



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

12 January 2017

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Friday, 20 January 2017 at 10.00 am in Committee Room One, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tony McArdle', written over a horizontal line.

Tony McArdle
Chief Executive

Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
(17 Members of the Council and 4 Added Members)

Councillors J D Hough (Chairman), R Wootten (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, W J Aron, Mrs J Brockway, S R Dodds, A G Hagues, B W Keimach, Ms T Keywood-Wainwright, C R Oxby, Mrs H N J Powell, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs L A Rollings, Mrs N J Smith, L Wootten, M A Whittington and Mrs S M Wray

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman and Mr P Thompson

Parent Governor Representatives: Mrs P J Barnett and Dr E van der Zee

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA
FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY 2017

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence / Replacement Members	
2	Declaration of Members' Interest	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2016	5 - 14
4	Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the Multi-Agency Response to Abuse and Neglect in Lincolnshire <i>(To receive a report by Debbie Barnes, Executive Director for Children's Services, which sets out the findings from the joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire)</i>	15 - 30
5	School Performance Working Group - Key Stage 4 Disadvantaged and Looked after Children <i>(To receive a report from Martin Smith, Children's Services Manager – School Standards, and Kieran Barnes, Head of Virtual School (Looked After Children), which summarises the work of the Key Stage 4 School Performance Working Group)</i>	31 - 42
6	Corporate Parenting Panel Update <i>(To receive a report from Tara Jones, Service Manager, Regulated Services, which updates the Committee on the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel)</i>	43 - 52
7	Centre for Public Scrutiny's Guide to Scrutinising Children's Safeguarding Arrangements <i>(To receive a report from Janice Spencer, Assistant Director Children's Services, which sets out the work undertaken in response to questions 18, 20 and 21 of the CfPS's Guide to Scrutinising Children's Safeguarding Arrangements)</i>	53 - 58
8	DfE Innovation Joint Funding Bid with Compass <i>(To receive a report from Mark Rainey, Children's Commissioning Manager, which invites the Committee to consider the DfE Innovation Joint Funding Bid with Compass which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor Responsible for Children's Services)</i>	59 - 72
9	Revenue Budget Proposals 2017/18 <i>(To receive a report from Mark Popplewell, Head of Finance (Children's), which describes the budget proposals arising from the Provisional Local Government Settlement, announced on 17 December 2016 and the implications for commissioning strategies within Children's Services)</i>	73 - 82

10 Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

83 - 88

(To receive a report from Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, which enables the Children and Young People Scrutiny to consider its own work programme for the coming year)

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Please note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details set out above.

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25 NOVEMBER 2016**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J D HOUGH (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors R Wootten (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, W J Aron, S R Dodds, A G Hagues, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs L A Rollings, Mrs N J Smith, L Wootten, M A Whittington and Mrs S M Wray

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman

Parent Governor Representatives: Dr E van der Zee

Councillor D Brailsford was also in attendance.

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes (Executive Director, Children's Services), Stuart Carlton (Assistant Director Children's Lead Early Help), Heather Sandy (Chief Commissioning Office - Learning), Roz Cordy (Children's Services Manager - Locality), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Jennifer McKie (Senior Music Advisor, Lincolnshire Music Service), Martin Smith (Children's Services Manager - School Standards) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Brockway and Mrs H N J Powell.

An apology for absence was also received from Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell (Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services), Mr P Thompson (Church Representative) and Mrs P J Barnett (Parent Governor Representative).

41 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no declarations on interest at this point in the meeting.

42 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2016

It was requested that the 16th bullet point to Minute 34 be amended to read:

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It was commented that Church of England Schools were not seen as faith schools, and the Diocese's preference was for the governing body of church schools to remove faith criteria from their admission policy.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the above amendment being noted.

43 FUTURE OF THE MUSIC SERVICE - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report on the future of Lincolnshire Music Service, which was due to be considered by the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services on 9 December 2016. The report was an update following on from the decision in May 2015, that Lincolnshire County Council ceased to operate a music service and supported Lincolnshire Music Service in becoming a viable charitable entity.

Members were advised that this was a well respected and valued service with a turnover of around £3m. It was also noted that the DfE had announced the security of funding for music education until 2020.

It was requested that members support the continued operation of a music service as outlined in Option 1 of the report. It was noted that the 8% shortfall referred to in the report had been resolved. Members were advised that Option 1 was that the Lincolnshire Music Service continued to be a service offered by Lincolnshire County Council, but would exist as a traded, non-Lincolnshire County Council Funded Service.

Members welcomed the report and commented that the option outlined was a really positive solution.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee support the recommendations to the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services as set out in the report.
2. That any additional comments be passed on to the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services in relation to this item.

**44 LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP
UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report which enabled the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to have an overview of the activities of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, in particular the Sub-Group's consideration of child safeguarding matters.

It was reported that the Scrutiny Sub-Group last met on 28 September 2016 and the draft minutes were included within the agenda pack. The Sub-Group welcomed two

new members, Dr Emile van der Zee and Councillor Mike Exton, who were the new Parent Governor and District Councillor Representatives.

The Sub-Group was updated on the work of the Lincolnshire safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and was advised that the Board was managing three serious case reviews.

The Sub-Group also received an update on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and the development of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting model. MACE had now been running for 3 months and provided a way of managing CSE and missing risk in the community. MACE meetings were attended by people directly working with the young person or managing the perpetrator. The new model would be reviewed after 6 months to evaluate the outcomes.

The Sub-Group agreed its meeting dates for 2017 and the next meeting of the Sub Group would be held on 11 January 2017.

Concerns were raised that the minutes did not seem to be very informative, however members were reminded that the Scrutiny Sub-Group met in private, and so there was a need for caution about the level of detail included in the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group, held on 28 September 2016, be noted.

45 CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY'S GUIDE TO SCRUTINISING CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

It was reported that on 9 October 2015 the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee was asked to consider and comment on the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) 21 questions guide for Councillors on Safeguarding Children.

It was agreed following this that Officers would be requested to provide the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with assurance in respect of the questions set out in the CfPS Guide 2015.

Consideration was given to a report which set out the work undertaken across Children's Services in response to questions 8, 9, 13 and 14, as set out below:

- Question 8 – Does the local area have a range of effective and evidence based services in place to assess and meet the needs of local children and their families?
- Question 9 – Are local assessments of need effective in ensuring children and their families are able to access early support and services to reduce risk and meet needs?
How effective is access to these services in preventing potential safeguarding interventions?
- Question 13 – What evidence is there that the child is at the centre of local safeguarding arrangements?

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- Question 14 – Who are the most vulnerable children in the local area? What are their needs and how well are they met?

Members were guided through the report and were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report, and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- In relation to Question 9 and the number of TACs/early help arrangements in place, it was queried whether this was due to increasing need or staff being better able to identify children in need of additional support. It was noted that need was being recognised earlier, by schools and social workers and demand was increasing. It was noted that 64% of lead professionals on TACs were school staff.
- In relation to children being removed from families, it was queried whether this was a last option and whether work would be undertaken with the family to prevent this from happening. It was queried whether the authority was too cautious in this regard. Members were advised that children were best placed living in their family, but some families needed more support than others. It was very important that excellent assessments and risk analyses through signs of safety, so that risk could be carefully considered. It was important that this work was done so the right interventions could be put in place at the right time. Prior to the removal of children the family would go into pre-proceedings and it was confirmed that it was the court who made decisions to remove children not the local authority. It was confirmed by officers that mechanisms were in place to manage pre-proceedings work and that the Court made the judgement to remove children.
- A lot of research had been done into this matter by the Association of Directors of Children's Services, and with more awareness came more identification. It was also noted that one Head teacher had said that children in Lincolnshire were more likely to tell a teacher what was happening to them at home when compared with those children living in inner city areas due to cultural complexities.
- It was commented that expectations about what was acceptable in society with children was changing, there was also pressure in relation to the internet and social media. Values and attitudes towards children and young people also changed over time.
- Neglect was a very difficult issue in terms of when it was the best time to intervene, and when should the authority give support and try and help the family and at what point there needed to be statutory intervention. A member commented that in their work with the Adoption Panel, they were always impressed by the amount of work that was put in to keep a child in the home. It was thought it must be very difficult for those staff on the frontline who were making these decisions on a day to day basis. It was acknowledged that it was a very difficult judgement call to make, but that staff were professionally trained to undertake this work and there was careful management oversight of decisions.
- It was thought that austerity measures were having an impact on demand management and were reducing every organisations capacity to deal with the demand for services.

- There was concern about the increase in the numbers of TAC, and it was queried how schools were managing that increase, as some schools were having redundancies in pastoral support. Members were informed that officers were seeing some excellent early help assessments from schools. It was also noted that 8 TAC consultants had been put in place across the county who could provide additional capacity for advice, support and supervision for schools.
- Concerns were raised regarding the involvement of other organisations in TAC, as schools could feel that they were leading the process and not getting engagement from other agencies such as health or the Police. It was noted that concerns in relation to health were improving and that this would be enhanced further through the insourcing of health visiting services. There was some engagement from PCSO's and some had been seconded into the early help team through the Families Working Together service.
- It was queried that if there were cases where abuse was suspected, would that be when the Police got involved. It was noted that if this was the case then a threshold would be triggered and child protection teams would be contacted and a child protection enquiry would be required.
- It was noted that the decision to remove children from a family was not the local authority's, but was made by the courts, and there was a need to assess the viability of all family members before and as part of an application to the court.
- In relation to domestic violence, it was noted that were thousands of cases where police attended an incident where children were in the household.
- It was noted that the Early Help locality teams did have a small commissioning budget of around £30K to enable them to provide bespoke services for specific areas. It was also noted that social workers had access to Section 17 budgets if additional support was required.

RESOLVED

That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be assured on the contents of the response provided.

46 SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report which provided a summary of the key proposals in the consultation document 'Schools that work for everyone' (published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 12 September 2016) and included an amended proposed response to the consultation for the Committee to approve for submission. It was noted that the consultation would close on 12 December 2016.

Members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- Members commented that officers had done a good job, and this version more explicitly outlined the strong views of members.

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- It was commented that there was not always the confidence that grammar schools had sufficient experience in terms of school improvement in particular for schools rated as inadequate. This would not be the case in every circumstance and all cases would be assessed individually.
- With regard to an article in the local press about a school asking parents to make a contribution towards text books, it was queried whether this was a one off situation, or would there be more stories like this emerging. Members were advised that schools budgets had been protected and had not seen the cuts that local authorities had, however, the budget had been cash flat, and in real terms every single school would say that they were struggling. When a school converted to an academy it originally received an education support grant of around £600 per pupil, but that has now reduced to around circa £70 per pupil and was expected to reduce further. This had disproportionately affected secondary schools.
- The local authority used to give smaller schools a greater block allocation of funding, but the government had introduced a cap on this block. Lincolnshire was one of the lowest funded authorities for schools in the country.
- It was queried whether a workshop or report on how schools were funded would be useful for the Committee.
- It was acknowledged that the officers had done a very good job with the consultation response.

RESOLVED

That the response document attached at Appendix A of the report be approved for submission to the consultation.

**47 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a report which enabled the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider its own work programme for the coming year.

It was reported that there was one amendment to the work programme. A report on a DfE Innovation Bid, which would be for pre-decision scrutiny, had been added to the agenda for the meeting 20 January 2017. A bid would be submitted for some funding from the Department for Education which would tie the Council into match funding, which meant a decision was required. The funding would primarily be for services relating to Looked After Children and those at risk of being looked after.

It was also noted that a report in relation to how schools were funded would be added as a future item for consideration.

It was suggested whether the names alongside the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group and Corporate Parenting Panel Update could be amended for the June 2017 meeting as this meeting would be after the Council's Election.

RESOLVED

1. That the content of the work programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be noted.
2. That the content of the Children's Services Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix b of the report, be noted.
3. That the amendments highlighted above be noted.

48 PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 2 2016/17

Consideration was given to a report which provided key performance information for Quarter 2 2016/17 that was relevant to the work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- It was queried whether there was a pattern emerging in relation to those children who were not achieving. It was noted that indicators in relation to 'Young People not in education, employment or training' and 'Pupils aged 16-18 participating in learning' were mirror images of each other and there was a correlation between the two. These indicators would need to be closely monitored, and for this particular data set there was always a data lag in quarter 2, and officers would not make any assumptions based on September's data.
- It was noted that approximately £1m had been taken out of the careers guidance budget, so the impact of this needed to be monitored.
- 'Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at key stage 4' – officers were aware that much of this data related to academies, but it was something that was high up on head teachers agendas, as they were judged by Ofsted on it.
- An emotional wellbeing service was also in development, as many of those that did not achieve were also in need of emotional support.
- A more focused approach had been taken this year in challenging those academies where the gap was biggest, and the local authority was referring them to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) when performance did not improve.
- In relation to whether there was a correlation between those children who did not achieve and those who were not in education, employment or training, it was noted that young people did not always go onto their right pathway and so could drop out part way through a course. It was commented that it was a concern that schools were not always ensuring that children were on the best programme for them.
- It was suggested that some schools with sixth forms were desperate to hold onto young people, whether it was the right pathway or not.
- For secondary schools which were causing concern there was a protocol between the local authority and academies, and officers were working on a protocol between the local authority and the RSC.

- In terms of complaints received, it was queried whether there was a downward trend in complaints. It was noted that these were only the complaints that the local authority had received in relation to schools, but there would probably be many more which had gone directly to the schools.
- 'Average time taken to move a child from care to an adoptive family' and 'Average time taken to match a child to an adoptive family' – it was commented that it was positive that these were both ahead of target. It was noted that these two measures ran concurrently. It was queried whether the target could be reduced down any further. Members were advised that Lincolnshire was an outstanding authority for adoption and it was suggested whether the Committee would like to receive a report on the journey of a child in the adoption process. It was also added that the report could focus on permanence as well rather than just adoption.
- It was queried whether there was anything that members could do as a committee to further challenge the gap. Members were advised that it was not an engagement issue as academies were very open with the authority. It was more about how locality support could be used to support children.
- The pressure was on schools to narrow the achievement gap. They were reporting that they were doing all they could, and it was commented that it would be interesting to carry out research in some of the most disadvantaged communities, as there was a need to better understand what disadvantage looked like in different areas so that schools were better able to meet the needs of their children.
- It was commented that disadvantaged children in selective areas needed more assistance, and this was why a locality model was needed. It was reported that secondary schools had never felt more connected to the local authority since the new sector led model was introduced.
- It was requested that staff be thanked for their work in achieving targets, as it was acknowledged that Lincolnshire did have challenging targets.
- It was confirmed that schools were being monitored in terms of those that were choosing not to buy in services which were provided for free in the past, to determine whether this had an impact. It was also noted that officers were trying to be creative with training, such as by recognising and reducing duplication within the system.
- It was commented that it was nice to see the KPIs presented in the way they were, as it was very clear and easier to understand.
- In relation to permanent exclusions, it was queried whether there had been a problem in the county. It was noted that there was still a significant issue of too many young people excluded permanently from school, but it had been identified as an issue, and so far a 25% reduction had been seen since the new pathway was put in place in September 2016.
- It was queried whether the number of days that schools had been in special measures was normal. It was noted that there were schools which were a concern as they were drifting and that a sponsor was not secured quickly enough. There was a concern that delay could lead to more children leaving the school which would in turn make it a less attractive option to potential sponsors. It was also noted that an academy in special measures would not be monitored again by Ofsted and so would not have the chance to come out of

special measures. Once a school entered special measures it became the responsibility of the RSC. The sponsor for South Witham had taken over and the school was improving.

- It would be important to identify patches of deprivation rather than looking at general areas, as it was commented that if poverty in Grantham generally was looked at, it would be a different result to if one particular estate was looked at.

At this point in the meeting it was moved, seconded and:

RESOLVED

That in accordance with section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of Appendix D to the report on the grounds that if they were present there could be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

The Chairman invited Members of the Committee to ask questions in relation to Appendix D of the report and officers responded to those questions raised.

RESOLVED

That after the consideration of exempt information, as defined above, the remainder of the meeting be held in public.

RESOLVED

That the comments made in relation to the performance information be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.50 am

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Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 January 2017
Subject:	Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the Multi-Agency Response to Abuse and Neglect in Lincolnshire

Summary:

This report sets out the findings from the joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire. The inspection included an in depth focus on the response to children living with domestic abuse.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the findings from the joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire and seek assurance on the issues raised.

1. Background

Between 17 and 21 October 2016, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary and HMI undertook a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire. This inspection included a 'deep dive' focus on the response to children living with domestic abuse.

Attached at Appendix A is a letter to all the service leaders in the area which outlines the findings from the inspection about the effectiveness of partnership working and of the work of individual agencies in Lincolnshire.

The letter highlights that strategic arrangements for the management and oversight of domestic abuse in Lincolnshire are well developed and are having an impact across services to improve responses to children who have experienced domestic abuse. There is good awareness and ownership of the domestic abuse joint protocol by front line staff across agencies.

A number of areas for improvement have been identified in the letter to support more effective and timely information sharing. Agencies do not always share the full range of information known to them so that a full consideration of risks to children living with domestic abuse can be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. Systems within the police are not effective in ensuring that when there are

incidents of domestic abuse where children are present or in the household, information is shared in a timely way with professionals working with the family.

2. Conclusion

The local authority will now need to prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in the letter. This should be a multi-agency response and should set out the actions for the partnership and, where appropriate, individual agencies. The local authority will need to send the written statement of action by 7 March 2017.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the Multi-Agency Response to Abuse and Neglect in Lincolnshire – Letter of Findings

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Debbie Barnes, who can be contacted on 01522 553200 or debbie.barnes@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Care Quality
Commission



5 December 2016

Deborah Barnes, Director of Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council
Alan Kitt, Chief Officer NHS South West Lincolnshire CCG
Pamela Palmer, Chief Nurse NHS South West Lincolnshire CCG
Marc Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner
Mr Neil Rhodes, Chief Constable of Lincolnshire police force
Andy Cook, Manager, Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service
Martyn Davies, CEO, Humberside, Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire Community
Rehabilitation Company
Lynda Marginson, Deputy Director, National Probation Service
Christopher Cook, Chair of Lincolnshire LSCB

Dear local partnership

Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire

Between 17 and 21 October 2016, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary (HMIC) and HMI Probation (HMI Prob) undertook a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire.¹ This inspection included a 'deep dive' focus on the response to children living with domestic abuse.

This letter to all the service leaders in the area outlines our findings about the effectiveness of partnership working and of the work of individual agencies in Lincolnshire.

The inspectorates recognise the complexities for agencies in intervening in families where there is more than one victim and where, as a consequence, risk assessment and decision making have a number of complexities and challenges, not least that the impact on the child is sometimes not immediately apparent. A multi-agency inspection of this area of practice is more likely to highlight some of the significant challenges to partnerships in improving practice. We anticipate that each of these JTAs will identify learning for all agencies and will contribute to the debate about what 'good practice' in relation to children living with domestic abuse looks like. In a significant proportion of cases seen by inspectors there were risk factors in addition to domestic abuse, which reflects the complexity of the work.

Strategic arrangements for the management and oversight of domestic abuse in Lincolnshire are well developed, based on a good understanding of the extent and

¹ This joint inspection was conducted under section 20 of the Children Act 2004.



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nature of domestic abuse and are having an impact across services to improve responses to children who have experienced domestic abuse. There is good awareness and ownership of the domestic abuse joint protocol by front line staff across agencies. There has also been a strong focus on equipping frontline staff and their managers with the knowledge and assessment tools required to better understand and tackle domestic abuse. This includes a good range of methods of engaging with children and these are being used well by many professionals, helping them understand children's experiences and supporting work with children to address the impact of domestic abuse. The clear drive and commitment from partners is evident but there is more to do to ensure consistency and effective joint working at all stages of engagement with children and their families.

A number of areas for improvement have been identified to support more effective and timely information sharing. Agencies do not always share the full range of information known to them so that a full consideration of risks to children living with domestic abuse can be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. Systems within the police are not effective in ensuring that when there are incidents of domestic abuse where children are present or in the household, information is shared in a timely way with professionals working with the family. The current backlog of work in the police Central Referral Unit means that referrals to children's social care services concerning children experiencing domestic abuse do not contain all the relevant information. Recording systems in some areas of health provision do not currently support effective information sharing, and more needs to be done to ensure the full engagement of NHS Adult Mental Health services and Addaction (drug and alcohol abuse service) in child safeguarding work.

While some agencies have a very strong child centred approach to addressing domestic abuse, others such as the Community Rehabilitation Company need to ensure that they are pro-active in identifying family members and the involvement of children's agencies with adults with whom they are working. Further training needs have been identified in the inspection, including the need for all professionals to understand the impact on children of repeated incidents of domestic abuse and additional training for police staff, including those who make decisions about when to refer cases to children's social care.

Gaps in the provision of services for perpetrators of domestic abuse who have not received a conviction have the potential to undermine the good work that is in place, promoted through the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to prevent domestic abuse.



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Key Strengths

- The local partnership has a clear and collective determination and drive to engage agencies in delivering a coherent approach to tackle domestic abuse. Strategic action plans are well considered and comprehensive, and are underpinned by a strong shared vision and ambition to reduce incidents of domestic abuse and prevent their reoccurrence. Senior leaders across the range of Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards, the Public Protection Board and the Community Safety Partnership have a detailed understanding of the prevalence of domestic abuse and the impact on children in their area.
- The partnership in Lincolnshire has an effective domestic abuse strategy and a comprehensive joint protocol developed by the Adults' and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the Domestic Abuse Strategic Management Board (DASMB) to guide all professionals working with those affected by domestic abuse. Hundreds of frontline professionals attended the launch of the strategy and protocol at a learning event in August 2016. This, together with a wide range of training, means that many staff across agencies have the knowledge and assessment tools required to better understand and manage risks related to domestic abuse. Practitioners across the partnership were aware of the protocol and many were using the resources to good effect. For example, routine enquiries about domestic abuse, stalking and honour based violence (DASH) assessments are now well-embedded in the practice of frontline staff in all three NHS trusts with strong links to multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC) in maintaining a vigilant approach to the management of high risks.
- The strategic overview of domestic abuse in September 2015 undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership provided an analysis of patterns and trends of domestic abuse across Lincolnshire, enabling senior leaders across the range of Adults' and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the Community Safety Partnership to have a detailed understanding of the prevalence of domestic abuse and the impact on children in their area. The resulting action plan, together with review and update of progress in June and October 2016, has enabled the partnership to review progress against the plan and monitor the impact of the domestic abuse joint protocol. This has provided a sound basis to clearly define current priorities and integrate learning from domestic homicide reviews. As a consequence, frontline practice across the partnership has been strengthened in a number of areas, for example work undertaken with district nurses to ensure that they identify domestic abuse in older people.
- Effective governance structures and agency attendance at a wide range of boards provide further evidence of a collective commitment to work together in tackling



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domestic abuse. The National Probation Service and Youth Offending Service (YOS) are well engaged in the partnership and represented on key strategic boards; the youth offending manager has a high profile, for example chairing one of the current domestic homicide reviews. District councils are key strategic players in supporting community safety arrangements. Social housing staff clearly recognise their safeguarding responsibilities and actively contribute to safety planning, enabling improved outcomes for children in a number of cases.

- The LSCB effectively monitors and evaluates the work of the statutory partners, with a range of examples of real impact that is making a difference for children. For example, the approach to preventative work with children in Lincolnshire, managed and promoted through the LSCB, is a particular strength. Links between schools and the LSCB are strong, with a multi-faceted approach to promote awareness of domestic abuse and to support children to stay safe in Lincolnshire. There are termly safeguarding briefings for schools and 'It's That Easy' workshops supported by the police are provided in schools to raise awareness across a range of issues, including domestic abuse. The LSCB e-safety officer visits schools, works with parents, children and teachers and provided guidance to 11,000 pupils in 2015/16. During November 2016, the LSCB is running a campaign on domestic abuse and will provide resource packs to all schools to use in assemblies and provide information on services and support available. There will also be a communications campaign using social media to reach parents and young people.
- A wide range of training is provided by the LSCB on domestic abuse, with good take up across partners including adults' services. For example, over 1500 professionals undertook e-learning courses on domestic abuse from April to September 2016.
- A further strength is the range of multi-agency audits by the LSCB, the most recent of which focused on domestic abuse. Feedback from parents and carers is an integral aspect of these audits and demonstrates the commitment of the partners to understand and listen to children's experiences.
- The commitment of the partnership to provide high quality services to children is evidenced in agencies' investment in services to ensure that staff have the resources they need to undertake this complex area of work. In the vast majority of cases seen during this inspection, children were receiving some direct support to help them address the impact of domestic abuse. Social workers and early help workers have a wide range of resources to support them in working directly with children who have experienced domestic abuse, and this was seen to be making a positive difference to many children. The council commissions a good range of services for victims of domestic abuse, including those assessed as lower risk. These services are used well by families and were seen to be making a positive difference in many cases.



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- The YOS has invested in the 'Status' programme for young perpetrators of abuse, with effective partnership work at the scoping stage of the project to support an informed understanding of the extent of the issue and the needs of young people. The YOS was assisted in the design of the programme by an experienced group worker from the Humberside, Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), who has undertaken similar work with adults. YOS practitioners are well supported by a Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust clinical psychologist to help them assess and deliver effective interventions to reduce risk in these young people's lives.
- The YOS undertakes effective assessments to identify where young people have been victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse. The co-location of YOS services across Lincolnshire with Early Help and FAST teams, the child sexual exploitation multi-agency team and with the police, along with their access to the children's social care information recording system, supports timely information sharing.
- The police promote prevention and the early identification of risk. The investment in training frontline officers to utilise the 'Signs of Safety' tool, the translation of domestic abuse literature and risk assessment forms into different languages and the investment in a dedicated team to engage with emerging communities are evidence of this commitment. The increase in referrals from newly-arrived communities as a result, is evidence of the positive impact that this can have.
- There is strong and effective leadership in children's social care and a clear approach to developing innovative and child-focused practice to support children living with domestic abuse. Performance management and a wide range of audit activity are well embedded, leading to identification of areas for improvement as well as informing service development, such as the need for work with young people who perpetrate domestic abuse. Engagement with children and families is routine in audit activity and represents a commitment to participation by children and families in service improvement.
- Police leaders are committed to the partnership and have prioritised the protection of children living in homes where domestic abuse occurs. There is a clear determination to reduce the risks to those identified as being vulnerable and there was evidence of police leaders aspiring to develop a culture of continuous improvement to enhance decision making and protective practices.
- When a referral is accepted by the customer service centre, the case is referred in a timely way to the relevant family assessment and support team (FAST). Customer services advisers are clear about their roles and responsibilities and receive training and updates to assist them in their work. They have aide memoirs to assist them in asking relevant questions, including in relation to domestic abuse, and have information regarding local groups and resources to pass on.



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- The FAST team deals swiftly and effectively with referrals for children at risk of harm in the vast majority of cases. Clear, robust management oversight within the customer service centre and the FAST team in most cases ensures that, when risk is first identified, action is timely and well planned. Strategy meetings seen were appropriately attended by children's social care, police and health; children were seen the same day to establish current and future risk. All section 47 investigations seen evidenced liaison with partners to address risks and concerns.
- Assessments within children's social care are detailed and, include information from other agencies such as health and schools. The 'Signs of Safety' approach is used effectively to consider what is working well, what the concerns are and what needs to happen. Danger statements are used within assessments, and make the presenting risks, including from domestic abuse, really clear. The voice of the child is well represented and where the child is pre-verbal, developmental milestones and attachment are carefully considered through observation and health reports. Direct work with children informs assessments and plans, for example one young person clearly indicated that she needed an adult with her when she saw her father 'Because my dad needs to earn (my) trust', resulting in plans for appropriate contact arrangements.
- The co-location of health professionals from LCHS and LPFT at Grantham police station enables a co-ordinated approach to the sharing of intelligence between these agencies about children who may be at risk of harm. This helps ensure that frontline health professionals in the Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS (LCHS) and Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) are promptly informed about the outcomes of strategy discussions and of required actions. Safeguarding leads within LCHS, LPFT and the United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust NHS (ULHT) provide good oversight and support continuing improvement of safeguarding practice to ensure that, where there are risks to children and young people due to domestic abuse, these are promptly identified.
- Midwives appropriately identify, assess and manage safeguarding risks to unborn or new babies, including risks of domestic abuse. Assessments seen were holistic and included information gathering from other agencies to support a comprehensive understanding of risk at the earliest opportunity. Ante-natal records provide information about Lincolnshire domestic abuse services, ensuring all pregnant women are provided with this information regardless of their history.
- Frontline staff within the 0-19 community health service recognise the importance of engagement and continuity of professional input to support parents and their children when there are concerns about domestic abuse. Local managers ensure that the most appropriate health professional remains involved with the children and their family through key stages of child in need and child protection processes, and clear chronologies of significant events enable health staff to ensure appropriate assessment of risks. The leadership and impact of the domestic abuse lead nurse in driving improvements to enhance practice were evident, for example in robust quality assurance of DASH assessments.



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- A Polish support worker, employed to work with health visitors and school nurses, encourages access to services by the Polish community. DASH and MARAC assessment forms have been translated into Polish and workers have easy access to face to face interpreting services as required. The needs of the traveller communities are also well identified and supported.

Case study: highly effective practice

The importance of direct work to support children who have experienced domestic abuse is well understood in Lincolnshire. Social workers and early help workers are skilled in the use of the 'Signs of Safety' approach and are effective in utilising age-appropriate tools in their direct work with children in order to understand their wishes and feelings. This means that they are better able to understand the range of risks that children face and the impact that domestic abuse is having on them. They use this information to better protect children and provide appropriate support for their individual needs. Children are sensitively supported to develop safety plans through the use of their own words and pictures, which help to protect them while also enabling them to make sense of their lived experience. Clear messages are given to children through this work that the abuse is not their fault but that if they are at risk there are things they can do to help them to stay safe.

Aron is a 12-year old boy who lives with his mother, who is from Europe, and his sister who is seven years old. There is a history of domestic abuse and his mother is now separated from his father. All of the family were frightened by Dad, who was misusing drugs and had frequently come to the family home shouting abuse and demanding to be let in. Aron has been supported to develop his own safety plan and was able to tell inspectors how this, combined with work undertaken with his mum and sister, made the family feel safer. Mum is now supported by a social worker who speaks her language and an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate, who is supporting her to think about the legal options; his sister also has direct work with her to address the impact of abuse. In addition, work is underway with Aron on improving his self-esteem and understanding of what makes healthy relationships, in order to support him to make decisions about his own future relationships.



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Areas for improvement

- Although there is clear evidence of strategic leadership and direction, this has not yet been translated into consistent improvements in operational delivery across all services and there remain a number of significant areas for improvement in some services.
- The police in the Central Referral Unit (CRU) are not risk assessing and progressing all incidents of domestic abuse in a timely way. All high risk cases are referred immediately to children's social care with a copy of the DASH assessment completed by the police. When cases are initially risk assessed as 'standard or medium risk', a daily record of all those cases where children are present or living in the household is sent to children's social care. However, this record only contains basic details of dates of birth and names and does not contain full details of the incident, nor have the police undertaken checks on their own systems to identify any previous concerns.
- In standard and medium risk cases, if officers have a concern about a child, they are expected to submit a 'Stop Abuse' form, which should then be reviewed by the CRU and, if deemed appropriate, a referral is made to children's social care. However, at the time of the inspection, there was a significant backlog of work in the CRU which means that the standard and medium risk cases had not been fully risk assessed. Almost 500 incidents where children were present or living in the household, the oldest of which dated back to 18 August 2016, had not been risk assessed, although not all featured domestic abuse. This means that standard and medium risk cases, including those with 'Stop Abuse' forms, have not been appropriately risk assessed in a timely way, meaning that children's social care may not have all of the information they require to make an accurate assessment of risk and need. In addition, administrative processes such as linking people and addresses to incidents of domestic abuse had not been completed in a large number of cases so that officers attending an incident may not have a complete picture of the domestic abuse history. The police have given assurances to inspectors that they will immediately address the backlog of notifications and have increased capacity in the CRU to manage demand.
- Additionally, police staff within the CRU do not refer all 'Stop Abuse' forms to children's social care, but make an assessment of whether the threshold is met for children's social care intervention. Staff have not received any formal training to help them undertake this work, nor do they make any enquiries with any other agencies at this point. There is no audit or oversight of this decision making and a small number of cases were identified by inspectors that should have been referred to children's social care. The police are introducing a new automated system to link notifications and 'Stop Abuse' forms and cross reference domestic

abuse incidents, and recognise the need to provide training and management oversight to support more effective decision making.

- In a small number of the cases tracked and sampled for this inspection it was clear that, while each agency held some information about risks to children and victims and acted upon that information, agencies were not sharing the full range of information known to them. This meant that full consideration of risk did not always take place, and this resulted in delays in interventions to reduce risk. This is one of the key areas for development from this inspection. A number of examples were seen, involving a range of agencies where information to inform the assessment of risk to children should have been shared but was not. This means that in a small number of cases the full range of risks to children was not understood.
- Community health services such as health visitors and midwives are not routinely informed when the police attend domestic abuse incidents where children are present or living in the household. This limits the health professional's ability to understand and prioritise risk and the needs of victims and their children. Clear examples were seen during the inspection where this lack of information sharing meant that health professionals could not make a fully informed assessment of risk.
- Health visitors are not always involved in the discharge planning meetings for new-born babies where there are concerns about domestic abuse, and may not have access to the most up to date information to help them understand the risks. Midwives and health visitors report that they are not always involved in pre-birth planning discussions in cases where children's social care is involved. Where cases have been discussed at MARAC and identified as greater risk, information is shared effectively, but where risk is considered to be at a lower level, information is not routinely shared with midwives and health visitors.
- Currently the LSCB cannot be assured therefore that all agencies understand and apply statutory guidance and information governance protocols, so that where there are risks to children, information is shared promptly and effectively to fully inform decisions about risk and need.
- Decision making in most cases seen was appropriate and timely, but this was not consistent in all cases. For example, while police manage the immediate response to incidents of domestic abuse well to ensure that the victims and children are safe, the police do not always use the full range of powers available to them to deal with cases of domestic abuse to protect victims and their families, such as domestic abuse prevention orders and restraining orders. For example, in one case when the father's behaviour clearly constituted harassment, he was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. This approach was a short term measure which did not address the impact on the family, and limited police powers in setting bail conditions.

- When there is a pattern of abusive behaviour, some practitioners do not fully recognise the effect of repeated domestic abuse incidents on children or the victim. A small number of cases were seen where, despite clear evidence of increasing significant concerns about domestic abuse, cases were either not referred or several contacts were made to children's social care before a referral was accepted. This meant that a full assessment of risk and intervention to support children was not put in place at the earliest opportunity. In some agencies, when referrals were made to children's social care and not accepted, professionals did not contact children's social care to discuss the rationale for the decision.
- In a small number of cases, decision making by the multi-agency group working with a family was not always timely to ensure that children's needs for support and protection were in place. In one case, delays in action by the police and children's social care to progress a joint investigation into the assault on a mother and the physical abuse of a child resulted in the mother withdrawing her allegations and no further action was taken at that time. Delays in strategy meetings, or failure to convene strategy meetings in a small number of cases, meant that there were delays in assessing risk and agreeing multi-agency plans to address risk.
- While many strong examples were seen in health and children's social care of practitioners engaging with and listening to children, this was less evident in police records. Frontline officers attending incidents of domestic abuse check that children are safe and well, but the behaviour and demeanour of the child, and what they said, is not routinely recorded. This critical information should be used to inform the initial risk assessment and be shared as part of the force's referral to children's social care.
- The use of written agreements by children's social care places an over reliance on the victims of domestic abuse to manage their own safety and that of their children. Such agreements do not always make clear that professionals take full account of the psychological impact of abuse on victims, the threats to which they are exposed or the heightened risk to victims and children at the point of separation from the abuser. If agreements are to be used they should always make clear the support the victim can expect from agencies, including police use of powers to protect victims and their children.
- The electronic recording system in children's social care does not support effective practice or clear oversight of children's experiences and family history. The system is not efficient and inspectors experienced significant delays in accessing key information from the system for this inspection. This means that social workers are spending unnecessary time on administrative tasks and records do not easily provide a coherent picture of the child's lived experience and background.



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- Embedding safeguarding practice into the work of the CRC must be a high priority, for example ensuring vigilance and professional curiosity about children linked to adults under supervision, including through appropriate checks with other agencies. Offender managers do not consistently undertake home visits and as a result, do not routinely assess the family dynamic. CRC offender managers are not proactive in making contact with children's services promptly following allocation of a new case, even when it is made clear that children's services are involved, and they do not maintain regular contact with the police domestic abuse officers to ensure that they are updated in a timely way about any new offences.
- Offender managers within the National Probation Service need further training and support to develop their knowledge and confidence to ensure that they are prepared to challenge and use escalation procedures when they do not agree with children's social care decision making.
- There are significant and serious gaps in the provision of services for adult perpetrators of domestic abuse, other than those who have received a criminal conviction through the courts. This means that, while services may be provided for victims and children to address the impact of abuse, the work to prevent further abuse by perpetrators was seen, in too many cases, to be absent. This has a very negative impact for some children who were seen to be subject to repeated incidents of domestic abuse, or to other children as the perpetrator moves on to live with another family. This gap in service provision, while not unique to Lincolnshire, is a real issue for the partnership and could undermine many aspects of the preventative work that is in place.
- The council commissions a good range of services for victims of domestic abuse, including those assessed as lower risk. These services are used well by families and were seen to be making a positive difference in many cases. However, the funding of such services by Lincolnshire County Council is currently under review. The DASMB has commissioned a consultation on future funding for these services.
- Recording systems within the ULHT do not support effective information sharing between teams in enabling further timely checks about risk of harm to pregnant women. Whilst MARAC alerts are flagged electronically on the Trust's IT system, Emergency Department staff have to check other records for further details, which in a busy department depends on their having the capacity to do so. The midwifery safeguarding data base which contains key information about risks to women is not accessible to other hospital staff who are making decisions about the level of risk and appropriateness of arrangements for discharge home.
- Although safeguarding supervision was regularly offered across a range of health services, the templates in use and the quality of recording of safeguarding supervision seen in midwifery, community health and the 'Addaction' (drug and alcohol misuse) service did not support sufficient analysis of risks, of the impact of action taken, and of work required to improve outcomes for children.



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- Addaction's arrangements for safeguarding children, including those at risk of domestic abuse, are not robust. This includes gaps in key procedures and practice in relation to home safety checks, including safe storage of drugs and alcohol in households where there are children. The service has not developed effective arrangements for managing child protection and MARAC alerts and there remain ongoing challenges in relation to operating three different IT systems, coupled with current staffing gaps and redeployment. While the new contract with the Director of Public Health aims to support new ways of working, including stronger partnerships with hospitals and GPs, gaps in legacy arrangements for safeguarding children and hearing the voice of children need to be addressed urgently.
- Effective leadership and support provided by the federated safeguarding team within NHS South West Lincolnshire clinical commissioning group (CCG) on behalf of the four CCG's operating in Lincolnshire helps promote shared direction and delivery of priorities across the local area. However, some key areas of ongoing work with partner agencies have lapsed following workforce changes, or are still at a relatively early stage of development. This includes their contribution to MAPPA arrangements, the development of the safeguarding dashboard to strengthen governance and quality assurance of the work of providers, and provision of regular supervision to named nurses within provider services.
- The recently appointed named GP provides strong direction and challenge in promoting wider use of the DASH risk assessment and 'Signs of Safety' models within primary care practice. It is acknowledged however that further work is required to ensure all local general practices are appropriately engaged in this work.
- There is generally good joint working between child health professionals including midwives, health visitors and school nurses, further strengthened through primary care-led team meetings and safeguarding forums in some localities. However, the routine engagement of NHS Adult Mental Health and Addaction staff is not sufficiently well-secured through regular and effective two-way communication and information sharing.
- The focus of performance measures within the police is currently on the quantity of child protection and domestic abuse incidents and cases. Assessment of the quality of decision making is under-developed and senior leaders cannot be assured that staff are consistently making the best decisions for vulnerable children in all cases. Further work is required by senior leaders to understand the nature and quality of decision making at the front-line.
- There are opportunities within Lincolnshire Police to cascade learning from, for example, domestic homicide reviews and the force makes use of the training offered by the LSCB. However, there was no evidence of dedicated professional development time set aside for officers and staff. The impact of this is that the force relies on 'on the job' training, reducing the opportunities for staff to focus



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on professional development. The force has recognised this and is seeking additional funding for bespoke training provision.

Case study: area for improvement

Midwives, health visitors and school nurses are not receiving standard and medium risk notifications from the police when they have attended domestic abuse incidents and children are present. This means that frontline health staff may be unaware of such concerns (which also could impact on them as lone workers) and any additional information they may be able to add or checks they could make are not proactively sought. As a consequence, the area may be missing opportunities to provide early help and to embed a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to securing a timely response to harm reduction.

At a child in need meeting in the summer of 2016, all professionals present were asked to rate the level of their concerns about two young children (aged two and five years) using the 'Signs of Safety' tool. The school nurse rated risks at a level five (relatively low level risk) given the level of information she had. The following month, a multi-agency strategy discussion highlighted that the police had been called out on 11 occasions over the previous four years to deal with incidents of domestic abuse. The school nurse had not been aware of the domestic abuse incidents when she completed her assessment of risks. The children were subsequently placed on child protection plans.

Next steps

The local authority should prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in this letter. This should be a multi-agency response involving the National Probation Service, the CRC, Clinical Commissioning Group and health providers in Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire Police. The response should set out the actions for the partnership and, where appropriate, individual agencies.²

² The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1792/contents/made enable Ofsted's chief inspector to determine which agency should make the written statement and which other agencies should cooperate in its writing.







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The local authority should send the written statement of action to ProtectionOfChildren@ofsted.gov.uk by 7 March 2017. This statement will inform the lines of enquiry at any future joint or single agency activity by the inspectorates.

Yours sincerely

Ofsted	Care Quality Commission
 Eleanor Schooling National Director, Social Care	 Ursula Gallagher Deputy Chief Inspector
HMI Constabulary	HMI Probation
 Wendy Williams Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary	 Alan MacDonald Assistant Chief Inspector

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 January 2017
Subject:	School Performance Working Group – Key Stage 4 Disadvantaged and Looked after Children

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to summarise the work of the Key Stage 4 School Performance Working Group and to

- provide an overview of the effective practices currently operating in Lincolnshire;
- provide an overview of effective practices operating beyond Lincolnshire; and
- provide recommendations to further promote and champion improved educational outcomes for children living with disadvantage and Looked After Children at Key Stage 4.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on the contents of the report and agree the 13 recommendations for further work to promote the outcomes for all pupils including those experiencing disadvantage and Looked After Children at Key Stage Four.

1. Background

The School Performance Working Group was established in June 2016 to explore current practice and potential mechanisms for further improving the educational outcomes for children experiencing disadvantage. In September 2016, this focus was extended to include Looked After Children interventions.

The Working Group consisted of Councillors D Brailsford, Mrs J Brockway, S R Dodds, J D Hough, Mrs H N J Powell and Mrs L A Rollings. The remit for the School Performance Working Group was:

1. To review the Key Stage 4 performance in Lincolnshire and the support provided to schools to improve their Key Stage 4 performance.

2. To review the educational attainment and progress of Looked After Children in Lincolnshire at Key Stage Four and the support provided to Looked After Children to assist them in their learning.
3. To identify best practice at other councils for improving Key Stage 4 performance of all pupils and Looked After Children.
4. To examine what alternative learning methods and support could be used in schools to help raise the attainment levels for all pupils and Looked After Children at Key Stage 4.
5. To report back to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at the January 2017 meeting.

The initial meeting of the Working Group, supported by Council officers, took place on 14th June 2016, with the remit being agreed on 19th September 2016. Further meetings and visits took place on 5th October 2016, 22nd November 2016 and 5th January 2017. At each meeting, further research and findings were discussed to identify the most appropriate developments in Lincolnshire to improve educational outcomes for those considered to experience disadvantage and for those who are Looked After. The reason for this focus is that nationally and locally, it is acknowledged that there is a gap in educational achievement for those pupils experiencing disadvantage when compared against their peers, with Looked after Children experiencing some of the worst educational outcomes of all pupils. Addressing this and reducing this gap is a national and a local priority and therefore, the nature of school improvement interventions delivered must focus on how schools can effectively work with disadvantaged children to narrow this gap.

Current context of School Improvement in Lincolnshire

At the heart of Lincolnshire's education improvement strategy (Learn and Achieve) is a commitment to work collaboratively with maintained schools and academies within the sector, to secure:

- the best possible levels of attainment and progress,
- outstanding leadership including effective governance,
- safety, fairness and equity for all pupils and staff,
- value for money,
- the capacity for continuous improvement within a rigorous self-improving system.

We have only recently revised this strategy to embrace collaborative working within a sector led model for school improvement, with the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership (LLP) being launched last year. Through the LLP, all schools are expected to undertake a peer review which outlines strengths and areas for development, with schools working in collaboration to learn from and with each other. The establishment of Teaching Schools also provide an important sector led model of professional development and school improvement. This sector led approach to school improvement provides the framework on which any recommendations to improve practice must be channelled.

Lincolnshire's approach to school improvement is quite unique in that it has a rapidly developing sector led system of improvement, whereby the resources are

held within schools/academies and they work together, as outlined above, to support and improve each other. Confidence is placed with the sector to strive for improvement, with schools working in partnership with the Local Authority through the LLP. Other authorities have mainly taken one of two approaches to school improvement over the past few years; firstly, many Local Authorities disbanded all activity thereby leaving schools to fend for themselves. The second model has been to develop or maintain a fully traded service of consultants to sell out to schools.

The context of Lincolnshire meant that we had an opportunity to do something different to ensure an effective system was in place to drive improvement within all our schools. Working with the sector, the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership has been established and has formally taken the lead in strategic planning from September 2016 with a view of maintaining connectivity in an ever changing landscape. The Lincolnshire Learning Partnership is unique and enables all schools and academies to thrive, using the skills within the sector via Teaching Schools, Multi Academy Trusts, commercial school improvement, and individual schools. Lincolnshire County Council provides support and challenge to the system through the use of four Locality Leads to ensure quality of provision and appropriate action is taken by the school or academy to improve. Locality Leads engage with schools that are at risk and pursue improvement through regular monitoring and challenge meetings. Predominantly, the resource in the system is within the sector and our function is to ensure connections between effective practices are shared and enhanced across the districts and county.

Mechanisms to support the achievement of Looked After Children are led by Lincolnshire County Council's Virtual School which is a team of teachers and dedicated education professionals who work to support the education of Lincolnshire's Looked After Children although our children also remain the responsibility of the school at which they are enrolled. As a 'Corporate Parent' for Looked After Children, the role of the Virtual School is to champion the educational needs of our young people. This involves monitoring progress and attendance, supporting our young people and professionals around them, quality assuring personal education plans, planning targeted interventions and celebrating achievements. The Virtual School works with schools, carers, social workers, health professionals and education professionals, to help children achieve their full potential. It offers practical support for children, young people and their carers throughout their education. The Virtual School will challenge and offer support to young people and professionals to ensure that the best possible progress is made by the young person, in the best possible educational placement. In addition, the Locality Leads challenge and support schools regarding their performance in relation to Looked After Children. We are aspirational for standards of educational provision for our Looked After Children to be good or better (as judged by Ofsted). Further tuition and additional learning experiences should add value to their learning based on the knowledge and expertise in the school at which they attend. In September 2016 83% of our young people in care attended schools graded good or better by Ofsted, and the Virtual School ensures that no child is placed inappropriately in a school graded less than good.

It is important to highlight that this report was written against an ever changing background of accountability and responsibility resting increasingly with schools.

Key Stage 4 performance in Lincolnshire and complicating factors

There are 46,452 secondary aged pupils in Lincolnshire, with approximately 6500 in Year 11 of which 1600 are deemed to be disadvantaged, with outcomes for disadvantaged pupils being below the national average in Lincolnshire. In 2016, 31% of disadvantaged children achieved 5 A*-C including English and Maths compared to 63% for non-disadvantaged pupils. The gap is defined as the difference between the 31% and the 63% which means that Lincolnshire has a gap of 32% between the achievement of disadvantaged pupils and their peers. This is of concern and is a priority for the Local Authority and schools.

Attainment and progress at Key Stage 4 for our Lincolnshire Looked After Children has been in line with the average for Looked After Children nationally over the last 4 years (2011-2015). In 2016, 51 students (in care 12 months) were eligible to sit GCSEs. The national average for Children in Care achieving 5 good A*- C grades (including English and Maths) has remained stubbornly low at around 15% (achieving 5 A*-C GCSE's including English and Maths) when compared to the performance of all other children nationally.

Children experiencing disadvantage are eligible for Pupil Premium funding which is to enable further support to be given to address under achievement, recognising the gap between them and their peers. Pupil Premium funding is targeted at those children who are eligible for Free School Meals.

In the 2016 to 2017 financial year, schools will receive the following funding for each child registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years:

- £1,320 for pupils in reception year to year 6
- £935 for pupils in year 7 to year 11

Schools will also receive £1,900 for each pupil identified in the spring school census as having left local authority care because of one of the following:

- adoption
- a special guardianship order
- a child arrangements order
- a residence order

If a pupil has been registered as eligible for free school meals and has also left local authority care for any of the reasons above, they will attract the £1,900 rate.

There are many complicating variables which impact upon performance and this section will highlight a number of them.

Lincolnshire is in the 40th percentile levels of disadvantage. This means it is in the upper half compared nationally (1st percentile being the most disadvantaged). It is perhaps not a surprise to confirm that local authorities with lower levels of

disadvantage experience higher educational achievement, although this is not the case in all circumstances. Educational outcomes in London tend to be higher, even in areas of relative disadvantage, but this highlights a further compounding issue, that of school funding per pupil.

Lincolnshire is funded less per pupil than many other Local Authorities and it is perhaps not surprising to note that some authorities, who have better educational outcomes than Lincolnshire (many top performing areas are based in London), are funded at a higher per pupil rate. The government are committed to addressing this through the Fairer Funding Formula, due to be introduced in a few years' time. Lincolnshire County Council has actively campaigned for fairer funding.

A further issue relates to the recruitment and retention of skilled staff across the County which varies at district level and presents a number of challenges. It is particularly difficult to attract high quality skilled practitioners to areas of high deprivation such as East Lindsey. The spread of disadvantaged learners across individual schools is irregular with some schools having over 50% disadvantaged learners within one school and others having much smaller numbers. Ensuring the most disadvantaged children experience the best teaching is highly complex and not simple to achieve.

Support provided to Schools to improve their Key Stage 4 performance.

Our duty as a Local Authority is to champion outcomes for all learners so that they are well prepared for the world of work and adulthood. In June 2016 the East Midlands Challenge identified that the region needed to improve the outcomes of disadvantaged learners specifically. As a result a range of conferences, sharing best practice events, and joint working through the Teaching Schools has evolved. In addition, from September 2016 school inspections have focused on the progress and achievements of disadvantaged pupils, with the framework expecting inspectors to form a judgement on the effectiveness of the school in supporting disadvantaged pupils to progress and achieve. Ofsted also expect schools to publish how they use the pupil premium funding with an expectation that detailed plans are published on line and include:

- the number of eligible pupils
- what their needs are
- what support will be delivered
- how impact will be measured and when
- a review of the impact of the intervention delivered

The Education Team have communicated this to all settings and offered support on request to ensure compliance is maintained. Locality Leads also check websites and provision based upon these plans. Many schools also request a formal independent review of the use of their pupil premium.

In Lincolnshire, there is a lot to be proud of and the following summarises what is already working well:

- All schools are aware of disadvantaged pupils and take ownership for the planning of interventions and further support through the use of Pupil Premium funding.
- Partnerships and clusters of schools, enabled by the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership, are supporting one another in sourcing relevant staff for additional tutoring. However, this is not consistent across the county and there is a general teacher recruitment issue in some districts. Academies are using alternative strategies to attract and employ teachers and Lincolnshire is supporting school based teacher training via the Teaching Schools.
- Lincolnshire schools are becoming more confident in utilising their best teachers to target disadvantaged pupils, but this does have the impact of needing to replace class teachers from a limited pool of potential candidates.
- Peer reviews are focusing on disadvantaged pupils and the provision being made for them. Schools are aware of needing to narrow the gap and actively focusing on this.
- Schools are working collaboratively on school improvement activities to strengthen provision and develop alternative models to engage and motivate learners through sharing expertise, knowledge and resources.
- Lincolnshire County Council Locality Leads maintain oversight and challenge with schools, making an offer to academies, to ensure they are taking the correct steps to support and improve outcomes for learners, particularly disadvantaged.
- The four Lincolnshire County Council Locality Leads work with schools, clusters and networks. They facilitate school improvement activities with the Teaching Schools and provide insight to the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership of schools' effectiveness.
- Many schools and academies are now focusing more on mental health and well-being through professional development and training.
- Schools across Lincolnshire keenly recognise the importance of mental well-being and as a consequence of this are instilling a learning culture based upon positive behavioural expectations, a can do approach to challenge within learning (growth mind-set), identifying individual needs of learners and helping children to recognise how they learn best (metacognition).
- Research is being promoted nationally and the Department for Education has earmarked significant funding to 11 research schools for the country as a whole. Lincolnshire has one called the Kyra Research School which is part of the Kyra Teaching School Alliance based in Lincoln and West Lindsey. They have a significant group of schools, approximately 50, which they regularly work with providing professional development. This strand of work will enable focused research activity to take place in clusters, districts, and across Lincolnshire to benefit Lincolnshire children. They are already in discussions with Lincolnshire County Council/Lincolnshire Learning Partnership regarding themes and issues for future research projects.
- There are examples of excellent working relationships between key adults in schools and disadvantaged learners that make a significant difference.
- Some schools recognise that intervention and further tutoring are not effective when home school links are not strong, and/or parents feel

disenfranchised from the educational experience. For example, some schools are beginning to develop broader family learning programmes to address parental reluctance or refusal to accept additional support for their children.

- Schools and academies have chosen to engage in work to improve relationship between parents, children and teachers to increase aspiration and outcomes for learners. This has been delivered through:
 - School cluster development work and activities
 - Lincolnshire Inclusion Team and associated training offer which has developed the importance of positive relationships between parents, children and school
- Some Schools are participating in national research projects such as the 'Families and Schools Working Together' programme developed by Save the Children and the University of York that develops positive parenting within the context of schools working with families (Please see Background Documents).

Support provided to Looked After Children

Additional support for Children in Care is provided to schools through the Virtual School primarily through the allocation of 'The LAC Pupil Premium Grant' to support the child in the school they attend. The home school has the responsibility for the progress and attainment of our Looked After Children. The Virtual School also provides advice and support to schools as follows:

- English and Maths tuition provided by the Virtual School at home and in school through Electronic Personal Education Plan (Epep) process
- Exam practice sessions
- Virtual School mentoring and intervention to ensure students are supported through the stressful exam period particularly between November-June in Year 11
- Applications for special consideration such as extra time in exams from exam boards
- Tracking of progress through six weekly school survey cycle by the Virtual School with follow up through the Electronic Personal Education Plan (Epep) process or more regular intervention, support and advice if appropriate
- Three Epeps per year as a minimum with regular contact with students and schools on impact of additional support from Virtual School Coordinators
- Working with schools to ensure re-marks of exams are timely where necessary
- Early and regular intervention from Year 10 to include Maths and English catch up over the Summer Holidays before going into Year 11.
- The Virtual School also supports the training of Designated Teachers, Foster Carers and Social Care Teams on educational matters

Best practice at other councils for improving Key Stage 4 performance of all pupils and Looked After Children

To inform the Working Group, a review of the practice across the country was carried out through reviewing data, Ofsted analysis of regions and knowledge of effective areas highlighted in national publications from the Department for Education. This was intended to give the Working Group an understanding of effective practice to help reduce the educational gap for children experiencing disadvantage against their peers within a national context.

The Working Group carried out conversations with Nottinghamshire County Council, at the East Midlands Education Network events, and with contacts in London Boroughs to draw conclusions around what could be done differently or additionally to the existing offer in Lincolnshire. Members of the Working Group have undertaken visits to schools and events to explore work being delivered in the county, including the work of the Young Peoples Learning Partnership and University College London. Ten Lincolnshire schools are currently participating in the University's Promoting the Achievement of Looked After Children (PALAC) programme and this work was considered.

Research has been carried out around authorities achieving above the National average for disadvantaged learners specifically. This has focussed on the provision in Barnet, Camden, Gloucestershire, Hammersmith & Fulham, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington, Lambeth and Southwark. This has been very informative to strengthen the recommendations provided below and recognise the differences between what works well and can be transferred to a large rural county such as Lincolnshire.

Further conversations will be maintained through these avenues as well as specifically for Looked After Children through the East Midlands Regional Virtual Heads Group.

Looking at the work of other Local Authorities has been helpful, but has not necessarily provided an insight into what could be done differently in Lincolnshire as each Local Authority has a different context, structure and model of school improvement based on its strategic direction and circumstances. For example, some Local Authorities maintain a significant school improvement service that trades training, materials and resources around this topic, but generally, as the majority of secondary schools have become academies, all Local Authorities recognise that academies do not have to engage or participate with the Local Authority, as their lines of accountability are with the Regional Schools Commissioner and Secretary of State. Therefore, most authorities take the role of champion of pupil outcomes, offering influence and a strategic view of what needs to be improved and this is communicated through head teacher briefings and networking events which Lincolnshire does regularly.

Proposed alternative learning methods and support that could be used in schools to raise the attainment levels of pupils at Key Stage 4

The Working Group recognises that the funding and selection of materials, resources, interventions and staff are the responsibility of the educational setting

where the learner attends. The role of the Local Authority is to effectively share best practice regularly through the most appropriate forums and to influence schools through its democratic mandate. The Working Group has discussed some of the good practice as outlined in the report as well as considered a number of others from their own experiences of school visits.

Educational research is accessible through the nationally funded "Education Endowment Foundation" and this resource provides a useful way of engaging in and disseminating research. The Education Endowment Foundation provide a wealth of research on effective interventions with many of their research studies focusing on raising the attainment levels of disadvantaged pupils and Looked After Children. We are fortunate that the Education Endowment Foundation is a working partner with the LLP and continues to support the development of new research projects in the county. For example over 300 Lincolnshire schools and academies are participating in a county wide project (The Mobilise Project) around 'Making effective use of Teaching Assistants' in partnership with the Education Endowment Foundation, commissioned by the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership and supported by Lincolnshire County Council. This is to ensure that research and interventions are being utilised and have high impact on pupil outcomes. Further detail on The Mobilise Project is provided in the Background Documents section.

Lincolnshire County Council operates a community learning partnership which provides a family learning offer that is used well in primary schools. Engaging parents in their child's learning is crucial and has been shown to have positive impact on a child's achievement. The Working Group considered the role of this offer in supporting disadvantaged pupils and felt that family learning could be a route to further increase participation of families in education and thereby increase aspiration.

Consequently, a series of recommendations have been created that the School Performance Working Group feel could positively contribute to improved outcomes for disadvantaged and Looked After Children.

2. Conclusion and Recommendations

The School Performance Working Group recommends the following next steps be taken to support this area of improvement within Lincolnshire:

1. Lincolnshire County Council locality leads to frequently include disadvantaged and Children Looked After in regular reviews of school performance.
2. Lincolnshire County Council Locality Leads support and challenge leaders to champion outcomes for disadvantaged and Looked After Children.
3. Lincolnshire Locality Leads to co-ordinate and maintain knowledge of skills, expertise and best practice from the sector and enable it to be shared at district level where resources, staffing and additional provision could be arranged and delivered effectively.

4. Focused/themed success workshops should be developed in localities so that detailed needs are identified, solutions proposed and resources shared swiftly and with precision.
5. Lincolnshire County Council to promote and signpost access to high quality additional support through universities, teaching schools for professional development and pupil premium reviews. Where appropriate, schools will be strongly encouraged to commission a pupil premium review.
6. Consider the development of a pilot of families and schools working together effectively to support educational attainment and outcomes through either:
 - a. Signposting to schools to participate in this area of work with a provider
 - b. Commission Kyra as the research school to provide and deliver this aspect of work
7. Schools to provide access to individual mentoring for Disadvantaged and Looked After Children through Virtual School pilot project.
8. Encourage and support schools to engage in the Kyra Research School in a co-ordinated approach to improving outcomes for disadvantaged children through research based evidence of best practice that links areas of need, for example, accelerating progress in reading.
9. Promoting the achievement of Looked After Children through the PALAC programme. Ten schools are involved as of December 2016, with a view of supporting its expansion further.
10. Promote the Education Awards in Lincolnshire and celebrate the diversity of successes and achievements across all schools and learners across all key stages.
11. Continue to maintain a view of best practice to be shared regionally by placing a standing item on Regional Virtual School Heads Agenda and cascade back to Lincolnshire schools via Headteacher briefings.
12. Virtual School and Lincolnshire Children's University to focus on Looked After Children to include the use of the children's passport to promote educational outcomes.
13. High quality maths and English specialist tuition to be provided through the developing partnership between the Virtual School and Young People's Learning Programme to provide more effective interventions for Looked After Children at Key Stage Four.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Families and Schools Working Together	http://www.familiesandschoolstogether.com/content/home
The Mobilise Project - Making Effective use of Teaching Assistants	http://mobilise.kyrateachingschool.com/
The Education Endowment Foundation (Sutton Trust) - Pupil Premium Toolkit	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/resources/teaching-learning-toolkit

This report was written by Martin Smith who can be contacted on 01522 552253 or martin.smith@lincolnshire.gov.uk and Kieran Barnes, who can be contacted on 01522 550274 and kieran.barnes@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 January 2017
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Panel Update

Summary:

The work of the Corporate Parenting Panel remains critical in promoting life chances and opportunities for vulnerable children, looked after children and care leavers. Members act as champions on behalf of these groups of children and young people. The Panel meets on a quarterly basis and includes representatives from looked after children and foster carers.

Through the presentation of reports, performance information, and Visiting Members responsibilities, the Panel scrutinise that the arrangements for the safety and welfare of looked after children and care leavers are in accordance with what every good parent would want for their own child.

It is agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel be presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, and attached are the draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel and to consider the matters raised and addressed.

1. Background

The Panel meets quarterly and is continually evolving and is very proactive in seeking information to inform Members about the quality of services provided by the Local Authority and partner agencies, as is evidenced in the recording of the minutes.

2. Conclusion

The ongoing scrutiny process looking at how well we meet our respective responsibilities and the different aspects of a child and young person's needs is pivotal to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel. The attached minutes provide an account of the work undertaken since the previous Panel held on 8th September 2016.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Corporate Parenting Panel Meeting Draft Minutes 15/12/2016

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tara Jones, Service Manager Regulated Services, who can be contacted on 01522 552686 or tara.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
15 DECEMBER 2016**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR D BRAILSFORD (CHAIRMAN)

Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors J D Hough (Vice-Chairman), R A H McAuley and Mrs N J Smith

Added Members: Jean Burbidge (Lincolnshire Community Health Services), Polly Coombes (Foster Carer) and Ann Wright (Foster Carer)

No Councillors attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Michelle Andrews (Head of Birth to Five Service), Kieran Barnes (Head of Virtual School, Looked After Children), Andrea Brown (Democratic Services Officer), John Harris (Service Manager Regulated North and Fostering), John Herbert (Youth Development Hub Manager), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Tara Jones (Service Manager Regulated South and Adoption), Kerry Mitchell (Assistant Director - Barnardo's), Yvonne Shearwood (Quality and Assurance Manager) and Janice Spencer (Assistant Director Safeguarding)

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Wootten, P J O'Connor and A G Hagues.

There were no replacement members in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs N J Smith following her appointment to the Panel in place of Councillor R J Hunter-Clarke.

29 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Members' interests at this point in the meeting.

30 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31 VISITING MEMBERS QUARTERLY REPORT

Consideration was given to a report in relation to the Visiting Members' Log of quarterly visits to Children's Homes.

The Panel was advised that the concerns raised regarding the property issues at Haven Cottage were being addressed. Work was to commence in the third week of January to the corridors which would mean that the home would be closed between two and three weeks to minimise any disruption. It was anticipated that short breaks would be offered to families during this time.

Members of the Panel were invited to ask questions on the content of the report, during which the following point was noted:-

- A number of emergency admissions at Albion Street had contributed to increased issues including outstanding oversight and monitoring protocols not being completed. The rating of the home immediately dropped from 'outstanding' to 'requires improvement' and a lot of work had been subsequently taken to raise staff morale, to promote the purpose of the home to both staff and young people, all of whom were now settled and regularly attending school, and to reinstate the equilibrium and 'outstanding' rating.

RESOLVED

That the Visiting Members log of quarterly visits be noted.

32 PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 2

The Corporate Parenting Panel received the performance report for key performance indicators (KPIs) relevant to the work of the Panel. It was reported that there were four KPIs which were underreporting although the Panel was advised that targets remained aspirational and set at a very high level.

The following was noted in relation to some of the indicators:-

Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement:

- There has been a steady improvement in the performance in this area. A focus group with foster carers had been held and it was hoped that this indicator would provide a better understanding of the support required by foster carers to sustain permanent places.

Participation of LAC in reviews:

- This indicator had not been met due to three reviews which had not been attended by LAC;
- It was confirmed that these were unaccompanied asylum seeking children who had absconded from placement at the time of the review;
- The Panel was advised that in these circumstances, the police were informed in addition to the Border Agency and Home Office. A risk assessment was

also undertaken to enable a decision to be taken in terms of risk for those children;

- It had been recently reported by a Foster Carer that they believed the child in their care was older than first thought as he was in possession of a passport and funds. The Panel was advised that there was difficulty in ascertaining the age of some asylum seekers and this did provide additional complications.

Percentage of Looked After Children with an up to date routine immunisations:

- The target for this indicator had not been met and the Panel was advised that teenagers were able to opt out of immunisation. Nurses were, however, good at encouraging them to have these but it was thought the indicator had not been met due to a small number of young people who refuse;
- It was confirmed that 100% of under 5s were up to date with immunisations. The Panel asked if a breakdown for over 11s and under 11s could be provided in the next report.

Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation:

- The Panel was pleased to note that the target for this indicator had been exceeded. Negotiations with landlords had been a success with a small number now renting properties to care leavers. This work continued.

RESOLVED

That the performance information presented be noted.

At 10.23am, Councillor J D Hough, Vice-Chairman, joined the meeting.

33 REGULATION 44 REPORTS - 6 MONTHLY SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT VISITING SERVICE

The Corporate Parenting Panel received the half yearly report for the Independent Visiting Service from April 2016 to September 2016 where it was reported that all homes within the Local Authority, including the secure unit, had been rated as 'good' or 'outstanding'.

It was explained to the Panel that the model included within the Regulation 44 report had been adopted and rolled out in all homes. Page 34 of the agenda pack referred to recruitment campaigns and the Panel was advised that the marketing of these campaign drives was not independent but an internal recruitment team who had undertaken this specific piece of work.

During discussion of this item, the following points were noted:-

- The Panel was pleased to note that Ildiko Kiss (Regulation 43 Officer) appeared to be welcomed in the role, albeit a critical role, but generally was felt to be supporting homes now which resulted in better communication;
- Following the incident at the secure unit, it had been reported by the Youth Justice Board that the staff could not have done any more to manage or

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
15 DECEMBER 2016**

prevent that loss of control. The Panel was advised that the staff went through an horrific ordeal during the incident and were now being fully supported;

- The report indicated that Strut House had not yet been inspected, however the Panel was advised that the inspection had been carried out on 15 November 2016 and that the report found the home to be 'outstanding';
- Recruitment of staff remained an issue, particularly in certain areas including the Beacon in Grantham. Recruitment advertising was being widened to neighbouring authorities in an attempt to attract more applicants;
- Older staff occasionally found it difficult to continue with certain functions of the role, i.e. restraint. Work was ongoing to provide those staff with ability to move in to other roles, for example early health teams, to provide initial support to families;
- The application form had also been amended as it had been found that the original system of applying for these roles had been a key deterrent for applicants;
- The review of applicants also suggested that the right people were not being attracted and it was thought that this may be due to the grade offered;
- The Panel was assured that all homes were now fully established but some vacancies had arisen in frontline positions due to substantive postholders taking maternity leave, for example. The report referred to recruitment issues prior to September 2016 which had now been addressed.

RESOLVED

That the content of the Regulation 44 Reports – 6 monthly summary of Independent Visiting Service be noted.

34 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE SIX MONTHLY UPDATE

The Corporate Parenting Panel received the Six Monthly Update of the Independent Reviewing Service from April 2016 to September 2016 which provided an overview of looked after children from the perspective of the Independent Reviewing Service.

The Panel was reminded that every child looked after by Lincolnshire County Council was required to have a Care Plan detailing the long term plan for the child's upbringing. There was also a requirement to have an Independent Reviewing Officer appointed to them under Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. The Independent Reviewing Officers handbook specified that continuity should be provided and that they should strive to establish a consistent relationship with the child.

The last six months had brought a number of challenges which included an increase in the number of children who were looked after in addition to staffing shortages. However, all of these challenges had been responded to positively by the teams involved, with the children remaining the focus of the service. It was recognised that more work needed to be done to ensure the number of children attending reviews was increased and that the relationships with young people and their expectations from these meetings be identified and acknowledged.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- Children were now included when setting up the review meetings to give them a greater sense of ownership which had resulted in increased engagement;
- It was agreed that some young people were not confident in settings where a number of people were in attendance, especially if they felt they were being talked about. Part of the challenge was to include young people in the discussions and understand their views;
- "Keep in touch" meetings with young people were implemented to give the opportunity for issues to be raised in a much more relaxed way. More active and two-way communications were being implemented as a matter of course rather than as a set process to follow. These issues had also been discussed at the Big Conversation;
- It was difficult to be specific about the reasons for the low figures for the number of pathway plans and medical assessments however young people had the right to decline a health assessment and there was perhaps a need to explore how better levels of engagement could be reached. In terms of pathway plans this had been identified as an area of difficulty and there had been considerable work undertaken in order to revise the format of the plans and make these more child friendly. It was noted that there had been recent improvements in the plans for both of these areas. It was also noted that there was sometimes a delay in confirming medical appointments, however the IROs would, in future, make use of the current medical assessment as long as it was clear that there were plans for the next six monthly assessment to take place;
- A suggestion was made that all health assessments should be on file to be checked against even if the most recent had not yet been completed. This was agreed;
- Foster Carers were concerned that they did not fully understand the Signs of Safety following implementation and were finding it difficult to review areas as they were unsure what the benchmark was. It was agreed that an explanation of the benchmarks would be issued to Foster Carers but that the method for doing so was to be agreed.

RESOLVED

That the content of the Six Monthly Update of the Independent Reviewing Service be noted.

35 V4C THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN COUNCIL QUARTERLY MINUTES AND ANNUAL REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Panel received the V4C Annual Report which provided detail of the new model of V4C where new quadrant meetings would commence in January 2017.

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The FAB! Awards were particularly mentioned due to the potential relocation of the venue from the Lincolnshire Showground to the City of Lincoln Academy. The event was also moving to July 2017 to enable more outdoor activities.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- The feedback received from Looked After Children noted within Appendix C to the report was gained from the opportunity the children were given to provide that feedback. Concern was noted that some children may not have the confidence to feedback to their social worker, and it was explained that there were a number of channels available to young people, including the Independent Reviewing Officers and Advocacy Service;
- Feedback was also gained from the Tell Us Survey which was reviewed by the Children's Services Manager (Regulated – South and Adoption) who would identify any issues raised with the relevant Social Worker and Manager;
- It was reported that the most common complaint received from children was the time taken for the Social Worker to respond to them;
- There was a concern that there was some misinterpretation of the regulations in relation to families of foster carers requiring DBS checks before they were able to stay with family. Officers agreed to look at this further to understand where the confusion lay;
- The new model would have each quadrant holding a minimum of seven meetings in addition to three Big Conversation meetings to which Councillors would be invited. The V4C Executive would continue to meet three times per year and would include some of the members from the Quadrant groups;
- Members of the V4C Executive who were over 16 would not be excluded and would be used to guide younger members and become mentors for these groups. The Panel suggested that the Looked After Children age bracket be amended from 8-16 to 8-18.

RESOLVED

That the content of the V4C Looked After Children Council Quarterly Minutes and Annual report be noted.

36 ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE ON PRIVATE FOSTERING 2015/16

The Corporate Parenting Panel received a report which provided information on the performance and developments within Private Fostering. It was noted that approval was required for the Private Fostering Annual Report 2015/16 and the Statement of Purpose 2016/17 from the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services.

Members were invited to ask questions, during which the following points were noted:-

- The report referred to the provision of advice to Private Foster Carers in relation to education for children. It was explained that this would be offered on an individual basis as this was not in the domain of the school as the children were not Looked After Children. They did, however, have Social

Workers from the Looked After Children's team so would receive this support but in a different way;

- It was acknowledged that a balance was needed in relation to private arrangements and the potential interference of the state as there was no framework in place for those children in the 'grey' areas which made them difficult to track and manage;
- The Panel was assured that, in order to manage that type of situation, the Social Worker would proactively raise any concerns with parents following which there would be the ability to issue a prohibition notice to enforce authority fostering, should that be required.

RESOLVED

That the Corporate Parenting Panel recommends the approval of the Private Fostering Annual Report 2015/16 and the Statement of Purpose 2016/17.

37 THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LINCOLNSHIRE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT

The Corporate Parenting Panel received the Annual Report of the Virtual School for Lincolnshire Looked After Children November 2015-October 2016.

It was reported that there had been an increase in Looked After Children to 520 which had resulted in an increase in staff. The Panel was advised that interviews had been held in November and a full complement of staff put in place as a result.

A bid to the Education Business Partnership (EBP) to engage in a business mentoring process for children between eight and 19 years old had been successful and would commence in January 2017. There would be 50 children included within the first year with a view to increasing that figure to over 100 hundred. The Panel would receive an evaluation report in 2017.

Members were invited to ask questions, during which the following points were noted:-

- The Vice-Chairman reported that he had attended PALAC, Promoting Achievement of Looked After Children, with the Chairman which had highlighted the difficulties found by some teachers to successfully use ePEPS and also the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The Panel was assured that these cases were isolated and when looked at further were generally as a result of a transition period from an experienced member of staff to a new employee;
- The Vice-Chairman had attended a conference in London on 1st December 2016 where the role of corporate parenting was discussed. It was reported that Scotland had changed the role of the corporate parent where all partners had responsibility for corporate parenting and this had shown evidence of some success. The Panel requested further information on this particular model as it was suggested that this may be beneficial to Lincolnshire;

- The Vice-Chairman visited the Young People's Learning Provision (YPLP) and had been impressed with the work undertaken.

RESOLVED

That the content of the Virtual School for Lincolnshire Looked After Children Annual Report be noted.

38 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

Consideration was given to the Work Programme and the Panel was reminded that the next meeting would take place on 16 March 2017.

It was requested, and agreed, that the item entitled Corporate Parenting Strategy Review be deferred from the next meeting to the June meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme as presented, with the amendment noted above, be agreed.

The meeting closed at 12.02 pm

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 January 2017
Subject:	Centre for Public Scrutiny's Guide to Scrutinising Children's Safeguarding Arrangements

Summary:

On 9 October 2015 the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee was asked to consider and comment on the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) 21 questions guide for Councillors on Safeguarding Children.

It was agreed following this that Officers would be requested to furnish the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with assurance in respect of the questions set out in the CfPS Guide 2015.

This report sets out the work undertaken across Children's Services in response to the questions 18, 20 and 21.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to seek assurance on the contents of the response provided and highlight any recommendations or further actions required.

1. Background

Elected Members need to feel confident that Safeguarding Services in Lincolnshire are effective and sufficiently robust in identifying, responding to and meeting needs, where children are deemed to be at risk of significant harm, or Children in Need.

Previous assurance has been sought through a Frontline Social Worker and Safeguarding Scrutiny Review undertaken in 2013/14 which supported improvements in practice and monitored progress until all recommendations were implemented.

Recent National scandals around Child Sexual Exploitation have called for a renewed and reinvigorated approach to scrutinising the work of Children's Services Safeguarding practices.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny has developed 21 key scrutiny questions for Safeguarding. This focused approach enables members to adopt a critical check and challenge of the performance and quality of services provided to children and families within their Council.

It equally provides a mechanism for debate and discussion and seeks to identify areas of good practice and areas of challenge.

In Lincolnshire the improvement and safeguarding outcomes for all children is an explicit objective, which is evidence led, efficient and with resources fit for purpose.

This is evidenced through:

Question 18:

How robust and systematic is the Local Authority's approach to assessments of need?

A social care assessment is completed on every child who has met the threshold of needing assessment and intervention from social care. Social care assessments are completed by qualified social workers.

The assessment covers the domains of the child, parenting capacity and family and environmental factors.

Do assessments routinely meet the quality standards set out by the latest statutory guidance including:

Taking a systematic and evidence based approach?

Signs of Safety is the evidence based approach used. Information is gathered from agencies involved with the family, consent from the parents or carers is requested. The range of agencies this could include are schools, health professionals, nurseries, police, probation, adult mental health services and child mental health services, housing and adult services.

A review of any past history that is held on the child and family is a key aspect of ensuring an evidence based approach and this can include contacting other local authorities.

The information is analysed using Signs of Safety developing danger statements and safety goals.

The Signs of Safety approach considers what the strengths and safety are within a family, what areas of worry there is, both harm and complicating factors, and what needs to happen to mitigate the harm and complicating factors.

Using a child centred approach?

The child's voice is critical in adopting a child centred approach and direct work is undertaken with children through the process of the assessment. Social workers have a range of tools to undertake this with all ages of children from very young children thorough to young people.

In the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI), October 2016, inspectors commented "The voice of the child is well represented and where the child is pre-verbal, developmental milestones and attachment are carefully considered through observation and health reports. Direct work with children informs assessments and plans."

Focusing on actions and outcomes for the child?

A plan of intervention is developed, focusing on what needs to happen with an emphasis on what the safety goals are and a safety plan to achieve them.

The inspectors in the JTAI also highlighted how the focus is on the individual needs of children "They use this information (from the child) to better protect children and provide appropriate support for their individual needs."

Taking an integrated approach across a variety of services and areas of need?

The assessment and interventions take a multi-agency approach. The areas of need are identified and the appropriate interventions are determined, utilising both professional services and the family themselves. This is reviewed through multi-agency child in need meetings or core groups if the child is on a child protection plan.

Ensuring that assessments are a continuing process rather than a one-off event?

The child in need plan or child protection plan are regularly reviewed on a multi-agency basis and in the social workers individual supervision to ensure that assessment is a continual process and not a one off event. This ensures that there is no drift and delay.

Focusing on the child's developmental needs and whether they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm?

The focus of the assessment is on the impact of the presenting issues on the developmental needs of the child and how these can be mitigated. The assessment identifies what harm there is and as the inspectors in the JTAI commented "Danger statements are used within assessments, and make the presenting risks, including from domestic abuse, really clear."

If a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, the social worker's supervisor in consultation with the social worker will consider if child protection

procedures should be actioned which could result in a child protection conference to determine if the child should be subject to a child protection plan.

Considering parents and carers capacities?

This is a key element of the Signs of Safety methodology, and any assessment will consider what the child's needs are and the capacity of the parent or carer to meet these needs. The safety plan will look at what needs to happen.

Looking at the impact of wider family, community and environmental circumstances?

An element of the assessment is considering the impact of the wider family, community and environmental factors. The safety plan developed will incorporate wider family and friends to support the parents and carers if there are deficits in their parenting capacity. This can be done through a family network meeting or through the family group conference service depending on the needs of the family.

Question 20:

How effective are local safeguarding services in establishing a partnership approach with parents? How are the needs of vulnerable parents taken into account through services and support to enable them to participate effectively in assessments?

The effectiveness of local safeguarding services in establishing a partnership approach was highlighted in the JTAI, October 2016, although the focus was on domestic abuse in the inspection, the same approach covers all aspects of interventions.

"The LSCB effectively monitors and evaluates the work of the statutory partners, with a range of examples of real impact that is making a difference for children. For example, the approach to preventative work with children in Lincolnshire, managed and promoted through the LSCB, is a particular strength."

The multi-agency approach includes services focused on the needs of parents as well as children, for example, probation, adult mental health services, adult social care.

If a parent has particular needs such as a learning difficulty, the assessment process is adapted using specific tools. If an in depth parenting assessment is required of parents with learning difficulties, social workers have been trained to use PAMS which enables the assessment to take into account their learning needs and how these can be best supported.

The Signs of Safety framework ensures that the parents participate fully as it focuses the assessment and the plans on how the parents will develop their own solutions to the risks identified in the danger statements, though the safety plans, with support from family, friends and agencies.

Question 21:

How well do local services adhere to timelines for assessment and intervention?

What is the local performance data?

The performance data is scrutinised on a monthly basis by the senior management team, and team managers also have mechanisms in place to ensure that assessments are completed in a timely way.

The most up to date information is from the November performance report. The target set for 2016/17 was for 92% of assessments to be completed within the 45 day timescale. This is a challenging target. In 2014/2015, 87.7% of assessments were completed in time and in 2015/2016, 88.3% were completed in time. As of November 2016, 88.85% were completed in the timescale. There can be a number of factors that result in assessments not being completed in timescales, including lack of availability of the worker due to sickness or leave, difficulties getting information from other agencies, or lack of engagement from the family.

Lincolnshire is performing better than both their statistical neighbours and England overall. The England rate in 2015/2016 was 83.4% and our statistical neighbours reported 86.25% in 2015/2016.

Interventions are managed through plans whether they are child in need plans or child protection plans. It is an expectation that every child has a plan and this is monitored through the monthly performance report. The quality of plans and interventions is reviewed in supervision with the social worker and through audit.

2. Conclusion

Strategic Partners demonstrate mature relationships which facilitate effective, constructive challenge to ensure a shared local vision is translated and embedded in operational practice. This creates a culture in which all staff work to ensure every child in every part of the County achieves their potential.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 10D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Janice Spencer, Assistant Director Children's Services, who can be contacted on 01522 554476 or janice.spencer@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Policy and Scrutiny

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 January 2017
Subject:	DfE Innovation Joint Funding Bid with Compass

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the DfE Innovation Joint Funding Bid with Compass which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services on 30 January 2017. The views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of her consideration of this item.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to

- (1) consider the attached report and to determine whether the Committee supports the recommendation(s) to the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services as set out in the report.
- (2) agree any additional comments to be passed to the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services in relation to this item.

1. Background

The Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services is due to consider a report on the DfE Innovation Joint Funding Bid with Compass. The full report to the Executive Councillor is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

2. Conclusion

Following consideration of the attached report, the Committee is requested to consider whether it supports the recommendation(s) in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to the Executive Councillor. The Committee's views will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report.	
Appendix 1	Report to the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services on DfE Innovation Joint Funding Bid with Compass

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Mark Rainey, who can be contacted on 01522 554053 or mark.rainey@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services
Date:	30 January 2017
Subject:	DfE Innovation Joint Funding Bid with Compass
Decision Reference:	I012681
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

This report seeks to make recommendations regarding an Expression of Interest (EOI) submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) Innovation Fund by Lincolnshire County Council's Children's Services in partnership with Compass Outreach Services.

The proposal within the EOI is to adopt an Integrated Services Model between Social Care, Health and Public Health to deliver immediate and effective responses to address significant attachment and trauma needs of children, young people and their families/ carers. The service will also offer behaviour-management advice and support to services that support children and young people and their families, including foster carers. In addition, training programmes will be delivered to providers, foster carers and family members to help support children and young people on the 'edge of care' to ensure they are supported close to home in a sustainable manner.

As a result, Children's Services will see a reduction in risks and challenging behaviour; sustainment of a child or young person's placement in the most suitable environment, including immediate or wider family; an increase in the retention of foster carers; and an increase in the engagement of children and young people in education, employment and training.

A successful bid will bring £500,000 of additional monies into Lincolnshire to develop and implement the model and also provide additional support from Compass Outreach Service to embed the necessary infrastructure and 'culture-shift' required to deliver the service effectively.

The implications of a successful award will bestow upon the Authority the requirement to match-fund the service in Year 2 subject to successful completion and evidence of delivery of outcomes in Year 1.

The Executive Councillor is now asked, subject to award of funding by the DfE Innovation Fund, to approve the progression of the proposal to deliver the Integrated Services Model in Lincolnshire.

Recommendation(s):

That the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services:

1. Notes the submission of an Expression of Interest in DfE Innovation Funding and approves the making of such further applications as may be necessary to secure such funding;
2. Approves the adoption of the Integrated Services Model proposal set out in the Report, subject to award of funding by the DfE Innovation Fund;
3. Approves in principle the provision of £500,000 match funding in the second year subject to successful completion of the first year and evidence of the successful delivery of outcomes;
4. Delegates to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services, authority to approve acceptance of the funding if successful and if necessary, establish the necessary framework to deliver the service outlined in the proposal, monitor progress in Year 1 and evaluate the requirement to fund and approve the funding of the model into Year 2.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Do nothing
2. Commission the service either independently or with partners
3. Pursue the joint bid with Compass

Reasons for Recommendation:

- Addresses the gap in services relating to supporting children and young people and their families/ carers experiencing attachment and/or trauma issues and/or behavioural concerns.
- Brings funding of £500,000 into Lincolnshire to develop and implement a new service.
- Provides the opportunity to develop a multi-agency response to the issues highlighted above with an element of shared risk and responsibility across the sector.
- Offers the opportunity to promote Signs of Safety (SOS) across organisational boundaries.
- Offers additionality in the form of free support from a dedicated organisation experienced in change-management in the area of therapeutic interventions.
- Promises to deliver a reduction in risks and challenging behaviour; sustainment of a child or young person's placement in the most suitable environment, including immediate or wider family; an increase in the retention of foster carers; and an increase in engagement of children and young people in education, employment and training.

1. Background

Compass Outreach Service, in partnership with Norfolk County Council (NCC) and Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT), was successful in receiving funding in 2015 from 'wave 1' of the DfE Innovation Fund to work towards service integration across the social care, health, education and voluntary sectors in Norfolk. The stated aim of the service was to 'step-down' levels of need and associated costs by enhancing the level of support provided to the county's most vulnerable children and families.

Compass now intends to build on the success of the Wave 1 innovation projects in Norfolk (which delivered £3.9m worth of savings during the implementation and has been recommissioned by NCC and NSFT) and SOS through a collaboration of the two approaches to deliver multi-agency integration across the social care, education and health sectors in five other Local Authorities (LAs).

Lincolnshire County Council, due to its success in adopting and implementing SOS within Children's Services, is working in collaboration with Compass - along with Norfolk, Suffolk, Wakefield and West Sussex - to seek to access funding from Wave 2 of the DfE Innovation Fund to develop and implement an Integrated Services Model in the county.

Together with Compass, Lincolnshire County Council is seeking £500,000 of funding from the DfE to develop the model in Lincolnshire with Compass offering additional support in-kind to Children's Services to embed the necessary infrastructure and 'culture-shift' required within the whole sector to deliver the service effectively.

In return for the award of relevant funding, DfE will expect a comprehensive summary of the impact of the investment in the county together with a commitment – subject to satisfactory evaluation – to match-fund the project for a further year.

One integral element of the proposal will be to enhance collaboration between multi-agency partners in addressing the complex needs of children and young people in or on the edge of care, including attachment related difficulties and developmental trauma which often result in more children or young people in care; an increase in school exclusions; and a greater number of breakdowns in placements.

To facilitate this there is an ambition to extend the success of SOS across multi-agency networks to develop and implement a shared practice framework and language to enable a culture of trust, creativity and shared responsibility. This will enable the sector to more readily assess, share and manage risk effectively across social care, health and education.

The approach in Lincolnshire will seek to focus on the following three key areas:

1. Stabilisation of children and young people in foster care placements through the prevention of escalation of behaviours leading to placement breakdown whilst simultaneously providing dedicated training and support to foster

carers so they can utilise a range of models of intervention to manage behaviours and feel confident in fostering children in challenging circumstances, thereby improving children's emotional resilience, encouraging social stability and avoiding placement breakdown.

2. To work with the existing cohort of young people in 1:1 24/7 supported accommodation, using innovative approaches and a range of techniques to successfully engage with young people, towards behaviour settlement and change, leading to 'step down' into commissioned supported housing or help to broaden housing options such as the opportunity to return to the family home, where it is safe and suitable to do so.
3. To support young adolescents, and their families, who are on the edge of care to remain in the familial home through a range of intervention techniques to engage young people and their families resulting in behaviour change and/or de-escalation and develop the necessary resilience to manage behaviours in the future and maintain the sustainability of the family unit.

To achieve those aims and objectives, a multi-professional staff team will deliver an immediate, effective response - using a variety of evidence-based interventions - to address significant attachment and trauma needs as well as behavioural concerns. Lincolnshire will use a range of interventions built on authentic relationships work e.g. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT); educational and/or clinical psychology; social pedagogy; restorative practice; counselling etc. to young people living at home and/or in foster care placements and/or supported accommodation to avoid familial/ placement breakdown and/or manage transition to step-down provision.

The team will also offer behaviour-management advice and support to services who support young people (and families where young people are on the edge of care or have returned home); referrals to other specialist services; and/or signposting to associated support agencies. All of these interventions will be provided within the overarching framework of SOS to promote a shared understanding of safety and risk management.

In addition, training programmes will be provided for service providers who work with young people, including "train the trainer" programmes, and for foster carers, supported lodging providers, and family members of young people who are on the edge of care or have returned home to sustain placements in the most suitable, appropriate and cost-effective setting.

The investment in the specialist team will result in an increase in the number of children and young people being supported closer to home in a sustainable manner be that with families, foster carers or in 'general needs' supported accommodation.

A central tenet of activity will be to enhance the resilience of all users of the service, building confidence amongst the cohort to manage or reduce risk whilst moving forward in a positive way.

To monitor progress and evaluate delivery of outcomes, Lincolnshire proposes to focus on qualitative and quantitative measures in the following areas:

- Reduced risk – improving behaviours that reduce risk to the child or young person and their families or carers using a SOS scaled approach leading to reductions in escalation of need in terms of care, support and accommodation solutions.
- Additional support – partner agencies e.g. Police, Health, Youth Offending etc. report a reduction in support needs and/or intervention and/or recidivism. Measures may also include an increase in successful engagement with other agencies e.g. substance misuse services.
- Placement sustainment – children and young people achieve the outcomes identified in their support plan and 'move-on' into (semi-)independent living, step-down or familial living arrangements with no re-entry into high-cost accommodation placements. This should result in a reduction in the volume of expenditure on high cost placements.
- Foster carer retention – foster carers feel sufficiently well supported to enhance retention rates and enable recruitment of new foster carers through 'word-of-mouth' and marketing strategies. This should result in a reduction in the volume of expenditure on independent sector placements.
- Engagement with education, employment and training (EET) – levels of attendance and engagement will increase alongside a reduction in the number of NEET children and young people engaged with the service.

Evaluation of outcomes within these domains will enable the Local Authority to determine the success of the project financed through the DfE Innovation Fund and decide whether to match-fund the project in Year 2.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Do nothing - this means neither pursuing the proposal beyond the EOI stage nor consideration of commissioning independently or in partnership.
2. Commission the service either independently or with partners – source equivalent funding from within Lincolnshire County Council or seek to influence partners to (jointly) commission.
3. Pursue the joint bid with Compass – develop and implement the proposed service, subject to a successful bid, utilising funding from the DfE Innovation Fund.

Option 1 – Do Nothing

This means neither pursuing the proposal beyond the EOI stage nor consideration of commissioning independently or in partnership.

Advantages

- No additional costs or resource issues associated with developing and implementing the proposal or commissioning a service.

Disadvantages

- Does not address the gap in services relating to supporting children and young people and their families/ carers and foster carers.
- Does not offer the potential for cost avoidance of escalation of placements and/or preventing children on the edge of care being taken into care.
- Does not promote the use of SOS across organisational boundaries in Lincolnshire.
- Does not promote a multi-agency response and element of shared risk and responsibility in supporting children and young people and their families/ carers and foster carers.
- Does not provide additionality in the form of free support from a dedicated organisation experienced in change-management in the area of therapeutic interventions

Option 2 – Commission the service either independently or with partners

This means sourcing equivalent funding from within Lincolnshire County Council or seeking to influence partners to jointly commission the proposed service.

Advantages

- Addresses the gap in services relating to supporting children and young people and their families/ carers and foster carers.
- Not bound by the terms and conditions of the DfE Innovation Fund.
- Partners may be more focused on successful development and implementation if directly investing in the proposed service.

Disadvantages

- Requires £500,000 worth of funding to be found within Lincolnshire which could be utilised for other services.
- Likelihood of longer timescales to delivery if requires influencing of partner agencies to invest in such services.
- Does not provide additionality in the form of free support from a dedicated organisation experienced in change-management in the area of therapeutic interventions.

Option 3 – Pursue the joint bid with Compass

This means developing and implementing the proposed service, subject to the success of the bid, utilising funding from the DfE Innovation Fund.

Advantages

- Addresses the gap in services relating to supporting children and young people and their families/ carers and foster carers.
- Offers the potential for cost avoidance of escalation of placements and/or preventing children on the edge of care being taken into care.
- Does not require upfront funding of £500,000, which can then be utilised for other services, to develop and implement a new service in Lincolnshire.
- Opportunity to develop a multi-agency response to the issues highlighted above with an element of shared risk and responsibility across the sector.

- Opportunity to promote SOS across organisational boundaries.
- Offers additionality in the form of free support from a dedicated organisation experienced in change-management in the area of therapeutic interventions.

Disadvantages

- Additional costs or resources required to help develop the proposal and ensure successful implementation.
- Bound by the terms and conditions of the DfE Innovation Fund.
- Partners may not be as focused on successful development and implementation as not directly investing in the proposed service.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation
- Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
 - Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic
 - Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
 - Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

An Impact Assessment has not been completed relevant to this report as approval is still being sought from the DfE Innovation Fund regarding the proposed bid. The next stage will allow the Authority to more readily formulate its proposals and collaborate with partner agencies to clarify the detail of the approach. An Impact Assessment will then be considered as part of any development of the proposal beyond the initial EOI stage.

However, it should be noted that the hypothesis behind the EOI is that there is currently a clear gap in services and the introduction of multi-agency response within an Integrated Services model will only prove beneficial to groups with protected characteristics and, indeed, Lincolnshire as a whole.

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

The proposal within the EOI contributes to the following themes within the JSNA:

Be Healthy

The cohort likely to be in receipt of the service will include some children and young people with issues such as substance and alcohol misuse, offending behaviours and mental health problems. The support offered will empower children and young people and their families to address such issues as they move towards independent living, step-down services and/or return to familial settings. Those children and young people will be offered tailored support, including opportunities for education and training, leading to enhanced future prospects.

Stay Safe

One of the primary focuses of the service is to provide children and young people, along with family and carers (where applicable), with a safe and stable environment in which to address the behavioural concerns or attachment and trauma issues they may be facing. The support offered will help stimulate resilience keeping children and young people and their families safe from harm and enhancing opportunities for living successfully and independently in the community.

Enjoy and Achieve

A key part of the proposal is to enable children and young people to enter and/or maintain education and training opportunities. Individual support plans will be tailored to meet the needs of children and young people with regard to education and training. The service will support children and young people to attend educational establishments and often give them the chance to maintain their

educational commitments whilst making the transition to independent living.

Positive Contribution

Individual support plans are predicated on meeting the needs of the children and young people with the individual 'voice of the child' active in creating those support plans and the outcomes to be achieved. The service will also empower children and young people and their families to maximise the use of universal services, where appropriate, that are available locally.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Through recognising the importance of and focusing on maintaining and enhancing education and training opportunities, the service will help children and young people and their families to enhance future employment prospects.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

The proposal will help to ensure that support is provided to those most at risk as a result of attachment or trauma issues that may lead to concerning behaviours such as substance misuse and/or offending.

The service will seek to offer a secure and stable environment for children and young people and their families to address such issues and behaviours, potentially reducing involvement in crime and disorder.

3. Conclusion

Moving ahead with the proposal beyond the EOI stage and underwriting the commitment, subject to satisfactory evaluation, to match-fund the project in Year 2 provides Lincolnshire with a clear opportunity to bring additional investment into the county. This will help address a gap in service through the promotion of a multi-agency response with a shared language, shared culture, shared risk and shared responsibility.

Funding from the DfE Innovation Fund offers a (largely) risk-free opportunity to develop and implement an Integrated Service model to the county at no upfront cost to the Authority. Additionally, it offers the opportunity for dedicated support from Compass, an organisation nationally recognised in managing and delivering change across the sector in the field of therapeutic interventions.

4. Legal Comments:

The Council has the power to receive and provide the funding referred to in the Report and to deliver the services in the integrated way proposed.

The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive Councillor if it is within the budget.

The considerations to be taken into account by the Executive Councillor are set out in the Report.

5. Resource Comments:

The recommendation in the report to pursue the joint bid with Compass will bring in new monies (£0.5m) to Lincolnshire to adopt a multi-agency integrated service model that will aim to support children and families in stabilising placements and mitigating the need for higher cost placements. The recommendation will offer opportunities for cost avoidance by placements being escalated and savings, which is important in a challenging financial environment for the Council.

The Local Authority will be required to match fund in year 2 of £0.5m upon the success of the programme, which has been earmarked from flexible use of capital receipts – this meets the criteria provided by the DCLG, namely integrating public facing services across public bodies to generate savings or to transform service delivery.

Children's Services will consider the overall effectiveness of the programme to service users and the financial implications before considering whether to embed the service into Lincolnshire permanently. A sufficient lead in time will be required for such a decision and funding beyond year 2 will need to be secured to deliver the service model moving forward if the decision is made to continue with the service.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

This Report will be considered by Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 20 January 2017 and the comments of the Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor before the decision is taken.

d) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

e) Risks and Impact Analysis

An Impact analysis will be carried out should the bid be successful in receiving funding from the DfE.

7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Mark Rainey, who can be contacted on 01522 554053 or mark.rainey@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 January 2017
Subject:	Revenue Budget Proposals 2017/18

Summary:

This report describes the budget proposals arising from the Provisional Local Government Settlement, announced on 17 December 2016 and the implications for the following Commissioning Strategies:

- Readiness for School;
- Learn & Achieve;
- Readiness for Adult Life; and
- Children are Safe & Healthy.

The budget proposals are now open to consultation. Members of this Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise them and make comment, prior to the Executive meeting on 7 February 2017.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider this report about the budget changes proposed for the Commissioning Strategies - Readiness for School; Learn & Achieve; Readiness for Adult Life; and Children are Safe & Healthy.

Members of the Committee are invited to make comments on the budget proposals. These will be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 7 February 2017.

1. Background

1.1 The Executive is currently consulting on a one year financial plan for revenue and capital budgets. For the third year running the Council is only able to set a one year budget. This is due to the continued significant reductions in government funding, growing cost pressures from demand led services such as adult and children's social care, waste disposal and the Council's responsibility to pay staff and contractors the National Living Wage. These pressures mean the Council does not consider it practicable, at present, to develop sustainable long term financial plans beyond the next twelve months.

1.2 In developing its financial plan the Council has considered all areas of current spending, levels of income and council tax and use of one off funding (including use of reserves and capital receipts) to set a balanced budget. The budget proposals take a mixed approach to meeting the current challenges of reduced levels of local government funding. Savings identified from service and corporate budgets, plus a proposed increase in Council Tax, the use of reserves and the use of capital receipts to fund the cost of transformation will be used to set a balanced budget for 2017/18. During the next twelve months the Council will need to explore further opportunities to bridge the gap between the funding available and levels of expenditure.

1.3 At its meeting on 20 December 2016, the Executive agreed proposals for the Council's revenue and capital budgets, and Council Tax level for 2017/18 to be put forward as a basis for consultation.

1.4 The Commissioning Strategies reporting to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and their associated activities are:

Readiness for School

1.5 The vast majority of our youngest children have access to a wide range of good or outstanding pre-school learning opportunities, which provides high quality early education to help children to develop the skills needed to interact confidently with their peers and adults. Children Centres are an essential element of our early help offer which supports parents in the challenging but rewarding job of bringing up their children. Children Centres provide access to health services as well as parenting advice and guidance and support parents in their own aspirations back into education or employment. All this supports children's readiness for school.

1.6 Services include:

- Children Centre activities covering 21 centres over 48 sites; and
- Supports early education and child care (disadvantaged 2 year olds, universal 3 & 4 year olds entitlement – funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant).

Learn & Achieve

1.7 As children progress through their primary years and into secondary, they develop further as independent learners. Through education, they explore their own creativity and express their own ideas and thinking, drawing on their individual talents. Well supported and skilfully challenged students will excel in their chosen subjects and core curriculum. It is important that at every stage of learning and development, parents are provided with meaningful information and guidance to help them support their child's learning, development and achievement of full potential.

However, we know that children who live in poverty, children who are looked after and other vulnerable groups do not do as well in education as their peers and the data indicates that they under perform. As education is an important pathway out of

poverty, it is right that we focus our efforts on ensuring all children have access to the same life chances.

1.8 Services include:

- School Support Services (e.g. promoting attendance at school / integration team who support children who are excluded, music service, governor support);
- School Improvement;
- Capacity to facilitate the completion of Education, Health and Care Plans / Statementing process plus associated interventions;
- Home to school / college transport; and
- Children with a disability service.

Readiness for Adult Life

1.9 There is a need for an increasingly stronger link between education providers, local business and industry. Information about the current and anticipated local and regional economies needs to be used to fire young people's imaginations and support them in planning for their futures so they can be prepared and ready for adult life and independence where possible. There is a need to ensure that all young people especially the most vulnerable are supported to make positive and healthy life decisions. However, as funding is reduced, we need to find alternative ways to prepare young people for adulthood and independence.

1.10 Services include:

- Positive activities for young people;
- Supported accommodation / lodgings;
- Secure accommodation, and youth offending service (transferred from Protecting the Public commissioning strategy); and
- Leaving Care.

Children are Safe & Healthy

1.11 All children deserve the chance to grow up in a loving, secure family and our services aim to support parents and carers to improve children's lives. Safeguarding is everyone's business: universal services such as schools, health and childcare providing information and advice, so they enjoy good physical and mental health; live a healthy lifestyle working in partnership with targeted services, and specialist services to support parents, children and young people requiring additional support. Some children will always require extra help because of the disadvantages they face. The key is to ensure children and families receive services at the first onset of problems through strong preventive services.

1.12 Services include:

- Child protection (contract, referral, assessment and family support);
- Looked after Children;
- Fostering and adoption;

- Residential homes;
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (through a Section 75);
- School Nursing; and
- Targeted support for young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

Revenue Budget Proposals

Readiness for School

1.13 Table A below sets out the revenue budget proposals for the next financial year:

Table A – Proposed Revenue Budget – Readiness for School

Change of Previous Year	£'000
Revised Original Budget	5,372
Pay Inflation	0
Cost Pressures	0
Transfers	-28
Savings	-611
Proposed Budget 2017/18	4,733
Percentage Change	-11.9%

1.14 There is a reduction in the employers pension contribution rate from 19.8% to 16.4%, removing costs from service budgets (£0.028m). This reduction in rate has been offset by an increase in the monetary sum payment made annually by the Council into the pension fund.

1.15 Readiness for School strategy is proposing to make savings of £0.611m (or 11.37% of the 2016/17 budget) in 2017/18. The reduction is proposed through a new model of delivery based on commissioning a single Early Years service. This model will combine elements of the current Locality services and Early Years activities in Children Centre Communities.

Learn & Achieve

1.16 Table B below sets out the revenue budget proposals for the next financial year:

Table B – Proposed Revenue Budget – Learn & Achieve

Change of Previous Year	£'000
Revised Original Budget	33,071
Pay Inflation	119
Cost Pressures	190
Transfers	-169
Savings	-1,283
Proposed Budget 2017/18	31,928
Percentage Change	-3.5%

1.17 The above proposals include a 1.0% allocation for pay inflation (£0.119m) for next year. There is also a reduction in the employers pension contribution rate from 19.8% to 16.4%, removing costs from service budgets (£0.169m). This reduction in rate has been offset by an increase in the monetary sum payment made annually by the Council into the pension fund.

1.18 Learn and Achieve strategy is proposing to make savings of £1.283m (or 3.89% of the 2016/17 budget) in 2017/18.

1.19 Within the area of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities base budget reductions of £0.640m and £0.145m (26.46% of the 2016/17 budget) are proposed from identifying funding available from other Government funding sources to sustain the current level of permanent provision.

1.20 For Home to School / College Transport a saving of £0.081m (full year effect) (0.34% of the 2016/17 budget) will be realised in 2017/18 from the 2016/17 budget decision to end the additional transport provision provided for the University Technology College (from September 2016), and to provide the same offering as all other non-selective schools in Lincolnshire in line with current policy.

1.21 A cost pressure of £0.190m is proposed that has materialised from the additional school transport costs associated with the closure of the Mablethorpe school site for Monks Dyke Technology College. The Home to School / College Transport is a challenging and volatile budget with unfavourable economic conditions (e.g. living wage, legislation changes etc.) including the impact of school reorganisations, and therefore remains a financial risk to the Council.

1.22 For the School Improvement service a reduction of £0.417m (25.71% of the 2016/17 budget) is planned for (full year effect of the 2016/17 budget decision) following the implementation of a sector-led approach to school improvement. This

reduction coincided with the Government changes to the Education Support Grant which the School Improvement service was funded from.

Readiness for Adult Life

1.23 Table C below sets out the revenue budget proposals for the next financial year:

Table C – Proposed Revenue Budget – Readiness for Adult Life

Change of Previous Year	£'000
Revised Original Budget	4,946
Pay Inflation	58
Cost Pressures	0
Transfers	-106
Savings	-605
Proposed Budget 2017/18	4,293
Percentage Change	-13.2%

1.24 The above proposals include a 1.0% allocation for pay inflation (£0.058m) for next year. There is also a reduction in the employers pension contribution rate from 19.8% to 16.4%, removing costs from service budgets (£0.106m). This reduction in rate has been offset by an increase in the monetary sum payment made annually by the Council into the pension fund.

1.25 Readiness for Adult Life strategy is proposing to make savings of £0.605m (or 12.23% of the 2016/17 budget) in 2017/18. The proposed reduction of £0.605m (93.28% of the 2016/17 budget) provides the full year effect of the cost savings from the 2016/17 budget decision to decommission part of the service whilst retaining some capacity for tracking young people to fulfil the Local Authority's duty to track 16-17 year olds. The schools traded services of supporting attendance and careers guidance has ended.

Children are Safe & Healthy

1.26 Table D below sets out the revenue budget proposals for the next financial year:

Table D – Proposed Revenue Budget – Children are Safe & Healthy

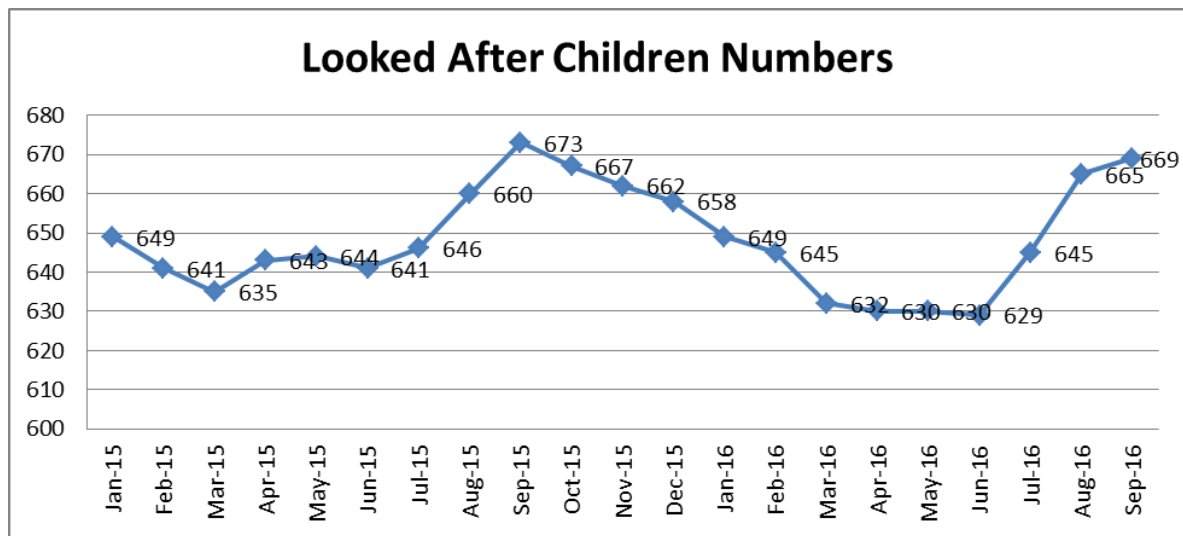
Change of Previous Year	£'000
Revised Original Budget	61,774
Pay Inflation	312
Cost Pressures	3,064
Transfers	-751
Savings	-568
Proposed Budget 2017/18	63,831
Percentage Change	3.3%

1.27 The above proposals include a 1.0% allocation for pay inflation (£0.312m) for next year. There is also a reduction in the employers pension contribution rate from 19.8% to 16.4%, removing costs from service budgets (£0.751m). This reduction in rate has been offset by an increase in the monetary sum payment made annually by the Council into the pension fund.

1.28 Children are Safe and Healthy strategy is proposing to make savings of £0.568m (or 0.92% of the 2016/17 budget) in 2017/18 following a review of its service delivery model and commissioning intentions. Planned reductions of £0.218m (1.36% of front line 2016/17 budgets) (full year effect of the 2016/17 budget decision) relate to the integration of family support capacity implemented in 2016/17 (early help offer). The insourced family action contract and integration of the troubled families programme has created greater synergies within the service. A further reduction of £0.350m (100% of the 2016/17 budget) relates to the proposed decommissioning of the Family Nurse Partnership service.

1.29 A number of cost pressures exist within children's social care where the Local Authority has a statutory duty to protect children and take action when thresholds are met. Financial shortfalls have been identified for the current and future year based on the growth trends on the number of looked after children placements and special guardianships orders. Nationally demand levels are increasing too. The permanent cost pressure proposed for 2017/18 is £1.882m. Chart A provides a summary of the looked after children numbers for 2015 to 2016.

Chart A – Looked After Children Numbers



1.30 Table E below sets out the placement types for looked after children and placements with associated children and young people numbers:

Table E – Looked After Children and Placement Numbers

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Oct-16
Out of County Residential Placements	12	12	13	20	19	25
Out of County Fostering Placements	4	12	18	28	37	28
Foster Placements	360	387	376	380	373	421
Regulation 24 Placements	38	28	71	93	104	110
Special Guardianship Order Placements	62	92	139	175	275	318

1.31 Social care staffing are required to respond to the increase in the number of referrals (5% or 190 rise in the last year) in children in need and in care. In addition, cases coming into social care are become even more complex. The social care staffing cost pressure proposed for 2017/18 is £0.582m.

1.32 A further proposed cost pressure of £0.6m relates to the Local Authority's legal duty to provide supported accommodation for homeless 16-17 year olds and care leavers. The complexity of individuals and an increase in demand has contributed to this. The Local Authority is exploring options of meeting these growing demands more cost effectively.

Capital Programme

1.33 The gross programme is set at £332.816m from 2017/18 onwards, with grants and contributions of £181.313m giving a net programme of £151.503m to be funded by the County Council.

1.34 For Lincolnshire schools, Children's Services manage and maintain a comprehensive annual capital programme of individual school projects which is overseen by the Children's Services Capital Programme Board. The service has requested that all capital funding made available by the DfE for schools is passed on to Children's Services to enable it to manage critical issues, for example, Lincolnshire's statutory duty for school place planning.

Other Consultations

1.35 In addition to the review of budget proposals by Scrutiny Committees further scrutiny and consultation includes:

- All other Council Scrutiny Committees will have the opportunity to scrutinise budget proposals in detail during January;
- Budget proposals have been publicised on the Council's website together with the opportunity for the public to comment; and
- A consultation meeting with local business representatives, trade unions and other partners will take place on 27 January 2017.

1.36 Consultation comments and responses will be available to be considered when the Executive makes its final budget proposals on 7 February 2017.

2. Conclusion

2.1 These budget proposals reflect the level of government funding available to the Council and the proposal to increase Council Tax in 2017/18 by 1.95%, plus 2.00% for the Adult Care precept. They are based on a thorough and comprehensive review of the Council's services. The budget proposals therefore aim to reflect the Council's priorities whilst operating with the resources available to it.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for the proposed increase in Council Tax. This will be reported to the Executive at its meeting on 7 February 2017.

Further Risk and Impact Assessments will need to be undertaken on a service by service basis.

4. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Council Budget 2017/18 - Executive Report 20 December 2016	Democratic Services, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln

This report was written by Mark Popplewell, who can be contacted on 01522 553326 or mark.popplewell@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Policy and Scrutiny

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, the Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 January 2017
Subject:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Summary:

This item enables the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider its own work programme for the coming year.

Actions Required:

- (1) To comment and agree on the content of the work programme, as set out in Appendix A to this report.
- (2) To note the content of the Children's Services Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix B to this report.

1. Background

Current Work Programme

At every meeting of the Committee, Members are invited to consider their future Work Programme and to agree on items to be included in the Work Programme. The current work programme for the Committee is attached at Appendix A to this report.

Forward Plan

Also attached at Appendix B for the Committee's consideration is a list of the intended decisions of the Executive or Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services, which fall within the remit of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny Activity Definitions

Set out below are the definitions used to describe the types of scrutiny, relating to the items:

Budget Scrutiny - The Committee is scrutinising the previous year's budget, the current year's budget or proposals for the future year's budget.

Pre-Decision Scrutiny - The Committee is scrutinising a proposal, prior to a decision on the proposal by the Executive, the Executive Councillor or a senior officer.

Performance Scrutiny - The Committee is scrutinising periodic performance, issue specific performance or external inspection reports.

Policy Development - The Committee is involved in the development of policy, usually at an early stage, where a range of options are being considered.

Consultation - The Committee is responding to (or making arrangements to respond to) a consultation, either formally or informally. This includes pre-consultation engagement.

Status Report - The Committee is considering a topic for the first time where a specific issue has been raised or members wish to gain a greater understanding.

Update Report - The Committee is scrutinising an item following earlier consideration.

Scrutiny Review Activity - This includes discussion on possible scrutiny review items; finalising the scoping for the review; monitoring or interim reports; approval of the final report; and the response to the report.

2. Conclusion

That consideration is given to the content of this report.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Appendix B	Children's Services Forward Plan

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or Tracy.Johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Theme: “That every child, in every part of the county should achieve their potential”

Chairman: Councillor John Hough

Vice Chairman: Councillor Ray Wootten

20 January 2017		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Joint Targeted Area Inspection on Domestic Abuse - Outcomes	Debbie Barnes Executive Director of Children's Services	Performance Scrutiny
Outcomes from School Performance Working Group	Martin Smith Children's Services Manager - School Standards Kieran Barnes Head of the Virtual School for Looked After Children	Member Report
Corporate Parenting Panel Update	Cllr David Brailsford Chairman of the Panel	Member Report
Centre for Public Scrutiny's Guide to Scrutinising Children's Safeguarding Arrangements Guide – Key Scrutiny Questions for Safeguarding – Questions 18, 20, 21	Janice Spencer Assistant Director – Children's (Safeguarding)	Performance Scrutiny
DfE Innovation Joint Funding Bid with Compass	Sally Savage Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor Decision on 30 January 2017)
Budget Proposals 2017/18	Debbie Barnes Executive Director of Children's Services	Budget Scrutiny

10 March 2017		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Sector Led Model for School Improvement – Update Report	Gavin Booth Children's Services Manager – Education Strategy	Policy Review
Lincolnshire Schools judged to require Special Measures	Gavin Booth Children's Services Manager – Education Strategy	Performance Scrutiny

10 March 2017		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Lincolnshire Local Authority School Performance 2015-16	Martin Smith Children's Service Manager - School Standards	Performance Scrutiny
Theme Performance: Quarter 3	Sally Savage Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's	Performance Scrutiny
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update	Cllr Ron Oxby Chairman of the Sub Group	Member Report
Partners in Practice Update	Debbie Barnes Executive Director of Children's Services	Policy Review

28 April 2017		
Item	Contributor	Purpose

9 June 2017		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Introduction to Children's Services	Debbie Barnes Executive Director of Children's Services	Status Report
A Proposed Future Model of SEN Provision from Lincolnshire Special Schools	Andrew Hancy Business Support Manager	Pre-Decision Scrutiny

21 July 2017		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Theme Performance: Quarter 4	Sally Savage Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's	Performance Scrutiny
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update	Chairman of the Sub Group	Member Report
Corporate Parenting Sub-Group Update	Chairman of the Sub Group	Member Report

To be scheduled

- Educational Excellence Everywhere

For more information about the work of this Committee please contact Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, on 01522 552164 or by e-mail at tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk

FORWARD PLAN OF DECISIONS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM 3 JANUARY 2017

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION	HOW TO COMMENT ON THE DECISION BEFORE IT IS MADE AND THE DATE BY WHICH COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND CHIEF OFFICER	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
I012681	Department for Education Innovation Joint Funding Bid with Compass	Between 23 January 2017 and 17 February 2017	Executive Councillor: Adult Care, Health and Children's Services	Looked after Children Team; Virtual Schools Team; Directorate Management Team; Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Report	Children's Commissioning Manager Tel : 01522 554053 Email: mark.rainey@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care, Health and Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	All Divisions
I012827 New!	Coordinated Schemes and Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2018 Intake	Between 13 February 2017 and 28 February 2017	Executive Councillor: Adult Care, Health and Children's Services	As required by the School Admissions Code 2014, Section 1.44	Report	School Admissions Manager Tel: 01522 553304 Email: steven.gamble@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care, Health and Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	All Divisions

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