

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

16 October 2014

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Friday, 24 October 2014 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



Tony McArdle
Chief Executive

Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
(17 Members of the Council + 1 Vacancy and 5 Added Members)

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

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman, Mr P Thompson and Mrs G Wright

Parent Representatives: Mr C V Miller and Mrs E Olivier-Townrow

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA
FRIDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2014**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence / Replacement Members	
2	Declarations of Members' Interests	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2014	5 - 14
4	Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding: A review by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee <i>(To receive a report which provides the Executive response and action plan arising from the recommendations of the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Task and Finish Group)</i>	15 - 26
5	School Admissions and Exclusions in Lincolnshire <i>(To receive a report which provides an update on the content and progress of the original and supplementary action plan, and a progress report on the introduction to schools and implementation of recommendations from the Inclusion review in December 2013)</i>	27 - 58
6	Corporate Parenting Panel Update <i>(To receive a report which provides the Committee with an update of the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel)</i>	59 - 70
7	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2014/15 <i>(To receive a report which enables the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider its own work programme for the coming year)</i>	71 - 78
8	CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following agenda items have not been circulated to the press and public on the grounds that they are considered to contain exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended. The press and public may be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of these items of business.	
9	Child Sexual Exploitation <i>(To receive a report which is intended to provide the Committee with an update on the work currently being undertaken by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and its Sub-Groups around the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE))</i>	79 - 140

10 Early Intervention Services for Young Children with a Disability Commissioning Review

141 - 194

(To receive a report which invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider an exempt report on the Early Intervention Services for Young Children with a Disability Commissioning Review which is due to be considered by the Executive on 4 November 2014)

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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.

All papers for council meetings are available on:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/committeerecords



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
12 SEPTEMBER 2014**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J D HOUGH (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors B Adams (Vice-Chairman), Mrs J Brockway, A G Hagues, J R Hicks, B W Keimach, Ms T Keywood-Wainwright, C R Oxby, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs L A Rollings, Mrs N J Smith, S M Tweedale, L Wootten, Mrs S M Wray, Mrs J M Renshaw and A H Turner MBE JP

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr P Thompson and Mrs G Wright

Parent Representatives: Mrs E Olivier-Townrow

Councillors: attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Keith Batty (Assistant Director of CfBT Education Services), Matthew Clayton (School Organisation Planning Manager), Maggie Freeman, Jonas Gibson (Commissioning and Development Manager), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer), Andrew McLean (Service Manager Commissioning), John O'Connor (Service Manager Education Support), Janice Spencer (Assistant Director Safeguarding) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Churchill, S Dodds and R Wootten.

An apology for absence was also received from Mr S Rudman (Church Representative), Debbie Barnes (Executive Director Children's Services), Stuart Carlton (Assistant Director Children's Early Help) and Sally Savage (Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's)

28 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Mrs E Olivier-Townrow, Added Member, declared that she was employed as a member of staff at Lincoln College.

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

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
12 SEPTEMBER 2014**29 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2014

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2014 be approved and signed by Chairman as a correct record.

30 PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PRIMARY ACADEMY IN NORTH HYKEHAM
(SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY OF STATE OF RESULTS AND
EVALUATION OF PROCESS TO IDENTIFY AN OPERATOR)

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee received a report which invited members to consider a report on the Selection of an operator for a new primary academy in North Hykeham (Final Decision) which was due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services on 26 September 2014.

Marie-Claire Bretherton, the Executive Headteacher of Mount Street Academy was in attendance at the meeting, and gave a short presentation to the Committee in relation to their application to operate the new primary academy in North Hykeham.

It was reported that four operators had put themselves forward for the application process, and the written submissions were assessed against a standard matrix. All four met the minimum standards and went through to phase two of the selection process. Following further evaluation, it was determined that Applicant A met all the required criteria and the evaluation panel wished to recommend them as the preferred operator to the Secretary of State. The Committee was informed that Applicant A was a multi-academy trust and managed a portfolio of 21 Government funded schools in England.

Members 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:

- Concerns were raised regarding how the new school would impact on pupil numbers at the primary school in South Hykeham. Members were reassured that there would be more than enough new pupils in the area to fill the capacity at both schools;
- The school would open with only 30 reception children, and the school would then grow year on year;
- It was noted that the proposal by the applicant was to name the new academy Manor Farm Academy, and it was queried whether there would be any intention to include farming related subjects in the curriculum. Members were advised that this name was suggested as the land to be used for the development used to belong to the Manor Farm Estate. It was also noted that learning about Lincolnshire and rural issues was also incorporated into the other two academies in Lincoln which were run by this applicant, and it was intended to continue this in the new academy;
- Members were advised that in terms of staff numbers at the new school, there would be about 6/7 members of staff on site to begin with, but these staff

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12 SEPTEMBER 2014

would be supported by the staff from the other two established academies in Lincoln;

- The capital cost of the new school would be approximately £3.5m, and this would be partly funded by S106 agreement and the Basic Need Grant provided by the Education Funding Agency via the Local Authority. The new school would be built from scratch on land that was currently empty, using a template developed by the Local Authority;
- There was no reason to suspect that the birth rate would decline, and the need for school places in a particular area was based on existing birth rates;
- Concerns were raised regarding whether the Trust was too big to operate this school, and members were advised that the new school would be operated as part of a cluster with the other two schools in Lincoln – Mount Street Academy and the Lincoln Carlton Academy. This cluster would connect back to a larger national body. Hubs were being developed around the country, and in Lincoln the Trust would be operating three schools that would work closely together;
- It was noted that two schools operated by the Trust were in special measures, of these one was the Gleed School in Lincolnshire. However, this school had just received very positive report;
- The new school would be very much associated with both the Mount Street and Lincoln Carlton Academies. One had already received an outstanding Ofsted inspection, and the other was expected to achieve an outstanding inspection;
- The Executive Headteacher informed the Committee that she received a lot of support from the Trust;
- Having a cluster of schools created opportunities for other colleagues to step up and lead which would be beneficial in terms of succession planning for Lincolnshire;
- It was noted that the Education Director for the CfBT Schools Trust was based at the Carlton Academy;
- It was requested whether in future more information could be provided in the report in relation to who the preferred operator was and their background in order to help the Committee make an informed decision. The Committee commented that the presentation it received was very useful;
- Concerns were raised regarding the location for the school on the proposed development, as it was thought important that a school should have a prominent position. The Committee was reassured that the proposed location for the school was a good size and shape of plot of between 8-9 ha and it had a prominent position on the front of the main access road to the development. It was also noted due to the size of the site that there would be room for future-proofing.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive Councillor as set out in the report;
2. That the following comment be passed to the Executive Councillor:
 - The concerns regarding potential impact on pupil numbers at the primary school in South Hykeham.

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- The need for clarity in future reports regarding the proposed operator of new academies.

31 PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 1 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Committee with key performance information for Quarter 1 2014/15 which was relevant to the work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

It was noted that the summary and detailed reports of the performance indicators were being presented in a new format. Members were advised that the changes had been made to show data more clearly for each performance indicator.

Members were guided through the report, with attention specifically drawn to the indicators within the Healthy and Safe commissioning strategy, where six of the indicators were showing as worse than tolerance.

The Committee was 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 included the following:

- The use of acronyms was highlighted, and it was requested that explanations be included in future;
- Clarity regarding use of the term 'Plan is best' was requested;
- It was commented that it would be useful to see tracking movement on the comparative performance, in the same way as the Lincolnshire Performance;
- It was noted that the rate of complaints in relation to schools had gone up. It was queried whether this was partly due to parents finding it easier to complain. Members were advised that there were now more avenues for parents to complain;
- The methods of capturing and recording complaints had become much more robust. Every complaint now came through the Customer Service Centre (CSC) and was then sent out to the relevant department. Staff were now more pro-active in advising parents and children about their rights to complain;
- The Children and Families Principal Social Worker facilitated a Champion group for social workers and the issue of staff conduct would be highlighted there;
- Concerns were raised regarding the ongoing occurrence of bullying in schools;
- It was commented that it would be useful to see some context in relation to the comparative performance for the indicators;
- In relation to the summary of the most recent Mainstream Ofsted Inspections, concerns were raised regarding the number of schools which were currently judged to be inadequate.

RESOLVED

That the performance information presented be noted.

32 LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP
UPDATE

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

The Committee received an update from the Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, Councillor C R Oxby, and the following was reported:

- The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group last met on 16 July 2014;
- The Scrutiny Sub-Group received an update from the Independent Chair, Chris Cook, on the work of the LSCB and its sub-groups. It was noted that two serious case reviews had been commissioned by the LSCB and would begin shortly;
- The Sub-Group also considered a confidential report from Caroline Mogg, the LSCB's Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Officer, which provided a picture of the current situation in Lincolnshire in relation to child sexual exploitation. This was particularly pertinent given the recent events in Rotherham. It was highlighted that there were no CSE gangs working within Lincolnshire. The Sub-Group would continue to monitor the LSCB's work on CSE and an update would be due in early 2015;
- The next meeting of the Scrutiny Sub-Group was scheduled for 15 October 2014, and would be considering the LSCB's Neglect Policy, and its audits of the Pre-Birth Protocol and Child Protection Conferences.

Members of the Committee 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:

- A lot of work had been undertaken in Lincolnshire around combatting child sexual exploitation. A multi-agency hub (SAFE) had been created, which included representatives from local authority, health, police and education;
- Pro-active work around missing children was also being carried out;
- The police problem profile did not indicate that there were any gangs operating in Lincolnshire;
- The Assistant Director for Children's Safeguarding would look into whether the LSCB's e-learning course on safeguarding could be made available to Members;
- There was a 'hotline' number that children could use to contact the local authority, which was actively promoted;
- The Committee was reassured that Lincolnshire had robust processes in place for placing children in other local authorities, but notification remained the statutory duty of the placing authority;
- There were concerns that there were children being placed in Lincolnshire that the local authority was not informed about. It was important to raise

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awareness of this issue particularly with schools, so that if they became aware of new pupils they could alert the local authority;

- There were 430 children from out of county which were registered with the local authority, and they were all monitored by the placing authority;
- One area of concern was Looked after Children who were placed back within the home environment, and then moved from county to county, as they were more difficult to monitor;
- It was requested that the Committee received an update in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation at its next meeting.

RESOLVED

1. That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, held on 16 July 2014, be noted;
2. That the Committee receive an update on Child Sexual Exploitation at its next meeting.

33 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 16 - 19 (25) EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report which invited the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the Strategic Priorities for 16 – 19 (25) Education and Training for 2015/16 which was due to be considered by the Executive on 7 October 2014.

The Committee was guided through the report by the Head of Service 14-19, and the following was highlighted:

- Members had previously been concerned regarding the drop in the participation rate at 17 years of age. It was reported that from 2015, young people would be required to remain in education or training until their 18th birthday, but they would be encouraged to stay until they completed their learning;
- The local authority would continue to support young people who were NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training);
- It was thought that young people were choosing courses for the wrong reasons, and schools would continue to be encouraged to develop careers guidance;
- Members were reassured that colleges worked hard to re-engage with young people who had dropped out of their courses early. There was a bigger issue when young people dropped out further into a course as it was too late for them to start a new course. Officers were trying to persuade colleges to have more flexible start dates;
- A survey would be carried out to examine how public transport and timetables impacted on a young person and their participation;
- There was a duty to encourage young people to participate, but the local authority could not take any action if the young person chose not to participate;

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- Even though young people were staying in a learning environment for longer, at 19, they were not always going into employment;
- The Employment and Skills Board (ESB) was working hard to encourage providers to offer courses which were beneficial to the economic growth of the county;

Members 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:

- The end of statutory education was still 16 years of age;
- One of the barriers to participation was that young people would arrive to start a course, and be told that it was no longer running;
- It was noted that Lincoln College had been shocked by the number of applications it had received from 16 year olds at the end of August;
- A survey was conducted every summer with schools around what careers guidance was being provided to pupils. Most schools in Lincolnshire were purchasing some careers provision from the local authority;
- Equestrian courses would continue to run at Bishop Burton College at their new location on the Riseholme campus. It was believed that the needs of students would continue to be met at all campuses;
- A lot of funding for further education would come through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and so it would be important to have good links;
- It was noted that in terms of a young person's progression from further education a lot depended on A level results achieved;
- The majority of secondary schools were now academies and so the County Council had a limited amount of influence regarding the offer to pupils;
- More would be done to influence the colleges in terms of visibility and advertising of the courses offered;
- Officers would start working on an action plan immediately after the strategic priorities report had been considered by the Executive;
- It was commented that Connexions had been a very good service, but it was noted that it was a government decision to remove the Connexions service;
- Work was ongoing with the Employment and Skills Board to identify what the future skills needs for Lincolnshire would be;

It was suggested that the recommendations be agreed and the Committee looked forward to receiving the completed action plan. It was hoped that there would be improved outcomes in 2015.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee support the recommendations to the Executive set out in the report;
2. That the following comment be passed to the Executive:
 - The Committee looked forward to seeing the action plan and hoped that the new approach would lead to better outcomes for next year.

34 CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMISSIONING OVERVIEW

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with an overview of commissioning in Lincolnshire, specifically focussed on the role of the Children's Services Commissioning Team and the governance arrangements for joint commissioning.

Members were advised that commissioning was outcome focussed rather than being service focussed. By specifying the outcomes to be achieved and the improvements required in those outcomes, providers would be encouraged to innovate to achieve this. The Children's Services Commissioning Team would oversee all phases of the commissioning cycle.

It was reported that there were currently 228 contracts with 177 external providers, which were overseen by Children's Services. A number of service reviews were planned for the future to ensure that the best value and outcomes were being achieved.

RESOLVED

1. That the content of the report be noted;
2. That members of the Committee would attend the workshop to be held following the Committee meeting.

**35 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME 2014/15**

The Committee received a report which provided the opportunity for Members to consider the work programme for the coming year.

Further to earlier discussions, an update on Child Sexual Exploitation was added to the agenda for the meeting on 24 October 2014.

Members were informed that the reported on Child Poverty had not been allocated as the Child Poverty Strategy needed to be revised following newly published guidance on Child Poverty from the Government. Officers requested member involvement in drafting the new strategy through an informal working group. Councillors B Adams, Mrs J Brockway, J D Hough and Mrs N J Smith agreed to be on the informal working group. There was also a workshop event taking place on 22 September 2014 between 9.30 am and 12 noon at Bishop Grosseteste University on the Child Poverty Strategy, and the volunteers were invited to attend. Councillors J D Hough and B Adams expressed an interest in receiving an invite for this event.

RESOLVED

1. That the content of the work programme be agreed;
2. That the content of the Children's Services Forward Plan be noted.

36 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following item of business contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

37 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report which set out the governance arrangements for the School Improvement Service.

Officers responded to a number of questions and concerns raised by the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the content of the exempt report be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm

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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:	24 October 2014
Subject:	Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding: A Review by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Summary:

This report provides the Executive response and action plan arising from the recommendations of the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Task and Finish Group.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to

1. receive and comment on the Executive response and action plan
2. receive a six monthly monitoring update on the action plan in April 2015

1. Background

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed at its meeting on 18th October 2013 that there was a need for scrutiny to review and investigate the safeguarding arrangements in frontline social work teams. This review was approved by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 24th October 2013. The key purpose of the review was to:

- Examine the robustness of safeguarding practice
- To ensure sufficient support is provided to frontline social workers

A Task and Finish Group was established in November 2013 consisting of seven Members of the Committee. The Task and Finish Group identified a number of key lines of enquiry specific to the review and these included:

- An examination of the key performance indicators in relation to safeguarding.
- A consideration of key documents including the Safeguarding annual report, Self-assessments, Peer reviews, Cafcass plus evaluation and signs of safety.
- Facilitate a focus group to speak to practitioners, parents, schools and other professionals, team managers.

- Observe the work undertaken at the Customer Service Centre; observe duty work in the social care teams, a core group meeting and child protection conference and a support panel.
- To meet young people and council officers as appropriate.
- Evaluate relationships with other agencies.
- Explore decision making and support for staff.

The Task and Finish Group completed the review and presented the final report to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 13th June 2014 and to the Executive on 1st July 2014. The report contained seventeen recommendations and these have been developed into an action plan to address the issues raised in the review. The action plan is attached as Appendix A.

2. Conclusion

Overall the Task and Finish Group was satisfied that Lincolnshire has robust measures in place to ensure safeguarding is robust and the staff have the necessary support in place to fulfil their duties effectively. The recommendations of the Task and Finish Group have been actioned with 3 recommendations partially completed and under way. A number of the recommendations are ongoing and will need to be reviewed regularly to ensure the partially completed actions are concluded to an acceptable standard.

It is recommended that

1. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor the actions arising from the recommendations of the Safeguarding Review.
2. Consideration is given to revisiting this area in future task and finish groups or working groups by Members of the Committee.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Executive Response to Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding – Action Plan Arising from Recommendations

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 Samantha Clayton, who can be contacted on 01522 553730 or Samantha.Clayton@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

**Appendix A:
EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO FRONTLINE SOCIAL WORKERS AND SAFEGUARDING –
ACTION PLAN ARISING FROM RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
1. Action should be taken to ensure all parents receive a copy of their assessments and that the communication process is robust.	Yes	Team Manager's to be advised to remind all staff to ensure assessments are shared in a timely manner	Circulate the Scrutiny Committee Report. One minute briefing to be compiled of all salient recommendations for social care staff	September 2014 September 2014	Sam Clayton Sam Clayton	Completed
2. The Task and Finish Group welcome and support the multi-agency Neglect Policy and Procedure being developed by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and encourage the Board to ensure that all partner agencies adhere to it. Given the complexities around neglect cases, the LSCB is recommended to review and ensure that comprehensive and	Yes	LSCB has arranged for a multi-agency sub group to develop a strategy setting out the vision for improving the approach to and management of neglect.	The group has met once and a second meeting is to be held in October to work on the draft document that has been produced. Health are working on a graded health profile and all participants including health, housing police and Childrens services are looking at strategies to address all 7 of the recommendations in the Ofsted report In the Child's time.	July 2014	Andy Morris Jennie Thornton LSCB partners	In progress to complete by December 2014

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
<p>specific training on neglect, particularly around complex neglect, is delivered to all frontline staff within all partner agencies. This relies on the knowledge and understanding of child development and the ability to capture neglect through child focussed observations. The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group should monitor the implementation of the Neglect Policy and Procedure, and the neglect training opportunities made available to partner agencies.</p>						
<p>3. The recent Ofsted report "In the child's time: professional responses to neglect" makes seven specific recommendations</p>	Yes	<p>Training to be commissioned to deliver to staff in locality teams around the impact of neglect</p>	<p>Independent Family Services and In trac have been commissioned to provide training specifically about neglect, this is</p>	<p>April 2014 to 2015</p>	Ben Lilley	In progress

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
to local authorities. The Task and Finish Group recommends that a work programme is produced to ensure that these recommendations are implemented in Lincolnshire.			available to all Childrens services staff as part of the core training offer.			
4. Lincolnshire County Council should identify and share best practice with schools on how they can use their pupil premium to improve the attainment, health and pastoral care of young people suffering, and at risk of, neglect.	Yes	CfBT will lead on this piece of work	To hold a Closing the Gap conference with schools to share best practice	January 2015	Helen Spors Keith Batty	On target
5. Children's Services should work with secondary school Headteachers to encourage them to offer parental training, including child development, to all teenagers.	Yes	Secondary schools plan and deliver their own curriculum. The Local Authority will write to schools sharing this report and outline the benefits of this recommendation	Letter to schools	Nov 2014	Keith Batty	On going

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
6. The LSCB is recommended to conduct a pilot project to identify the methods used by partner agencies to listen to and record the Voice of the Child and share the most effective methods amongst partner agencies as examples of best practice. An audit trail of the Voice of the Child should also be carried out.	Partially	LSCB has completed audit work where the voice of the child was considered as part of the wider scope considering the TAC and CP process.	LSCB to continue to support multi agency partners in attending the signs of safety briefing sessions where good practice in terms of direct work with children has been shared.	July 2013 - 2018	Andy Morris Clare Rowley	On going
7. The social care teams in each area, along with other agencies such as Health and the Police wherever possible, should be co-located to ensure better joint working and information sharing across the different teams and agencies.	Partially	Work is underway to explore implementation of a MASH in Lincolnshire	Have introduced multi agency SAFE hub at Grantham which houses health, police, social care and targeted workers which focuses on missing and CSE. To expand this further an option appraisal is being completed to explore establishing a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	March 2015	Debbie Barnes	Partially Completed

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
8. That best practice is shared in relation to Child Protection Conferences, including the timeliness of paperwork being presented, to ensure consistency across the county.	Yes	To share the findings with the Team Manager Independent Chairs and Reviewing Officers	<p>Child protection Chairs are all Practice leads for Signs of Safety. At the monthly performance meeting they share areas of good practice and practice which requires improvement with heads of service. At the monthly QA meetings this is shared with the team.</p> <p>We have recently introduced monitoring of implementation of Signs of Safety in CP conferences and attendance of all agencies.</p>	<p>Reviewed monthly</p> <p>01.09.14</p>	<p>Theresa Buhryn Carolyn Knight</p> <p>Theresa Buhryn Carolyn Knight</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Review Monthly at Operational Management Group</p>
9. The purpose and function of Support Panels should be revisited to ensure that they are providing thorough challenge by using the Signs of Safety methodology to map and summarise each case.	Yes	To agree base line requirements and ensure consistent application at each panel	Heads of Service to meet and review and refresh the Terms of Reference and ensure circulation to Team Managers	30.09.14	Cornelia Andrecut	Completed

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
10. It is recommended that an audit of the training on children's safeguarding provided to CSC staff, and the quality of that training, is undertaken to ensure that it is fit for purpose and that CSC staff are trained in the issues of children's safeguarding and child development to deal effectively with contacts.	Yes	Audit completed using individual training records to capture individual and team learning needs	Introduced crib sheet Introduced Early Help process Introduced competency test Evaluated impact through compilation of a training summary Signs of Safety briefings Access to early help consultants for advice and guidance Strengthened access to qualified social workers for advice and guidance	July 2014	Roz Cordy Zoe Butler	Completed To be subject to quarterly review
11. A review of the recruitment and retention strategy for Social Workers should be undertaken, including revisiting the pay and reward offer for front line Social Workers, to ensure that there is some form of recognition for this challenging and difficult role. An analysis of exit interviews should also be	Yes	To consult with staff through the Annual health check Pay and Reward has been reviewed corporately	This has recently been completed and analysis presented to DMT with a training plan developed as a result Recent analysis of pay and conditions suggest Lincolnshire is a Market Leader.	August 2014 April 2014	Sam Clayton Sam Clayton Marie Robinson	Completed Completed

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
undertaken to see if there are any trends around reasons for leaving and where Social Workers move onto.			There is a national shortage of experienced social workers in practice and we are investing in our Grow Your Own and Post Qualifying offer	Ongoing	Sam Clayton Ben Lilley	In progress
			Human Resources to take the lead in undertaking and analysing Exit interviews	October 2014	Sue Fletcher	In progress
12. Further work should be undertaken with the universities across the region, including South Yorkshire, the Humber, and the East Midlands, around the recruitment of Social Workers and developing degree courses to ensure they provide the rights skills and training needed by Social Workers.	Yes	Recognise the importance of the diversity different universities provide and the need to engage to offer good quality placements to students	To meet with individual Universities in the region and explore curriculum content and placement opportunities.	Ongoing since September 2013	Sam Clayton	Ongoing
			Reviewed Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) programme and commissioned Post Qualifying consolidation module.	In progress	Sam Clayton Ben Lilley NTU	In progress
			To commission from those Universities who can meet the needs of Lincolnshire's work force requirements	Currently reviewing	Sam Clayton Ben Lilley	Ongoing

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
13. The report writing training offered to Social Workers, and the management oversight of this, needs to be revisited to ensure it is fit for purpose and enables Social Workers to be able to produce quality reports, such as for Child Protection Conferences. It would be beneficial if report writing models were developed as examples of good practice for Social Workers. This should be underpinned by training on child development and should include examples of how best to capture the Voice of the Child.	Yes	It is acknowledged that practice is variable and good practice needs to be shared across the service area	The case manager post has been developed to improve the quality of report writing in the documentation presented to Court. Signs of safety focused on critical analysis and is being implemented across the service. The ASYE programme has been revamped to ensure it is more academically robust. Training courses in report writing and voice of the child continue to be offered annually. Management oversight has been strengthened with the new audit policy and case discussion points during the life of the social care assessment.	Since October 2013 as a secondment	Yvonne Shearwood	In progress
				Permanent from October 2014	Sam Clayton	In progress
14. The University of Lincoln should be encouraged to provide more training on child development and	Yes	The university states that it already ensures that there is specific teaching covering child	The university will continue to support students with practice based skills such as child observation set out	Current	University of Lincoln	In progress as continually on the programme for

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
capturing the child's perspective through objective child focussed observations.		development on all level of courses	by the College of Social Work in adherence to the Professional Capability Framework.			social work training
15. A strategy should be developed around training for Practice Educators at Levels 1 and 2, along with a review of who is the best provider of the Practice Educator courses in the region.	Yes	Work is underway to review the current PE offer and target experienced staff	To work with the regional university to commission the most appropriate course suitable for Lincolnshire County Council staff.	June to December 2014	Sam Clayton Ben Lilley	In progress
16. The Task and Finish Group recognised the difficulties faced by Social Workers when using the current ICS system and considers it essential that the new IT system, Mosaic, is brought in as soon as possible.	Yes	CMPP have procured a new IT system	Implementation is April 2015 however staff consultation and system building has been underway for 2014. Roll out plan for mobile technology is expected.	April 2015	Ron Cook Linda Winton	In progress

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
17. A trial of using mobile technology such as Ipads / tablets should be conducted, with at least one or two FAST teams, to examine what the benefits would be for Social Workers in using mobile technology in their work with children and young people.	Partially	Work is underway to present a business case to corporate management board to progress this recommendation and the ability of any other technology such as ipads/tablets to work effectively with the new Mosaic system	Judith Hetherington-Smith to provide roll out plan devices to be trialled from April 2015.	TBC	Judith Hetherington-Smith	In progress

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	24 October 2014
Subject:	School Admissions and Exclusions in Lincolnshire

Summary:

This report provides an update on the content and progress of the original and supplementary action plan, and a progress report on the introduction to schools and implementation of recommendations from the Inclusion Review in December 2013.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to

1. receive and comment on the content and progress of both action plans, and the content of the Inclusion Review update report.
2. continue to monitor the actions arising from the recommendations of the Inclusion Review.
3. receive a report in July 2015 detailing the impact of the Inclusion Review action plan on pupil exclusions.
4. continue to monitor the trend in exclusions as a measure of impact of any immediate and long-term proposals that might be agreed.

1. Background

Previous reports brought to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are:

- A. The first monitoring update on the implementation of the School Admissions and Exclusions Action Plan agreed by Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 1st March 2013 following the Scrutiny Review in January 2013. Appendix 1 reports on the progress made against the action points.
- B. A synopsis of the findings of '*Always Someone Else's Problem*' – the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Report published in April 2013. Appendix 2 includes the recommendations and the Government's response to these as presented in October 2013.

C. Rising Exclusions and the Supplementary Action Plan. Appendix 3 reports on the progress of the actions identified following consultation with headteachers and governors. The areas identified in Appendix 3b will be addressed in Appendix 4.

Inclusion Review

Appendix 4 reports on the progress made on the recommendations from the Inclusion review. The Inclusion Review was presented at Executive DMT in February 2014. The key areas of work around which the action plan was built were:

- To strengthen the early intervention capacity in both primary and secondary schools.
- To support the further development of an appropriate and meaningful educational offer at Key Stage 4.
- To help schools and academies gain even more impact from working together through locally determined support and outreach.
- To commission outreach support for pupils, and capacity building services for schools at a local level.
- To explore options with regard to bringing new education providers into those parts of Lincolnshire where there is poor coverage, whilst maximising the potential of organisations already delivering within the Local Authority area.

The six principles that underline the direction taken are:

- Collective ownership of all issues i.e. secondary schools will take responsibility of the management of children with challenging behaviour within the schools in their locality through Pupil Placement Panels.
- The prevention of exclusions by addressing issues at point of risk of exclusion.
- All schools are involved in the gatekeeping and referral process.
- Positive practice is encouraged and negative challenged.
- An aspiration for zero exclusions
- A reduction of pressure on the High Needs Funding block caused by exclusions.

Appendix 4 provides an action plan of progress made on the implementation of the recommendations from the Inclusion Review.

2. Conclusion

Exclusions in Lincolnshire remain a concern as the impact of the actions implemented are yet to be evident. Progress has been made to address some of the urgent issues which are inhibiting schools and the local authority to make a difference to the number of exclusions and therefore the lifelong opportunities for our young people in Lincolnshire. Further implementation of actions identified should open up opportunities to provide early intervention for young people with challenging behaviour and thus prevent exclusions being the only available option to manage behaviour effectively.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix 1	School Admissions and Exclusions Action Plan - Second Monitoring Update
Appendix 2	Government's Response to the recommendations of 'Always Someone Else's Problem'
Appendix 3	Exclusions And Admissions - Supplementary Action Plan
Appendix 4	Update report on introduction and implementation of the recommendations from the Inclusion Review

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 John O'Connor, who can be contacted on 01522 553213 or John.O'Connor@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Appendix 1: RESPONSE TO SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS IN LINCOLNSHIRE – ACTION PLAN ARISING FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
1. The mid-term admission process introduced by this Council in 2010 has proven to be a very effective way of bringing children into education during the school year. The requirement for such a centralised system is to be removed from September 2013 and it is recommended that the system should be maintained after this date and for schools to be encouraged to use this process.	Yes	Schools must make their own decision around joining in a centralised system however, the current system is found beneficial by most schools and parents.	Admissions teams to write to schools.	June 2013	John O'Connor	Majority of respondents agreed to continue with the Local Authority coordinating mid-year admissions from September 2013. Action complete
2. The Task and Finish Group noted the work of the Lincolnshire Parent Partnership Service and recommends that this Service is advertised as widely as possible to ensure that all parents who require assistance are made aware of the support available.	Yes	Welcome the recognition of the valuable work of Parent Partnership services.	Parent Partnership to review Communication Strategy.	September 2013	David McWilliams	The Parent Partnership Service (PPS) website has been remodelled and updated making it more accessible to parents. In addition, 5 Parent 'drop ins' have been delivered across the county attended by parents representing 70 children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) to raise awareness of the support service available to them. The Stakeholder Board of PPS have recommended

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
						that all paper based information products are 'put on hold' for updating until legislative changes on SEND presented in the Children and Families Act 2014 are clear. Action complete
3. The Task and Finish Group noted the work of the Choice Advisers in supporting parents with the admission process to school and recommend that this service is promoted to the parents who require the service.	Yes	Welcome the recognition of the value of the Choice Advisors.	The promotion of Choice Advisors reviewed.	Formal merger September 2013 End of Transition Phase April 2014	John O'Connor	The Choice Advice Service and the Parent Partnership Service were merged after a formal consultation during the summer 2013. The new, 'integrated' Service took effect from the 1 st September. However, we have agreed a phased approach to the transition and will continue to support parents up until April 2014. This will allow time to resolve existing issues and to ensure both parents and staff are fully conversant in the new approach to providing support. Choice Advisors now part of the Information Advice

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
						<p>and Support They support parents who of children with Special Educational Needs or Disability. The admissions team, CSC and EMTET are now responsible for supporting parents who do not understand the admissions process.</p> <p>Action complete</p>
<p>4.Lincolnshire County Council should write to the Secretary of State for Education enclosing a copy of this report and raising the following issues:</p> <p>a) to highlight the pressures that schools are placed under to meet national floor targets, and that the pupil profile of a particular school should be taken into account when setting these targets.</p> <p>b) to request that a letter is sent to all local authorities in the country reminding them of their legal obligations in respect of informing receiving local authorities when they place children and young people within</p>	Yes	The Executive Councillor welcomes this recommendation by the task group.	The report along with a letter highlighting key points will be sent by the Executive Councillor to the Secretary of State.	Originally April 2013 - deferred to October 2013 in the light of the publication of "Always Someone Else's Problem and the Government Response to it (published late August 2013)	Cllr Bradwell	The Children & Young People Scrutiny report was submitted to the National Review conducted by the Office of the Children's Commissioner. The letter to the Secretary of State was deferred until the outcome of "Always Someone Else's Problem and the Government Response was known (August). To some extent the issues originally identified have been partially addressed in the Government's response. The letter will focus on those that have not.

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
<p>their electoral boundaries. This will allow the receiving local authority to monitor the impact on school admissions and the availability of school places.</p> <p>c) to request clear and unequivocal guidance relating to unofficial exclusions from academies. This should include clear mechanisms around notification to the local authority of such exclusions and a formalised mechanism around recharging for educational provision for these pupils.</p> <p>d) to highlight the costs implications on the local authority and the impact of informal exclusion and slow admission on the learner in the absence of clear and unequivocal guidance around implementation of fair access protocols including clear timescales for the admission of learners.</p> <p>e) to request that the previous policy to reintegrate children who have been temporarily excluded from school is reintroduced with reference to the readmission meeting held by the school.</p>						<p>Letter was sent to the Education Secretary</p> <p>Action complete</p>

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
5.Lincolnshire County Council should write to the District Councils in Lincolnshire to request that the County Council is included as a statutory consultee when they consider planning applications for new residential developments or where there is a proposed change of use application in respect of independent children's homes. This will allow the County Council to highlight to the District Councils whether there will be any major impacts on school admissions and places in that area and for the County Council to be made aware that further school provision may be required to cope with additional pupils from outside of Lincolnshire.	Yes	Welcome the support of District Councils.	A letter will be sent to District Councils from the Director of Children's Services.	April 2013	Debbie Barnes	Completed. Letter sent (copy available on request) Action complete
6.The Task and Finish Group was keen to ensure that the Local Authority continues to have in place effective monitoring and accountability protocols to ensure that wherever possible and in accordance with parental preference and the legislative requirements that pupils are admitted into their local school	Yes	The processes and protocols have been reviewed during the life of the task group and are robust.	An annual report will be brought in the autumn term for the previous academic year.	December 2013	John O'Connor / Gary Nixon / David McWilliams	Annual Report will be ready by due date. There are currently the following reports produced indicating the monitoring of admissions and exclusions - Annual report to the Office of Schools Adjudicator

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
speedily particularly in the context of increased academisation in Lincolnshire. The Local Authority should continue to monitor and challenge this and will provide appropriate information to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis.						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An 'in and out' spreadsheet updated termly indicating number of children admitted into schools and number out (including excluded, EHE). This is shared with schools. - A monthly DMT report on permanent and fixed term exclusions <p>An annual report will look at combining this information to present to DMT and CYPSC July 15.</p> <p>Work in progress</p>
7.Lincolnshire County Council should forward the final report to the Children's Commissioner for inclusion in the call for evidence for the Year 2 School Exclusions Inquiry looking at inequalities and unofficial exclusions.	Yes	Completed	Completed	Completed		Action complete
8.The Task and Finish Group acknowledged that there is extensive helpful information provided to parents and carers around admissions and	Yes	Information on admissions and exclusions includes information for parents.	As and when information is revised, a review of parent information will be included in the	April 2014	Head of Service	Letter drafted and information will be sent out to schools in November 2013 with updated legislation.

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
exclusions but agreed that the County Council needs to ensure that the information provided clearly sets out parental responsibilities and rights.			process.			Action complete
<p>9.The Education Out of School Team should advise and support maintained schools and academies by:</p> <p>a) redistributing the Exclusions Policy to all maintained schools and academies as a reminder of their legal responsibilities and statutory duties when considering or implementing an exclusion;</p> <p>b) writing to all maintained schools and academies in Lincolnshire to advise them of their responsibility to ensure that the Local Authority was informed should a young person on their roll not be in education; and</p> <p>c) writing to all the existing academies in Lincolnshire and any new academy once it has opened, so that they are aware of their legal obligation to ensure that the new independent review panels for exclusions are independent.</p>	Yes	Welcome task groups recommendation to continue to highlight the work of the Education Out of School Team and guidance on exclusions to all schools in Lincolnshire.	The Education Out of School Team will ensure that schools receive the information as outlined in the recommendation.	September 2013 onwards	Gary Nixon / Phil Whitworth	<p>All schools will have received the relevant letters and information by the end of November 2013</p> <p>Exclusion Policy was redistributed to all maintained and academy school in September 2013</p> <p>Reminders to schools on policy and legal requirements around exclusion are sent regularly to school through the e-courier or service area bulletin</p> <p>Action complete</p>

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
10.The Task and Finish Group fully supports and values the work undertaken by the Education Out of School Team who provide valuable support to maintained schools and academies to ensure that they fully understand their legal obligations in respect of exclusions, and monitor exclusions at maintained schools during their transition into academy status. The Task and Finish Group recommends that the resource to this Team is maintained.	Yes	The work of Education Out of School Team is valued.	The views of the task group are noted.	Completed.		Action complete
11.The Task and Finish Group recognised the value that the Lincolnshire Parent Partnership Service provides to parents and carers in Lincolnshire and that they are often made aware of specific issues around admissions and exclusions relating to SEN pupils. A process should be established for officers to obtain information and data from the Lincolnshire Parent Partnership Service on	Yes	The value of the Parent Partnership is recognised and the suggestion of information from the service on an annual basis welcomed.	Information from the Parent Partnership service to be included in an annual report on Exclusions and Admissions to Scrutiny as with in Action 6.	December 2013	John O'Connor / Gary Nixon / David McWilliams	6 Weekly Meetings now take place and In relation to the issues of sharing data, these issues have been resolved and processes for sharing data in a safe and timely manner are currently being developed. To be included in the annual report for July 2015.

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
admissions and exclusions for children and young people with special educational needs so that any issues arising from the information can be addressed. This should be an annual report that is sent to the Children's Services Departmental Management Team and to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.						Work in progress
12.The Task and Finish Group recognises the importance of the work undertaken by the Lincolnshire Teaching and Learning Centre and recommends that resources allocated for this service are maintained.	Yes	The value of the Teaching and Learning Centre is noted.	The recommendation is noted subject to legislative changes.	Completed.		Action complete see Appendix 4 for further progress
13. The Task and Finish Group has been mindful of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as this Review has progressed. In particular, every child's right to an education to develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest and to encourage each child to reach the highest level of education that they are capable of. The Group recommends that this	Yes	The Council is mindful of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and will continue to be so.	Staff reminded of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at meetings and when drafting policies.	December 2013	David McWilliams	The local authority and the wider Children's Partnership have a Children, Young People and Families Participation Strategy. This is underpinned by the principles and Values of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and in particular Article 12. The LCC Participation Team

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
Council remains mindful of this Convention in all strategies and policies it develops in relation to admissions and exclusions, and ensures that it reminds all schools in the County of these expectations as necessary.						<p>champion the strategy and this work is also carried forward through the Lincolnshire Participation Action Group (LPAG).</p> <p>Action complete</p>

Appendix 2: Government's Response to the recommendations of 'Always Someone Else's Problem'

Recommendation 1

We recommend that the DfE should work together with the Government Equalities Office and Equality and Human Rights Commission to produce statutory guidance for schools and other public educational bodies in interpreting the Public Sector Equality Duties with regard to exclusions.

Response to recommendation 1

Revised statutory guidance on exclusion now makes clear that schools' duties under the Equality Act 2010 apply in relation to their use of exclusion and the Government has issued additional advice on how schools can meet their duties under the Act. Since this response, the Equality and Human Rights Commission has published its own advice to schools on the Equality Act. Officials in the Department commented on this advice, which includes a specific focus on equality in the use of exclusion. The Government does not believe that further guidance is needed on this matter.

Recommendation 2

We recommend that governors be empowered to provide a more robust challenge to schools which exclude. Repeatedly, witnesses to the Inquiry have stated that governing bodies are neither equipped nor willing to provide effective challenge to head teachers when it comes to exclusions, either formal or informal.

Recommendation 3

We recommend that governing bodies be required to nominate a Member to have overall responsibility for behaviour and exclusions, in the same way that they do for LAC, SEN and other issues. This governor should have a specific remit to examine the school's policy and practice on behaviour management, including exclusions, and should receive mandatory training to support them on this. Governing bodies should have a responsibility to review the school's behaviour policy on an annual basis, as they do with numerous other school policies, and a responsibility to ensure that it complies with the law.

Response to recommendations 2 and 3

The Government recognises the vital role that governing bodies play in school accountability and ensuring that every child receives the best possible education. We have high expectations of governing bodies and want to see them focusing their efforts on their three core strategic functions of: setting vision; holding headteachers to account; and making sure school budgets are well spent. In line with these functions, governing bodies have a specific responsibility for performance management of the headteacher. Our role is not to micromanage this process but to put in place a framework that enables effective governance. We are cutting red tape by removing and simplifying duties on

governing bodies, enabling peer-support through the National Leaders of Governance Programme, increasing the availability of leadership development training for chairs, and equipping governors with better performance data. Within this context, it is for individual governing bodies to identify the specific training they need to perform their functions.

Since September 2012, the School Inspection Framework has placed a strong focus on the quality of school governance. It has a specific focus on the effectiveness of governance as a central part of the overall judgement on the quality of a school's leadership and management. This will help to promote high quality governance and improve weak governance arrangements. Ofsted has set out nine criteria for judging the effectiveness of governing bodies. These criteria reflect governing bodies' three core strategic functions and include the extent to which governing bodies hold headteachers to account for teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety, and challenge and strengthen their leadership. Every inspection report will contain an explicit comment on the quality of a school's governance in light of these criteria. Where governance is weak in a school that 'requires improvement', inspectors may recommend an external review of governance arrangements.

The Government has also clarified our expectations and the legal duties on governing bodies in a new plain English, *Governors' Handbook*. This replaced the *Governors' Guide to the Law* and, for the first time, covers both maintained school and academy governing bodies. The Handbook makes clear that governing bodies must comply with their legal responsibilities for administering the exclusion process, as set out in the statutory exclusion guidance, and reinforces the wider role that governors have in holding headteachers to account for the lawful use of exclusion.

Recommendation 4

We recommend that all school-based professionals should have a clear route of accountability which enables them to draw problems to the attention of the relevant external body without fear of reprisals if they consider that a school is informally excluding pupils.

Response to recommendation 4

There is already a clear route for employees to raise concerns that individuals or schools are acting in a discriminatory or unlawful manner. In the majority of cases concerns are best resolved at a local level and the employers of school-based professionals should have established procedures for dealing with whistleblowing and handling grievances. If an employee felt unable to tell their employer that a school was acting unlawfully they could raise their concerns with the Department. Employees that raise concerns are protected from discrimination and unfair dismissal by Employment Tribunals, which have the power to direct reinstatement and require compensation to be paid.

Recommendation 5

We recommend that all schools should, as a matter of course, publish their behaviour policies prominently on their website. Where they do not already contain information on exclusions, they should be amended to do so. This information should include information on the rights of children and their parents, as set out elsewhere in this report. These rights should also be issued to all parents alongside home-school agreements.

Response to recommendation 5

Maintained schools are already required to publish their behaviour policy on the school website. Where schools do not have a website the governing body must make arrangements for the behaviour policy to be put on another website and to make the address and details of the website known to parents. In setting the school's behaviour policy headteachers must determine the standard of behaviour the school expects of its pupils and the sanctions that will be imposed if a pupil's behaviour falls short of those principles.

Academies are also required to have a behaviour policy. The governing body must ensure that there is a written policy to promote good behaviour which sets out the sanctions to be adopted if pupils misbehave. An academy's behaviour policy must be made available to parents and prospective parents. Whilst academies are not required to publish their behaviour policy on their website, in practice many do so.

The Department funds a number of organisations to provide free and impartial advice to parents on matters relevant to exclusion. This includes the Coram Children's Legal Centre, a link to which is included on the Government's new information website, www.GOV.UK. Statutory exclusion guidance makes clear that headteachers and governing bodies should draw parent's attention to relevant sources of advice when notifying parents about an exclusion.

Recommendation 8

The gap regarding accountability for identifying and addressing informal exclusions should be closed. We consider that the legal position is, in many ways, already clear, but that the responsible bodies do not give due regard to their duties in this area.

Recommendation 9

For the sake of clarity, we consider that, for maintained schools, local authorities have responsibility for identifying and addressing informal exclusions. For the increasing number of Academies (including free schools) this responsibility rests with the EFA. We recommend that, as part of its response to this report, the DfE makes a clear statement that it agrees with this assessment, and expects these statutory bodies to give due regard to this issue. This includes an expectation of improvements to the timely and

thorough investigation of any complaints made regarding informal exclusions, and the imposition of appropriate sanctions where schools are acting informally.

Response to recommendations 8 and 9

Wherever possible, complaints about schools are best resolved at the local level. Initially this would be through a school's own complaints procedure. The local authority might also help to resolve complaints about maintained schools.

Where the local complaints process has been exhausted, or there is a need for urgent action, then the Department will consider a complaint that a school has acted unlawfully. The Education Funding Agency is the Department's delivery agency for funding and compliance, with a specific responsibility for considering complaints about academies, including free schools.

The Department has recently reformed and aligned its processes for considering complaints about maintained schools and academies to ensure that complaints are handled promptly, fairly and proportionately. This includes introducing a single online portal for the public to register complaints about schools. The Department has issued guidance to support complainants with clear information about its role in handling complaints.

In considering a complaint the Department takes seriously any evidence that a school has acted unlawfully. It is not the role of the Department to impose sanctions against schools, but if it was identified that a pupil had been informally excluded we would act urgently to ensure that the pupil was receiving suitable, full time education. Where appropriate, this would include taking steps to ensure the pupil was readmitted to the excluding school. Evidence of any unlawful activity would be passed to Ofsted to consider and, if relevant, drawn to the attention of an individual's employer.

Recommendation 10

We recommend that the following measures be considered so as to remove the potential incentive on schools to exclude informally:

- *Any informal exclusions which are found to have taken place should immediately be reported to Ofsted. Ofsted should record this information as part of its monitoring data on schools.*
- *Informal exclusions identified by the EFA (in the case of Academies) or the local authority (in the case of maintained schools) should be reported to, and recorded by, the school's governing body. They should then form part of the evidence provided to the head teacher's annual performance review. This should also be dealt with as a disciplinary matter for the head teacher.*
- *Where a school is found to have falsified registers in order to hide an informal exclusion, this is a criminal offence and should be dealt with accordingly. The*

head teacher should be referred to the National College for Teaching and Leadership for professional misconduct.

- *Where a child has been identified to have been informally excluded for a period of one month (either in a continuous period or as a result of repeated short-term informal exclusions), the school should have a financial penalty imposed equal to the amount of funding it receives for that child annually.*

Response to recommendation 10

The Government's view is that the revised school inspection system and individuals' accountability to their employer provide a robust mechanism of accountability.

As set out above, school inspection has been refocused to reinforce accountability for behaviour and governance. Where the Department identifies information that would be relevant to school inspection then it is reported to Ofsted. This would include evidence that a school had acted informally in excluding a pupil. Ofsted has indicated that evidence of informal exclusion would be taken very seriously and would inform the judgements made about a school. The Department and Ofsted have committed to keeping their process for sharing information under-review to ensure that it is sufficiently robust.

Part two of the new Teachers' Standards sets the benchmark for the conduct and behaviour expected of all teachers in England at all times, including those teachers who work in academies and independent schools. This includes the expectation that teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

Where a school considers a teacher to have breached the Standards, they may decide that it is necessary to take disciplinary action against the teacher. If a teacher is found to have committed gross misconduct and is subsequently dismissed from their post, or would have been dismissed had they not already resigned, the teacher's employer must consider whether it is appropriate to make a referral about the teacher to the Secretary of State. Members of the public may also refer an allegation of serious misconduct by a teacher. The National College of Teaching and Leadership is responsible for acting on behalf of the Secretary of State in considering these matters. In serious cases, this can lead to the Secretary of State prohibiting the teacher from teaching.

Appendix 3: EXCLUSIONS AND ADMISSIONS- Supplementary Action Plan

Appendix 3 a: ACTIONS CURRENTLY BEING ACTIONED FOLLOWING INITIAL CONSULTATION

Action	Priority	By When	Progress
Ensure a closer scrutiny of mid-year admissions to check the validity of such admissions.	High	2 nd September 2013	Schools are challenged on any refusal to admit through mid year admissions. Mid year admissions forms are being reviewed to reduce the information provided in order to limit the number of refusals based on selection. Action complete
Refocus the Out of School Team (EOOST) on re-integration	High	2 nd September 2013	In progress , see Appendix 4
Continue to monitor the length of stay and interventions of Teaching and Learning Centre registered pupils. Including reappraisal of readiness of re-integration and refocusing of TLC outreach on prevention and re-integration.	High	2 nd September 2013	In April 2013, TLC converted to maintained school. A monthly report is presented to DMT Exec which includes information on length of stay, interventions. This is discussed at the Programme board, an interface between LCC and the TLC. See Appendix 4 for more information Action complete
Explore integrated support for families – TAC, Families Working Together, Youth Offending Service, Child in Need (CIN), Police and other agencies before permanent exclusion.	High	2 nd September 2013	This is being achieved by 1. the direction through the pupil placement panels where schools will be encourage to address needs of children at risk

			<p>of exclusion</p> <p>2. the introduction of Early Help assessments as a tool to early identification of need.</p> <p>Action complete</p>
Re-appraisal of readiness for re-integration and refocusing of TLC outreach on prevention and re-integration.	High	September 2013	<p>Close monitoring and challenge of readiness to re-integrate. Plan of integration for each child has been introduced which will allow continuity of support from TLC into school. Success in reintegration has been seen particularly in primary. TLC currently reviewing capacity to offer preventative work through the Lincoln Pathway Plan.</p> <p>Work in progress (see Appendix 4)</p>
Review how many pupils in the Teaching and Learning Centres and Solutions 4 are recorded as having a TAC and how many pupils are involved in other aspects of Children's Services	Medium	1 st October 2013	<p>Monthly report sent to DMT Exec includes TLC tracker which identifies if children are LAC, have SEN. or are in TAC, CiN/CP. CS monthly summary of exclusions indicates if open to social care. Systems in place for tracking.</p> <p>Action complete</p>
Liaise with the LSCB with regard to any links to their action plan and act on those findings.	Medium	1 st October 2013	<p>LSCB has identified work around Drug and Alcohol abuse as one of their priorities. Education out of school team routinely send information on exclusions through to Addaction</p>

			and Smoke Free Lincs. Alliance. TLC is now a member of the Child Sexual Exploitation panel and EOOST officers are to be represented at MARAC. Action complete
Review the use of “negative language” – ensuring that children are not labelled as “SEN”	Medium	1 st October 2013	Review of information as part of the SEN reform. Action complete
Review the use of fixed term exclusions as a disciplinary tool	Medium	1 st October 2013	Data on fixed term exclusions is forwarded to Cfbt Advisors who challenge the impact of using fixed term exclusions as a disciplinary tool Data on repeat fixed term exclusions is analysed. Work in progress
Verify the number and nature of SEN statements for pupils accessing the Teaching and Learning Centres	Medium	1 st October 2013	Number and nature of pupils entering TLC with SEN statements/ Education and Health Plans will be verified and challenged regularly through the Programme Board Action complete
Liaise with the Governor Support Service with regard to training for SEN Governors to raise awareness of the remit of the SEN Governor.	Low	18 th October 2013	SEN Governor training is offered to all schools x3 per year. There is also consultancy available to support this area of work Action complete
Ensure schools receive relevant information on outreach support, autism and SEN training modules and support available for adopted children.	High	October 2013	Information received by schools through the Children's Services and Cfbt Education Services CPD handbook

			Action complete
Develop a business model by which schools can purchase places in the Teaching and Learning Centres at KS4 without recourse to permanent exclusion (To be presented DMT once legalities are verified – see Annex 3 of Exec DMT Report)	High	October 2013	Work in progress – see Appendix 4
Review the reasons for permanent exclusions and to identify immediate and longer term measures	High	October 2013	Reasons for permanent exclusions are recorded and presented in DMT Exec report monthly. This is shared with appropriate service areas e.g. Cfbt, Addaction and Smoke Free Lincs. Plan to reduce exclusions through pupil placement panels is being implemented (see Appendix 4)

Appendix 3b : The following sections will provide the focus for the commissioned consultation and options appraisal:

<p>Delegation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate the possibilities for delegation or partial delegation of funding to schools. • To explore the possibility of developing different approaches within each key stage. • To explore the possibilities of creating a range of options available to schools and encourage them to share expertise, with the ability to “grow their own” expertise. • To explore possibility of promoting a culture change to encourage schools to offer provision to the best of their abilities that meets the needs of the child.
<p>Scope of Review</p>
<p>Review the impact on the High Needs Block</p>
<p>Consider the deployment of school underspends</p>
<p>Continue to challenge headteachers and SEN governors with regard to accountability, gatekeeping and collective responsibility</p>
<p>Explore strategies for increasing the accountability and collective responsibility of headteachers</p>
<p>Review blockages for SEND cohort</p>
<p>Produce a costed implementation plan and long term strategy for TLCs, exclusions and admissions</p>

Behaviour Partnerships

- To explore the possibility of creating collaborative partnerships which match “areas” of need. If collaborative partnerships are a way forward to explore ways of the sharing of information and good practice within those partnerships.
- To explore possibility of promoting a culture change to encourage schools to offer provision to the best of their abilities that meets the needs of the child.
- To explore the possibility of schools being further encouraged to access support, including outreach support.
- To explore the possibility of establishing a “Reward and Accreditation” scheme.

Scope of Review

Explore the possibility of establishing behaviour partnerships, nurture groups and peer mentoring between schools.

Review school exclusion policies

Explore the need to develop strategies to address informal exclusions

Explore how schools and parents can be encouraged to address the SEN of pupils before it occurs

Explore ways to address the threshold for exclusions and work with schools to enable them to manage behaviour

Explore the possibility of managed move protocols.

Consider “Assessment Centre+” Possibilities

Outreach and Support

- To explore the possibility of schools being further encouraged to access support, including outreach support.
- To explore the possibilities of creating a range of options available to schools and encourage them to share expertise, with the ability to “grow their own” expertise.
- To explore the possibility of promoting a culture change to encourage schools to offer provision to the best of their abilities that meets the needs of the child.
- To explore the possibility of developing different approaches within each key stage.
- To investigate the possible need to cultivate an alternative education market that schools can access.

Scope of Review

Create capacity within the Teaching and Learning Centres (TLC) for TLC staff to provide more outreach support by monitoring the use of the TLCs to ensure children and young people are there for shorter periods of time and that only the most serious cases are referred to the TLC

Review TAC, School Action and School Action+ processes with the view of developing one single process, encouraging further agency engagement.

Explore possible links with the Armed Forces to further develop expertise

Produce a directory of support for schools

Development of in-school Expertise

- To explore the possibility of schools being further encouraged to access support, including outreach support.
- To explore the possibilities of creating a range of options available to schools and encourage them to share expertise, with the ability to “grow their own” expertise.
- To explore the possibility of promoting a culture change to encourage schools to offer provision to the best of their abilities that meets the needs of the child.
- To explore the possibility of creating collaborative partnerships which match “areas” of need. If collaborative partnerships are a way forward to explore ways of the sharing of information and good practice within those partnerships.
- To explore the possibility of establishing a “Reward and Accreditation” scheme.
- To explore the possibility of developing different approaches within each key stage.

Scope of Review

Explore the need to develop strategies to address informal exclusions

Explore ways to address the threshold for exclusions and work with schools to enable them to manage behaviour

Encourage greater collaboration with parents/carers, gathering their views, with the help of Parent Support Advisers, on changing “no engagement” to “willing engagement”.

Explore the possibility of establishing behaviour partnerships, nurture groups and peer mentoring between schools.

Appendix 4: Update report on introduction and implementation of the recommendations from the Inclusion Review

Background

In April 2014 the recommendations from the Inclusion Review were presented to all schools at the Head teacher briefing sessions. The ownership of these recommendation were

- Introduction and trialling of locality Pupil placement panels – Education out of School team (EOOST)
- Establishing the Lincolnshire Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) as a maintained school and developing it as a provider of outreach. (TLC and Commissioning Services)
- Sourcing alternative provision for key stage 4 (Commissioning)

Pupil Placement Panels

The Education out of School (EOOST) team are currently working with a pilot group of secondary schools to explore the introduction of pupil placement panels across the county to:

- support the reintegration of pupils who have experienced a permanent exclusion.
- create forums for partnership working between schools introducing early intervention as a strategy to avoid permanent exclusions.

This is a major piece of work impacting on the established and embedded policies and practices of the local authority. It was essential at the time of introduction, that schools were involved in the shaping of this new approach therefore a task and finish group, consisting of head teachers and local authority education services officers, was set up in order to test approaches and address any concerns on the practical implications of the panel process.

Alongside the formal agenda this process is providing a platform for the promotion and development of collaborative partnerships between schools and the sharing of information and practice within the group. This aspect has been particularly well received by the task and finish group and schools within the pilot group are exhibiting a desire to foster and develop these links further.

There continues to be the need to consult with the pilot group of schools in relation to financial and practical implications of this approach. This meeting will take place in October 2014 with the intention of confirming the trial arrangement at this meeting and at the head teacher's briefing meetings in November 14.

Although the panels are not yet in place, schools are expressing an interest in being able to avoid exclusions by purchasing support or alternative provision places. Their barriers to doing this remain as lack of provision/support available in their area and cost of transport.

Following the consultation, primary schools did not signed up to exploring pupil placement panels preferring that the local authority, through the Education Out of School team to manage the process for exclusions on their behalf. The concept of pupil placement panels will be re-introduced to them once secondary panels are in place as local management of pupil behaviour across all key stages may have an impact on reducing the total number of exclusions. Meanwhile the EOOST monitor allocations of Preventing Exclusions funding to support primary schools to avoid permanent and fixed term exclusions as an approach to challenging behaviour.

The EOOST team continue to work across all settings (maintained and academies) to provide advice, guidance around the appropriate use of fixed and permanent exclusions, including challenging any poor practice in relation to exclusions. This includes encouraging schools to explore alternative options, to work with integrated support services and outreach services where available.

The EOOST Team deliver a high quality training programme to schools and governors to promote good practice, disseminate national guidance and local policies and procedures. The training ensures settings are aware of their roles and responsibilities and are working within the legal framework. To reinforce this all settings have been provided with the current guidance to ensure that any exclusion, fixed or permanent is procedurally correct and lawful. This information is reviewed and recirculated, as a minimum, on an annual basis and is updated as often as is required e.g. when a setting converts to academy or a new school/academy is opened.

The plan below outlines actions completed so far and those pending.

Teaching and Learning Centre

In April 2013 the Lincolnshire Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) converted into a maintained school. It continues to have 4 sites across Lincolnshire and quality assures the Solution 4 provision for key stage 4. The TLC provides the following services on behalf of the local authority through a memorandum of understanding:

- provision for permanently excluded pupils prior to being reintegrated into maintained or alternative provision
- home tuition for pupils who are permanently excluded or hard to place in mainstream where a place in the TLC is not appropriate.

In order for the local authority to reach the desired outcome of reducing permanent exclusions there needs to be a process by which schools can purchase alternative provision or outreach support as an early intervention strategy. The TLC are highly sought after by schools to provide this however there is a need for them to release places and build capacity in order to provide this service. To reach this point the TLC have been working with EOOST, Special Educational Needs and the Commissioning team to:

- monitor the length of stay and readiness of reintegration in order to predict place availability and avoid second exclusions and returns to the TLC.
- ensure assessment processes are in place prior to a pupil entering the TLC or as soon as possible on being admitted.
- source additional alternative education providers to allow schools to purchase places and support as an alternative to exclusion.
- increase the capacity of the outreach service to support young people with challenging behaviour, to remain in their mainstream provision.

The ability and capacity of the TLC to offer support as early intervention together with the capacity of schools to build their own provision with the potential of offering to other schools and the success of the pupil placement panels to manage pupils at risk of exclusion or hard to place pupils, are linked and dependent on each other. Therefore it is important that there is progress in all areas to ensure an overall success.

The plan below outlines actions taken so far and those pending.

Sourcing Alternative Provision for Key Stage 4

Dealing with challenging behaviour of some young people at Key stage 4 can be particularly difficult for schools. In many cases, schools have tried a wide range of interventions but still end at the point of needing to permanently exclude. Schools have a desire not to exclude but with inadequate provision across the county, impacting on transport costs, together with the lack of a process to allow them to purchase a permanent or temporary place off their school site, there are often left with no option. The cost of providing this provision then falls on the local authority. In order to promote early interventions with young people, Commissioning have implemented a positive drive to source and recruit more alternative education providers.

The plan below outlines actions taken so far and those pending.

Actions in relation to the recommendations from the Inclusion Review 2014

	Action	Priority	By When	Progress
1	To form task and finish group comprising of head teachers and LCC staff to explore pupil placement panels as option to exclusions	High	Sept 14	Group set up consisting of secondary head teachers from schools in Lincoln and surrounding areas. 3 meetings held. Further meeting arranged 10 th Oct to discuss financial implications and confirm readiness to move to next stage of implementation
2	Managed moves explored as an option to permanent exclusion	High	Sept 14	Managed Move protocol rewritten and draft shared with task and finish group May 14 and all secondary schools Sept 14. Response from school to increasing use of managed move is positive. Further discussions needed around cost of transport and source of funding needed.
3	Fair Access Protocol to be reviewed to include its implications under the pupil placement panels and allocation of hard to place pupils	High	Sept 14	Fair Access Protocol reviewed and draft shared with task and finish group May 14 and all secondary schools Sept 14.
4	Locality panels determined and terms of reference for group produced	High	July 14	Secondary schools divided into 7 localities based on current working partnerships and transport arrangements. Draft terms of reference and panel arrangements shared with task and finish group July 14 and with all secondary schools Sept 14.
5	Rescinding policy written	High	July 14	Policy sent out to all schools. They are now aware of the conditions in relation to withdrawing an exclusion
6	Input at Head teacher's briefing to provide full information on panel approach	High	Nov 14	
7	Trialling of pupil placement panel	Med	Jan 15	
8	Guidance produced for allocation of hard to place and preventing exclusion funding	Med	Jul 14	Review of how funding is allocated. Moved from set allocation to criteria based. Criteria can be used as part of pupil placement panel process once established.
9	Production of regular reports and analysis of data on exclusions to determine success of changes	High	June 14	Monthly reports to Exec DMT produced including specific information requested. Monthly report includes details of young

				people at TLC/Sol4, support offered and predicted date of reintegration.
10	Admissions criteria/policy for the Teaching and Learning Centre	Med	Oct 14	
11	Engagement session held for alternative education (Solution 4) providers	Med	Oct 2014	Session delivered 1 st Oct. The purpose was to gather views/thoughts of the current service provision and what (if anything) can be improved when the service is put out for competition later this year.
12	Procurement briefing session for Solutions 4 providers to inform them of the process and requirements through the tender process for AP	Med	Dec 14	Initial timetable for the procurement process shared with providers at the Engagement sessions.
13	Closing date for pre tender applications for the alternative provision	High	22 Dec 14	
14	Closing date for tender applications for the alternative provision tender documents	High	11 Feb 15	Service specification is currently being drafted with members of staff from the TLC
15	Contracts for alternative provision (to be delivered from new academic year) to be awarded	High	1 Mar 15	
16	New delivery of alternative provision services	High	Sept 15	
17	Paper to School's Forum: outreach pathways	Med	Oct 14	Report has been drafted, presented to DMT and comments made have been reflected in the report that will be presented to Schools Forum 8 th Oct 14. A number of new delivery models have been considered with the final model being recommended and seeking approval at the forum.
18	Delivery commences of new outreach service model	High	Sept 15	Expressions of interest will be sought from schools who wish to partake in the new model going forward.
19	Paper to school's forum: outreach work from special schools	Med	Oct 14	Outreach from select schools is already in place. Paper to school's forum will recommend continuation of this.
20	Memorandum of understanding for Solutions 4 provision	High	April 15	MoU to be reviewed based on admission criteria/policy (action 10)

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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:	24 October 2014
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 the draft minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2014 are attached.

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 meet 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 on-going 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 meeting held on 13 March 2014.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Corporate Parenting Panel Minutes 05/06/2014

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, who can be contacted on 01522 552686 or tara.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR D BRAILSFORD (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors A G Hagues, J D Hough (Vice-Chairman), P J O'Connor and L Wootten.

Added Members: Jean Burbidge (Lincolnshire Community Health Services); Polly Coombes (Foster Carer) and Ted Normandale (National Youth Advocacy Service).

Officer/invited guests in attendance: Karen Bailey (Looked After Children Educational Services Manager); Theresa Buhryn (Performance Development and Reviewing Manager); Clive Chambers (Assistant Director Children's Services Barnardo's Midland Region); Dave Clarke (Secure Unit Principal); Sheridan Dodsworth (Head of Service - SEND); Judith Gilbert (Democratic Services Officer); Jan Gunter (Consultant Nurse, Safeguarding – NHS Lincolnshire); Colin Hopkirk (Participation Officer); Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer); Tara Jones (Joint Head of Regulated Services) and Janice Spencer (Assistant Director Children's Services).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J R Hicks, John Harris (Joint Head of Regulated Services) and Marilyn Graham-Williams (Foster Carer).

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of Members' interests were made at this stage of the proceedings.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2014

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 March 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendment:-

"The Panel was informed that foster carers who had cared for young people for over fifteen years received awards. It was highlighted that one couple had fostered for thirty-five years. It was also noted that Lincolnshire County Council would write to the foster carers expressing their thanks to them for their dedication over the last fifteen years".

4. CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) – REVIEW OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND SAFEGUARDING IN LINCOLNSHIRE INCLUDING THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT FOR HEALTH 2012/2013

Jan Gunter, Consultant Nurse, Safeguarding NHS Lincolnshire introduced the Panel to the Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Lincolnshire. The report which focused on the experiences and outcomes for children within the geographical boundaries of the local authority area reported on the performance of health providers serving the area which included NHS trusts, clinical commissioning groups and the local area team of NHS England.

It was noted that the review explored the effectiveness of health services for Looked After Children and the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within health for all children. The review also focused on the experiences of Looked After Children and of children and their families who received safeguarding services.

The Panel was informed that the review centred on:-

- The role of health care providers and commissioners;
- The role of health care organisations in understanding risk factors, identifying needs, communicating effectively with children and families, liaising with other agencies, assessing needs and responding to those needs and contributing to multi-agency assessments and reviews;
- The contribution of health services in promoting and improving the health and wellbeing of Looked After Children which included carrying out health assessments and providing the appropriate services;
- The review checked whether health care organisations were working in accordance with their responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 which included the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013.

The Panel was informed that document reviews, interviews, focus groups and visits were used to gather information for the review.

The Panel felt that the Care Quality Commission report was disappointing and NHS Lincolnshire should have had a stronger emphasis on the children's needs and the importance that they should be fully assessed. The Panel observed that the CQC would be changing the way in which the national level assessments would be conducted in the future and children under the age of five would be assessed by paediatricians.

It was noted that the Annual Report from the Safeguarding NHS Lincolnshire Management Team needed to be stronger. Children's Services Directorate Management Team were critical of the Health Annual Report as they were unable to understand the health profile of Looked After Children from the report. The quality of the Annual Report would be standardised over the next year.

The Panel was informed that an audit of health assessments had been undertaken but the report was not yet ready. The findings from the audit would be reported back

to the Panel later this year. One criticism highlighted was that the assessments were episodic rather than continuous. Public Health would be undertaking an analysis and redesign of health assessment forms and would then evaluate the data and liaise with the Clinical Commissioning Group. The health assessments would include hearing, physical, sensory and learning disabilities. It was also noted that 90% of all Looked After Children had been registered with a dentist and they had received development assessments in the past year. It was also noted that as children grow, some may refuse health assessments, although a nurse would be available to conduct their health assessments if they preferred.

The Panel was informed that the Independent Reviewing Officers would be reviewing each Looked After Child every six months. It was emphasised that the health information of each child was shared with the appropriate Foster Carer. It was reported that each Looked After Child should have a "Blue Book" which was a record of the child's health. It was noted that a "Red Book" was a family health record for children under the age of five and a much greater awareness was needed into the importance of maintaining a child's health record through the "Blue Books" and "Red Books". The Panel observed that a Care Nurse would be recruited to promote the awareness of the "Blue and Red Books" in due course.

The Panel was reminded that there were currently 620 Looked After Children in Lincolnshire and major work was ongoing around the alignment of health care in the County. The Panel was informed that Looked After Children should receive a health assessment within 20 days of being cared for although occasionally this was not possible. The Panel was reassured that these health checks were completed as soon as possible. It was also noted that community paediatricians would be involved in initial health assessments in future and clinics with paediatricians were being developed. The Derbyshire model was being looked at for the future to help meet the 90% target. Work was also being undertaken with Barnardo's on health summaries.

The Panel observed that an audit of the pre-birth protocol had just been completed. A very robust pre-birth protocol was now in place around vulnerable expectant mothers. Midwives could involve other health services at the very earliest stages of pregnancy if they considered there was a need.

The review highlighted that appropriate equipment to meet the assessed needs of Looked After Children with complex disabilities was not provided in a timely way and that this was a long-standing frustration with foster carers. It was reported that, although this had been extensively investigated, there was no evidence to support this claim and it was felt that the process for obtaining specialist equipment be clarified with foster carers.

It was noted that there would shortly be increased capacity in the Safeguarding NHS Lincolnshire Management Team. NHS Lincolnshire would be recruiting two senior nurses, equivalent to Heads of Service, and two staff equivalent to practice supervisors to proactively work around safeguarding and Looked After Children. It was hoped that these appointments would be made before the end of the year. The Clinical Commissioning Groups had invested additional money to enable this staffing increase.

RESOLVED

That the Panel were disappointed with the Care Quality Commission's report and requested an update be presented to the December meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

(Jan Gunter, Consultant Nurse, Safeguarding – NHS Lincolnshire left the meeting at 11.10 am)

5. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2014 – 2016

Colin Hopkirk, Participation Officer, introduced the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2014 – 2016 which had been updated by himself and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel and guided the Panel through the document. It was confirmed that the Strategy had received approval and support from the V4C Executive.

The Participation Officer was congratulated on the work and time that had been contributed to the draft Strategy. The Panel was informed that this was very much a working document and the Panel was invited to submit comments and observations on the draft Strategy prior to the end of June. It was also agreed that Looked After Children be consulted on the draft Strategy.

It was noted that the Local Authority, its members and officers, had a legal duty to act as a good and effective Corporate Parent to children and young people in its care and the draft Strategy emphasised that all 77 elected members would understand their Corporate Parenting responsibility and would meet annually with Looked After Children and Leaving Care service professionals. A champion for Looked After Children and Care Leavers would be established within each Working Group, across the directorates of Lincolnshire County Council.

The Panel agreed that a shortened version of the final Strategy would be presented to Looked After Children.

RESOLVED

1. That the draft Strategy be noted and that Panel members feedback any ideas and amendments by the end of June 2014.
2. That the final Strategy be presented to the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

6. V4C HALF-YEARLY REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Colin Hopkirk, Participation Officer, introduced the V4C half-yearly report which had been prepared by the Co-Chairs of the V4C Executive.

It was noted that the last six months had been exciting and challenging for the V4C Executive and its sub-groups. There had been a recruitment drive as a number of

young people had left and the Panel was informed the Executive Group now had eleven members.

It was also noted that connections with universities through involvement in assessments and direct training delivery continued to grow and it was suggested that perhaps the young people could have an opportunity to spend time looking around universities thus obtaining valuable experience and confidence.

Reference was made to an animated video created through contributions of Children in Care Councils and elected Members nationally. The new animated video, produced by the National Children's Bureau and A National Voice, highlighted how Looked After Children could have a more effective voice through their Children in Care Councils. It was noted that V4C members and Panel members had contributed to regional work that underpinned the content of the video. It was agreed that a link to the animated video be circulated to members of the Panel.

It was reported that the "Coming into Care App" was now being tested with a small cohort of social workers and young people and this was the first resource of its kind in the country. It was noted that six other local authorities, including two London Boroughs, four regional Authorities and Cumbrian Health had contacted the V4C regularly to learn about the work which had been undertaken by them on the "App". It was noted that Islington was currently liaising with their Children in Care Council regarding inviting the V4C Executive from Lincolnshire to talk with Islington regarding the "Coming into Care App". The "Coming into Care App" would be formally launched in late June/early July and it was confirmed that members of the Corporate Parenting Panel would be invited by the V4C Executive to this launch.

A discussion ensued regarding the importance of involving young people in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the Panel was informed that it costs each young person £1,000 to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. It was noted that 33% fewer Looked After Children had undertaken the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme compared with mainstream children, but of those taking part, success rate percentages of those going through to final awards were very similar to those for mainstream young people. It was felt that this Scheme needed to be promoted consistently amongst Foster Carers and Children's Homes in order to encourage more children to participate in the Scheme. The Scheme would give children greater confidence and self-esteem and children would be able to include the Duke of Edinburgh Award on their CV. It was noted that a report on Duke of Edinburgh participation was scheduled for the next meeting.

It was reported that many activity days had been planned to take place within the next seven months which included a residential weekend in Derbyshire and a visit to High Ropes close to Market Rasen. The Panel was informed that progress was being made with regard to young people in care helping to train Foster Carers in the future.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7. ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND RESPITE CARE

The Panel gave consideration to a report in connection with accommodation available for children with disabilities and respite care in the County.

It was reported that The Beacon was the Local Authority's long-term home for young people with disabilities in Grantham. The Beacon catered for up to 7 young people with learning and/or physical disabilities up to the age of eighteen. It was noted that all young people at the home had regular contact with their parents and in some cases parents visited up to three times each week. The home planned a number of activities for the young people throughout the year. The Panel was informed that The Beacon had an excellent working relationship with Sandon Special School which many of the young people at The Beacon attended. It was highlighted that Ofsted had undertaken an unannounced inspection of The Beacon in May 2013 and noted the outcomes for the young people as "good".

It was reported that a new fifteen bedroomed Beacon would be built and this was shortly going out to tender.

The Panel was informed that Strut House in Lincoln and Haven Cottage in Boston provided residential care for those children who needed "Short Breaks". It was noted that "Short Breaks" was the name which was given to "respite care" and all authorities had a statutory duty to provide "Short Breaks" for children and young people who were disabled and/or sensory impaired. It was noted that building work for an extra bed and a hygiene unit would be undertaken at Haven Cottage, Boston shortly.

The Panel noted that this was the fourth year Strut House, Lincoln and Haven Cottage, Boston had been evaluated by Ofsted as outstanding. The Panel praised the work and commitment of all the staff working in Children's Homes.

It was reported that the majority of families needed to access respite care. Respite accommodation was sometimes not fully utilised which was mainly due to the fact that staff worked very hard with rotas ensuring that the mix of young people who needed respite care was compatible and well-balanced.

It was noted that the number of disabled children had increased by 62% since 1975. It was felt that this was mainly due to an increased advancement in medical science; therefore, more people were now able to live longer than previously.

The Panel was informed that The Thomas Centre based at Covenham St Mary provided fully accessible holiday facilities for all families who needed support. It offered a peaceful, safe and tranquil setting for respite care and was available to all families.

St Bernard's School in Louth provided short breaks for young people with disabilities during weekends and school holidays. The school was able to accommodate five children per night and had 14 young people accessing this provision currently. It

was noted that short breaks at the school were largely funded by health although Children's Services had topped up funding in the last two years.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8. INDEPENDENT CHAIR SERVICE (REVIEW)

Theresa Buhryn, Independent Chair Manager, presented to the Panel the Independent Chair Review's Annual Report from April 2013 – March 2014.

It was noted that during the past twelve months the numbers of Looked After Children had continued to fluctuate. It was confirmed that there were now 620 Looked After Children in Lincolnshire.

It was also noted that two additional full-time posts had been approved along with one Quality Assurance Apprentice post. These posts would shortly be advertised and it was hoped that the posts would be filled by the Autumn.

The Panel observed that Signs of Safety training had been undertaken by the majority of Independent Chairs during this year. It was also noted that the Independent Review Service had responded positively to the Ofsted report "Independent Reviewing Officers: Taking up the Challenge?" This report summarised the findings from visitors by Inspectors to ten local authorities between November 2012 and June 2013. It was explained that Independent Review Officers were now challenging schools on the use of pupil premiums they received for each child they taught. It was noted that from April 2014 the guidance on the pupil premium had changed which meant there would be a greater control on what the pupil premium would be spent on. The pupil premium would now be given to local authorities who would passport it to schools. For each Looked After Child there was £1,900 available and an initial £600 could be given to the school for each pupil although the school would have to explain how it would use the additional money.

The Panel observed that Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) had been proactive in developing improved working relationships with CAFCASS Guardians. A national Independent Chair/CAFCASS Protocol had also been developed and agreed locally.

The Panel noted that other areas identified for improvement included:-

- Further implementation of Signs of Safety;
- Continuing to maintain links with regional colleagues;
- The signing off and implementation of the Independent Chairs/CAFCASS Protocol;
- To establish arrangements for independent legal advice for Independent Chairs.

It was confirmed that the Leaving Care Contract was currently out to tender.

It was noted that when children became Looked After, they each received a Children in Care Kit which contained information about the role of an Independent Reviewing Officer and the purpose of the Reviews. Children were encouraged to participate in their Reviews and it was noted that many of the children in care completed feedback forms and made positive comments. Concern was expressed that negative comments were perhaps not being reported or recorded and it was felt imperative that any negative comments were addressed. The Panel suggested that the next update should include minority views from user feedback also.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and an update on the minority views from user feedback be included in the next report to the December meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

9. OFSTED SERVICE REPORT – CHILDREN'S HOMES

The Panel gave consideration to a report regarding the standard of residential care in Lincolnshire. It was reported that every residential Children's Home in Lincolnshire was inspected twice a year and these inspections were unannounced. It was also noted that all the residential Children's Homes were providing a good standard of care to the young people. The residential Children's Homes in Lincolnshire, who had not been judged as outstanding, were working closely with those that had been awarded outstanding status to establish what changes they needed to make in order that they would be able to implement similar changes.

It was noted that inspection activities included:

- Listening and talking to children and young people;
- Observing staff interactions with children and young people;
- Observation of key activities such as handovers of information between staff;
- Gathering views from partners and stakeholders such as parents, social workers and teachers;
- Case file reading;
- Examination of records;
- Discussions with managers and staff.

It was noted that children living in residential Children's Homes were frequently monitored according to their needs and the staff working in residential Children's Homes also received supervision intermittently. It was agreed that the wording around regular supervision in the policy needed some further clarification.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

10. VISITING MEMBERS – LOG OF QUARTERLY VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES FROM APRIL 2013 – MARCH 2014

The Panel gave consideration to the Visiting Members – Log of Quarterly Visits to Children's Homes from April 2013 – March 214. Concern was expressed that visits from Councillors to Children's Homes had not been completed and the Chairman emphasised the importance of these visits in relation to the feedback received from the Children's Homes. It was noted that 33 Northolme needed allocating to another Councillor to visit.

A verbal report was given by Councillor L Wootten in connection with her visit to The Beacon Residential Children's Home in Grantham which was a home looking after fifteen children with autism. It was noted that planning permission had been granted to build a new "Beacon". It was also noted that the staff were very attentive and the accommodation very clean and tidy. The bedrooms of each of the children had been decorated according to their individual tastes and felt comfortable. There was a garden which had toys and go carts for the older children.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

*(Colin Hopkirk, Participation Officer and Polly Coombes, Foster Carer,
left the meeting at 12.55 pm)*

11. ADOPTION REFORM UPDATE

The Panel gave consideration to a report which outlined an ambitious adoption reform programme to ensure that more children, for whom adoption was the best option, could be placed quicker with permanent families to ensure they had the best chances in life. The Government's programme of adoption reform aimed to address the length of time a child waited to be adopted, the falling number of annual adoptions, and the recruitment and subsequent support to adoptive parents.

It was reported that in January 2013, the Department for Education announced grant funding to local authorities to support adoption reform activity and in February 2013, Lincolnshire County Council was awarded the grant which was divided into two parts. Part A, which totalled £1,276,840 was non ring-fenced and was to support whole system reform to ensure that children were adopted quickly. Part B of the grant, which totalled £486,650 was ring-fenced and was specifically for the recruitment of adopters. The Executive had agreed a total of £638,420 of the non-ring fenced grant to be spent across the adoption service. In January 2014 a further one off non-ring fenced adoption reform grant was announced by the Department of Education and the total grant allocation to Lincolnshire was £644,283. The purpose of the grant was to recognise the programmes of change under way in adoption services, particularly in the areas of marketing and recruitment, reducing delay and post adoption support.

It was noted that from a prospective foster carer making initial enquiries regarding becoming a foster carer to actually being placed with a child would take approximately eight months. It was also noted that very few children who were placed for adoption were returned to foster care. The Panel observed that rigorous

matching between children and foster carers and other fostered children takes place to ensure a suitable match.

(Ted Normandale, National Youth Advocacy Service, left the meeting at 1.15 pm)

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2014

The Scrutiny Officer introduced this item and it was agreed that the CQC Health Review report be included in the December meeting and the Corporate Parenting Strategy be included on the Agenda for the next meeting in September.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme presented be amended accordingly.

The meeting closed at 1.20 pm.

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	24 October 2014
Subject:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2014/15

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) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

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, 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 Bob Adams

24 October 2014		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Scrutiny Review – Executive Response	Cllr Mrs Patricia Bradwell Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health Services, and Children's Services	Scrutiny Review Activity
Child Sexual Exploitation	Andrew Morris LSCB Business Manager Caroline Mogg CSE Co-ordinator	Status Report / Presentation
School Admissions and Exclusions Scrutiny Review – Second Monitoring Update (including update on Inclusion Review)	John O'Connor Children's Service Manager – Education Support	Scrutiny Review Activity
Corporate Parenting Panel Update	Cllr David Brailsford Chairman of the Panel	Member Report
Early Intervention Services for Young Children with a Disability Commissioning Review (EXEMPT)	Lynn Brammer Interim Commissioning Team Manager	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 4 November 2014)

28 November 2014		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
School Improvement Offer - Tackling School Performance and Closing the Gap	Keith Batty Director of CfBT Education Services	Status Report
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update	Cllr Ron Oxby Chairman of the Sub-Group	Member Report
School PE, Sport and Physical Activity (including Lincolnshire Sports Partnership, Legacy Challenge and Community Access to School Sport Facilities)	Philip Garner Specialist Programme Manager Public Health Keith Batty	Update Report

28 November 2014		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Theme Performance: Quarter 2	Sally Savage Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's	Performance Scrutiny
Influencing Government Funding for Skills	Justin Brown Commissioner for Economic Growth Maggie Freeman Head of Service 14-19 Clare Hughes Principal Policy Officer (Skills)	Status Report
Proposal for a Scrutiny Review on School Improvement	Tracy Johnson Scrutiny Officer	Scrutiny Review Activity

16 January 2015		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Children's Services Budget Proposals 2015/16 – 2018/19	Debbie Barnes Executive Director of Children's Services	Budget Scrutiny
Corporate Parenting Panel Update	Cllr David Brailsford	Member Report
Anti Bullying	Sophie Whitehead Anti Bullying Officer	Status Report
Additional Item		
Additional Item		
Additional Item		

6 March 2015		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Proposal to expand capacity at Spalding Monkshouse Primary School (Final Decision)	John O'Connor	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision on 20 March 2015)
Proposal to expand capacity at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School (Final Decision)	John O'Connor	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision on 20 March 2015)
Theme Performance: Quarter 3	Sally Savage	Performance Scrutiny
School Performance 2014 (including Closing the Gap data)	Keith Batty	Status Report
Stamford Endowed Schools Scholarship Tapering- Interim (4th Year) Review	Keith Batty	Update Report

6 March 2015		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update	Cllr Ron Oxby	Member Report

24 April 2015		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Strategic Priorities for 16 - 19(25) Education and Training for 2015/16 – Action Plan	Maggie Freeman Head of Service 14-19	Status Report
Corporate Parenting Panel Update	Cllr David Brailsford	Member Report
Additional Item		

5 June 2015		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Implementation of SEND Reforms – Lessons Learned	Sheridan Dodsworth Children's Service Manager - SEND John O'Connor	Status Report
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update	Cllr Ron Oxby	Member Report
Additional Item		

Items to be Scheduled

Child Poverty Action Plan Themes - Poverty of Access, Economic Poverty, Poverty of Aspiration	Andrew McLean Children's Service Manager - Commissioning	Update Report
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Theme Outcomes

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is aligned to the five principles set out in the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015:

1. Early Intervention and Prevention

- Strong universal services, providing early action and intensive support to vulnerable children and young people.

2. **Safeguarding and Best Start in Life**
 - Ensuring children are safe in every environment.
 - Encouraging community responsibility for safeguarding.
3. **Aspiration and Well Being**
 - Ensuring all those working with children champion the importance of aspiration.
 - Develop self-esteem, self-belief and resilience in all children, young people and their families.
4. **Learning and Achievement**
 - All children being the best that they can be.
 - Closing the gap between vulnerable groups and children living in disadvantaged communities.
5. **Best Use of Resources**
 - Integrating delivery with a focus on outcomes, life chances and opportunities.
 - Effective use of resources to provide better services locally.
 - Empower communities, creating opportunities for them to engage.

For more information about the work of this Committee please contact Tracy Johnson, 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 OCTOBER 2014

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
I007727	Early Education for Children with Disability Commissioning Review	4 November 2014	Executive	Parents; carers; children and young people	Exempt Report	Commissioning Officer Tel: 01522554076 Email: lynn.brammer@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	

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Agenda Item 9

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Agenda Item 10

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