <u>Adoption</u> Considers applications for adoption and matches between adopters and children, considers Adoption Plans for children who have been relinquished and oversees assessments carried out by the adoption service.	Consider individual cases of children who are placed in a Secure Unit – responsible for ensuring that the statutory criteria for their continued placement are met. Meets every 28 days when there is a child in Secure Accommodation.	1. To visit operational Children Service Teams and Community Homes managed by the County Council. 2. To receive reports (Monitoring and Ofsted) on Community Homes Note: The Panel also visits privately managed Children’s Homes in the County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early notification of SCRs • Briefings on SCR recs • Monitor Local Authority response (Action Plan) to SCRs • Comment on wider CYPS performance on safeguarding
REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS	Is a stand-alone body and does not report to any other bodies.	Annual Report submitted to:- Children’s Board Children and Families Scrutiny Health & Wellbeing Board Business Plan submitted to the Children’s Board for information	The Fostering and Adoption Panels are advisory and make recommendations to the Agency Decision Maker, ie the relevant Assistant Director in CYPS. Quarterly reports on the Fostering and Adoption Service are considered by the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee	Decision making delegated from the Cabinet Issues and concerns are raised reported to the Director who will in turn raise issues through the relevant channels.	Acts as a point of reference for the Director of Children and Families and reports issues of concern.	Point of reference for the Director Able to raise issues of concern with Scrutiny if it is of the view that these have not been adequately addressed.

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REGULATORY



OPERATIONAL



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Children's Social Care Panel

Terms of Reference

The Purpose of this Panel is to provide strategic oversight at elected member level of children's social care issues, having particular regard to the following areas:-

- (i) Children in Care;
- (ii) Child Protection;
- (iii) Partnership Working.

In order to discharge these duties, the Panel will undertake the following:-

1. Children in Care

- (i) Receive quarterly reports from the Children in Care Panel on its activity, highlighting any areas of concern or examples of good practice and outlining areas where further work is required.
- (ii) Consider quarterly performance reports outlining the department's performance in relation to children in care.
- (iii) Consider reports from regulatory bodies such as Ofsted on services for children in care.
- (iv) Hold the Director of Children and Family Services to account for delivery of her statutory duties in relation to children in care.

2. Child Protection

- (v) Receive quarterly reports from the Child Protection Panel on its activity, highlighting any areas of concern or examples of good practice and outlining areas where further work is required.
- (vi) Consider quarterly performance reports outlining the department's performance in relation to child protection.
- (vii) Consider reports from regulatory bodies such as Ofsted on child protection services.
- (viii) Hold the Director of Children and Family Services to account for delivery of her statutory duties in relation to child protection.

3. Partnership Arrangements

- (ix) Monitor the relationship between the Children's Social Care Panel and partnership bodies, including but not limited to:-
 - The Local Safeguarding Children Board;
 - The Health and Wellbeing Board;
 - The Children's Commissioning Board;

- The Supporting Leicestershire Families Board;
- The Corporate Parenting Steering Board.

Matters of concern or matters which raise policy issues will be referred to the Director of Children and Family Services or the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Membership

Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Families

Cabinet Support Member for Children and Families

Chairman and Spokesmen of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Children in Care Panel

Terms of Reference

The purpose of this Panel is to provide assurance at elected member level that the County Council is discharging its duties in relation to children in care, having particular regard to the following:-

- (i) Corporate Parenting;
- (ii) Education of Children in Care;
- (iii) Consideration of children and young people causing the most concern, such as those in Secure Accommodation;
- (iv) Standards in Fostering, Adoption and Community Homes provided by or commissioned by the County Council.

This will be done as follows:-

- (i) To consider how effectively the County Council is fulfilling its role as a Corporate Parent, having particular regard to the needs of looked after children in the following areas:-
 - Education;
 - Health, including sexual health;
 - Information;
 - Safe and appropriate care;
 - Material standards;
 - Participation in decision making;
 - Preparation for adulthood and citizenship;
 - Placement strategy.
- (ii) To visit children's community homes and consider the quality of foster care.
- (iii) To consider reports from regulatory bodies, specifically Ofsted, on services for looked after children, including children's homes, fostering and adoption.
- (iv) To monitor the performance of the Department in relation to services for children in care.
- (v) To act as a point of reference or sounding board for the Director of Children and Family Services in relation to elected member involvement in corporate parenting.
- (vi) To act as a point of reference or sounding board for the Director of Children and Family Services in considering the quality of care for looked after children.

Matters of concern or matters which raise policy issues will be referred to the Director of Children and Family Services or the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Membership

Membership has not yet determined. However, it is proposed that the Panel consists of five members with the following political balance:-

3 Con: 1 Lab: 1 Lib

At least two of the member should also serve on the Children's Social Care Panel.

[Note: should we develop a detailed protocol regarding visits to Community Homes?]

Child Protection Panel

Terms of Reference

The purpose of this Panel is to provide assurance at elected member level that the County Council is discharging its duties in relation to child protection, having particular regard to the following:-

- (i) That the response is proportionate;
- (ii) That the emergency response is appropriate and effective;
- (iii) The long term maintenance of child safety;
- (iv) That lessons are learnt from local and national sources.

This will be done as follows:-

- (i) To consider reports from regulatory bodies, specifically Ofsted, on services for child protection.
- (ii) To monitor the performance of the Department in relation to child protection.
- (iii) To receive advice at an early stage on cases of a sensitive or high profile nature which are likely to be the subject of serious case reviews or attract adverse criticism.
- (iv) To receive briefings on recommendations made by national and local serious case reviews and monitor the response of the Local Authority to those recommendations.
- (v) To receive briefings on national issues relating to safeguarding and ensure that the Local Authority has responded appropriately.
- (vi) To act as a point of reference or sounding board for the Director of Children and Family Services in considering the quality of child protection services.
- (vii) To visit operational children's service teams and advise the Director of Children and Family Services of issues affecting those teams where appropriate.

Matters of concern or matters which raise policy issues will be referred to the Director of Children and Family Services or the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Membership

Membership has not yet determined. However, it is proposed that the Panel consists of five members with the following political balance:-

3 Con: 1 Lab: 1 Lib

At least two of the member should also serve on the Children's Social Care Panel.