

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

9 October 2015

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Monday, 19 October 2015 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 and 4 Added Members)**

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

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman and Mr P Thompson

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

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA
MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2015**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence / Replacement Members	
2	Declaration of Members' Interests	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2015	5 - 16
4	Families Working Together Service <i>(To receive a report which outlines Phase 1 of the national "Troubled Families" programme, led by the Department of Communities and Local Government; progress to national targets during Phase 1; an outline of the requirements of Phase 2 of the "Troubled Families" programme; and a summary of families that would have been visited by Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee)</i>	17 - 38
5	Progress Report on the Lincolnshire Youth Offer <i>(To receive a report which provides a progress report on the development of the Lincolnshire Youth Offer and will update the Committee on current service delivery and plans for the future)</i>	39 - 52
6	Member Feedback on Visits to Children's Services Social Work Teams <i>(To receive a report which invites members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to provide feedback from their visits to the social work teams in Children's Services)</i>	53 - 56
7	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Annual Report <i>(To receive a report which presents the annual sufficiency report for comment and gives the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee an update on the delivery of Lincolnshire's Childcare Sufficiency report for 2014/15)</i>	57 - 82
8	Centre for Public Scrutiny's Guide to Scrutinising Children's Safeguarding Arrangements <i>(To receive a report which invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider the Centre for Public Scrutiny's guide for overview and scrutiny councillors on scrutinising children's safeguarding arrangements)</i>	83 - 116
9	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015/16 <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>	117 - 122

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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

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 SEPTEMBER 2015**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J D HOUGH (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors R Wootten (Vice-Chairman), W J Aron, Mrs J Brockway, S R Dodds, A G Hagues, Mrs H N J Powell, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs L A Rollings, Mrs N J Smith and L Wootten

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman and Mr P Thompson

Parent Governor Representatives: Mr C V Miller

Councillor D Brailsford attended the meeting as an observer

Officers in attendance:-

Stuart Carlton (Assistant Director Children's Lead Early Help), Maggie Freeman (14 - 19 Commissioner), Andrew Garbutt (Participation Officer), Andrew Morris (LSCB Business Manager), Heather Sandy (Chief Commissioning Officer for Learning), Jade Sullivan (LSCB Audit and Policy Officer), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Adams, C R Oxby, S M Tweedale and Mrs S Wray.

Apologies were also received from Mrs E Olivier-Townrow, Debbie Barnes and Keith Batty.

24 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs L Rollings advised that as she was an employer of post-16 education provision she would leave the meeting for consideration of agenda item 4 – Strategic Priorities for 16-18 (25) Education and Training for 2016/17.

25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2015 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**26 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 16-18 (25) EDUCATION AND TRAINING
FOR 2016/17**

Consideration was given to a report which invited the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on Strategic Priorities for 16 – 18 (25) Education and Training for 2016/17 which was due to be considered by the Executive on 6 October 2015.

The Committee was guided through the report, and it was reported that the picture for post 16 education was similar to that in previous years. There continued to be some successes including attainment levels that were in line with those nationally, relatively low levels of NEET, high participation at age 16, as well as the success of the Supported Internship Programme in securing employment outcomes for young people with SEND.

Members were advised that there were challenges arising from a declining cohort, increasing competition, a reduction of funding in real terms and a funding mechanism that encouraged competition rather than collaboration which were significant and increasing.

It was also noted that there was a potential risk that changes to the way apprenticeships were funded would impact on the financial viability of some Apprenticeship providers and on the number of Apprenticeships offered. Lincolnshire had a large proportion of small and medium enterprises (SME's), some of which were already reluctant to take apprentices due to the perceived additional bureaucracy. Members were advised that the Government had sought to simplify this process as much as possible. However, the relationship between provider and employer would change, which the provider securing public funding in direct proportion to the fee negotiated with the employer. There were concerns that competition, particularly in relation to the popular frameworks, could result in reducing fees with an inevitable impact on quality.

It was reported that student numbers in sixth forms had, overall, increased slightly. However, the increase was not consistent across schools with 17 schools seeing a reduction, some of which were substantial, and in 7 schools there had been a continuing decline in numbers over the last 3 years. As a result, there continued to be concerns in relation to some schools, particularly those with smaller sixth forms.

Members were advised that the Supported Internship Programme, particularly that delivered by the Council's own Promoting Employment Team (PET) had been particularly successful in terms of securing employment outcomes for those students with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND). At the time of the meeting, 26 out of 36 internees had achieved paid employment, and it was expected that this number would rise before the end of the summer.

It was reported that Lincoln College had been awarded a license to develop 'Career Colleges' including an aerospace course with the RAF and BAE, and it was expected that learners would be recruited from September 2016. There was also a suggestion to develop a construction course and a health and social care course.

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:

- In relation to SEND, the authority had been supporting some individuals for several years post 16 education, and the focus should be on progressing these young adults into adult outcomes including employment where this was appropriate;
- A young person was entitled to education through their education health and care plan. Young people over the age of 25 (or over the age of 21 without an EHC Plan) would be able access programmes that were funded by the adult skills budget;
- The student survey highlighted transport as an issue, but in relation to availability rather than funding;
- It was noted that colleges did have access to bursary funding which could be targeted towards students who were in financial difficulty and where this could have an impact on their attendance. It was in the interest of the college to find ways to retain learners, as their funding was dependent on students finishing their courses;
- It was queried whether it was thought that the introduction of the national living wage in 2016 would lead to more employers taking on apprentices. Members were advised that the minimum wage for apprentices would rise from £2.73 to £3.30 per hour in October 2015, but when they reached the age of 18, employers were required to pay apprentices the national minimum wage. The authority tried to encourage employers to pay over the minimum rate for apprentices;
- It was commented that the focus seemed to be on getting children into higher education;
- It was difficult to promote the apprenticeship route as an alternative to an academic route, when most of the apprenticeships only go up to level 2. There was a need for a progression route to be in place;
- The Council's role was a strategic one and one of influencing in terms of promoting apprenticeships;
- The role of the existing careers service was to support 16-18 year olds who were not engaged in education (NEETs). Where there were particular reasons why they could not engage, e.g. if they were ill, these young people would be taken off the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) list. There would always be a few young people who were between providers, and some would always be difficult to engage with;
- The University Technical College (UTC) provided county wide provision, and transport arrangements were in place but officers would find out what its recruitment pattern was. It was noted that it was run on a business basis, and students were expected to be there from 9am until 5.00pm. In terms of the curriculum, it had to deliver the standard curriculum, and the specific vocational subjects were in addition to this;
- In relation to the new legislation around SEND and the introduction of the requirement for social, health and education needs to be included, it was

confirmed that a young person's needs would be identified in their Education Health and Care Plan and resources allocated accordingly;

- It was queried what control the authority had over the validity of the apprenticeships and that students were completing them, and it was reported that no-one really had control over this. However, Ofsted did have checks in place for employers, and the new system would have outcome payments, so employers would only receive the funding once the apprenticeship had been completed;
- The proposals for three Career Colleges were being designed very specifically for young people to develop practical vocational skills, and it was possible that there would be a potential for the option to recruit young people at 14;
- It was suggested that young people moving from one course to another should not be considered a bad thing, as it built experience and skills, and it was suggested whether there could be an introduction of 'participation points' so that their participation could be recognised. It was thought that this was something which could be discussed with the Local Enterprise partnership (LEP);
- It was acknowledged that the first course a student enrolls on may not be the right one for them, and there were lots of courses with access points, which has had a positive effect. If a student decides to not continue with a course at a point where they could not join another one, they would be placed on a 'holding course' where they could explore lots of different options. Lincoln College was leading on developing this approach;
- In relation to skills, there was a need to integrate into some of the sector led development and school support;
- It was thought that increasingly, students would start making choices at 14 years old rather than 16 in relation to their further education;
- Closing the gap was still a concern, as by 16 if a student was not at the appropriate level of attainment, it was very difficult for any provider to close that gap by 18;
- A publication was produced in partnership with the Employment and Skills Board (ESB) which detailed all the opportunities which were available;
- Colleges would run any programmes which were appropriate for students;
- It was confirmed that the 'Career Colleges' would be physical buildings rather than virtual. It had been suggested that the construction college could be located in Gainsborough;
- Concerns were expressed that colleges were tailoring courses to the demands of students rather than filling the skills gap;
- It was confirmed that schools were allowed to opt out of delivering face to face careers guidance provided by the County Council, and were not required to provide anything in its place, as the legislation stated that schools did not have to provide face to face guidance.

RESOLVED

1. That the Children and Young People support the recommendations to the Executive as set out in the report;
2. That the following additional comments be passed to the Executive:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 SEPTEMBER 2015

- Concerns were raised regarding access to funding for young people over 25 with special education needs who wanted to continue learning. It was highlighted that adults and community training would be available which was funded through the adult skills budget. However, this budget was now also being focussed on Apprenticeships.
- It was queried whether poverty affected young people's attendance at post 16 providers. It was noted that this was an issue in East Lindsey, but this was also due to the availability of courses and not just the costs involved. It was highlighted that post 16 students have access to bursary funding for those in financial difficulty and it was in the interests of post 16 providers to retain learners as funding was dependent on the number of learners enrolled on courses.
- Concerns were raised as to whether the national living wage could cause employers to take on more apprentices instead to avoid paying the living wage. It was noted that pay for apprentices was going up from £2.73 to £3.30 per hour for 16 – 18 year olds from October 2015. For those apprentices over 19 and who have completed their first year, they are entitled to the national minimum wage. However, employers were encouraged to pay above the minimum Apprenticeship wage.
- It was questioned whether the new University Technical College (UTC) in Lincoln attracted students from across the County or just Lincoln and the surrounding area, and whether there were any implications for transport. It was highlighted that there was a transport arrangement in place but officers would need to query what the recruitment pattern across the county had been. Students had to be at the UTC from 9am to 5pm and the UTC had to deliver the standard curriculum. The Committee was informed that the Principal had extended an invitation to the Committee to visit the UTC and it was agreed that a visit should be arranged for later this year.
- Some young people dipped in and out of different courses and it was suggested whether a pilot could be trialled where the participation by a young person on different courses could be validated and counted towards their overall post 16 attendance. Officers agreed to speak to the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership about this to see whether it could be looked into. It was noted that there was a need for different access points and talks were ongoing with colleges regarding this. Lincoln College was leading on this by allowing young people who started a course but did not like it to move onto a holding course to experience different options before moving onto a new course.
- Concerns were raised about the lack of progress regarding collaboration between school sixth forms and it was queried what the next steps would be on this issue. It was highlighted that officers would continue to work with school sixth forms on collaboration, but at the current time, funding challenges

had not become so severe as to persuade schools to collaborate. It was noted that this would eventually happen as next year would be the last year of the transitional protection funding.

- It was queried whether the three new careers colleges for aerospace engineering, construction, and health and social care, would be virtual or in physical buildings. It was noted that they would be physical and located in existing provision, with the aerospace engineering careers college hopefully opening next year. Lincoln College had been awarded a license to develop the three careers colleges which would take young people from the age of 14 years old.
- It was questioned whether the three schools which had opted out from purchasing the Council's careers service and were not replacing it with alternative provision were allowed to do that. It was noted that they could as the careers advice offered did not have to be face to face.

27 MULTI AGENCY EARLY HELP AUDIT REPORT

Consideration was given to a report which invited the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the findings of the Early Help Audit 2015.

The Committee received a presentation which provided further detail in relation to the following areas:

- Audit Methodology
- Overall message: Positive
- What did families say
- Outcomes for families
- Practitioner and case file findings
- What practitioners are saying
- Next steps

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:

- Concerns were raised regarding paperwork not being available for some of the cases which were audited. It was reported that a lot of the cases were randomly selected and were very old cases. Many of the very good or excellent rated cases were newer, more recent cases, as a lot of work relating to case load had been carried out since the time of the older cases, which explained a lot of the results;
- It was suggested that it may be beneficial to carry out a few samples in around six months' time;
- It was found that there was a disconnect between what was being recorded and what families were experiencing, as what families were reporting was much better than what was being recorded. Members were advised that further work on this would be carried out and would be reported back to the Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group;

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 SEPTEMBER 2015

- Concerns were expressed regarding the reluctance of lead professionals to come forward when a TAC (Team Around the Child) was initiated, and it was queried whether this was due to a lack of capacity;
- The cases for audit were randomly selected and the families were contacted to ask if they wanted to be involved. Overall the outcome was very positive in terms of what the families got from the TAC process. There were one or two cases with areas which needed further development;
- In terms of capacity, there was now less money and fewer people, and there were an increased number of TAC's being opened. The lead professional would usually be from the school, health authority or local authority;
- The strategy was one of continuing to ensure that children's needs were met early, and officers were working on making the process as simple as possible. The number of TAC's being opened was increasing year on year;
- The support available through the Early Help Consultants would continue to be developed;
- Members were advised that the number of active cases (1781) was at its highest ever level, and continued to grow year on year, and it was felt that this demonstrated a confidence in the system;
- It was noted that officers would not want any professional to feel that they could not meet any additional needs which had been recognised;
- Every baby was automatically registered with a Children's Centre, and so parents needed to opt out rather than opt in;
- It was commented that it was nice to read all the positive comments and outcomes from families that had been through the TAC process;
- It was noted that all TAC's were consent based, and if a parent did not want an early help assessment or TAC they did not need to have one. However, this generally did not happen, but it could be escalated to social care if it was felt that it was needed but was refused;
- Paperwork was being slightly changed so that the work being done with children was reflected in the paperwork;
- In terms of the issues around starting TAC's prior to school holidays, the Early Help Team was aware of these and was working with schools;
- It was noted that an action plan had been developed and was being taken forward;
- In relation to the references to the issue of neglect being the highest single presenting issue in the cases audited, it was noted that in these instances meant that a child's needs were not being met.

RESOLVED

That the comments made in relation to the report be noted.

28 LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP - UPDATE

The Committee received a report which enabled members to have an overview of the activities of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, in particular the Sub-Group's consideration of child safeguarding matters.

It was reported that the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group last met on 15 July 2015 where Councillor S R Dodds was elected as the new Vice Chairman.

At the meeting, the Scrutiny Sub-Group received an update from the Independent Chair of the Lincolnshire safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), Chris Cook, on the outcomes from the Serious Case Review of the death of baby W and there was a good discussion on the issues around concealed and denied pregnancies. The LSCB had set up a multi-agency task group to look at this issue and the report from the task group would be brought to a future meeting of the Sub-Group.

The Sub-Group received its regular update on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) where it was reported that work was being done on the number of referrals across the county and why some areas received more than others. A report on the outcomes from this work would also be brought to a future Sub-Group meeting.

The Sub Group also received the Neglect Strategy which was considered by this Committee at the July meeting, and the Early Help Audit which was discussed earlier in the agenda.

It was also reported at the meeting that LSCB recently had its AGM and the strategic priorities were revised for the year. The LSCB as a partnership had agreed the following priorities:

- Early Help
- Exploitation and abuse of children – in a wider context than just Child Sexual Exploitation
- Online pressures and risk – which was previously E-Safety
- Preventing/addressing the impact of substance misuse
- Evidencing the Board's impact

The Scrutiny Sub-group would next meet on 7 October 2015 where it was due to receive the outcomes from any other Serious Case Reviews which had been completed (there were 3 other Serious Case Reviews currently being undertaken), and a further update on CSE and the LSCB Audit Programme.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

29 DIRECT LINKS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH YOUTH CABINET

The Committee was advised that Lincolnshire Youth Cabinet was looking to develop some structured channels for the sharing of views with, and seeking support from, decision makers at Lincolnshire County Council, particularly the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC). The report set out some proposals for working more closely with the Youth Cabinet. This would allow Lincolnshire Young People to

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 SEPTEMBER 2015

raise issues and share opinions about matters which were of concern to them as well as give feedback on relevant and timely issues under decision by Lincolnshire County Council.

Two members of the Lincolnshire Youth Cabinet were in attendance at the meeting, to ask and answer questions from the Committee.

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

- It had been difficult for the Youth Cabinet to access all schools, and it was suggested that they could present to the head teachers briefing which took place three times a year;
- It was suggested that the next time Strategic Priorities for 16-18 (25) year olds was on the agenda it would be useful to invite members of the Lincolnshire Youth Cabinet to attend so they could share their views;
- Parish Councils were always looking for ways to engage better with young people;
- Members were advised that there were always young people who were willing to get involved, and the Youth Cabinet tried to engage as widely as possible and as often as possible;
- It was thought that a formal attendance by members of the Youth Cabinet would not be required at every formal meeting;
- Some issues were more applicable to young people than others;
- The Youth Cabinet representatives were reminded that they could contact any councillor if there was an issue that they wanted to discuss;
- Councillors were also welcome to attend meetings of the Youth Cabinet;
- In terms of 16-18 training, which was an important issue, it was suggested that some councillors could arrange to meet with representatives of the Youth Cabinet to discuss this;
- It was suggested that one of two councillors volunteered to act as a direct liaison to work with the Youth Cabinet. Councillor Mrs J Brockway and Mr C V Miller (Parent Governor Representative) volunteered to do this;
- There would be a need to identify agenda items as they came through the work programme process that could be of interest to the Youth Cabinet;
- There was a need to ensure that anything that the Youth Cabinet should be consulted on, did happen;
- It was suggested that the dates of the forthcoming Youth Cabinet meetings be passed to the Scrutiny Officer to ensure that someone was available to attend;
- It was also noted that Councillor Mrs H N J Powell volunteered to act as a liaison to the Youth Cabinet as well;
- Representatives of the Youth Cabinet were advised that all agenda's, papers and draft minutes were available to view online five working days prior to the meeting date.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The Chairman thanked the representatives of the Lincolnshire Youth Cabinet for attending the meeting and stated that the Committee looked forward to working with them in the future.

RESOLVED

That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee supports the following proposals for working more closely with the Youth Cabinet:

1. Timely access to open reports (of relevance) due for presentation at CYPSC. These could be shared once available or a brief report written for the Youth Cabinet by the senior officer due to present at CYPSC;
2. The sharing of draft minutes with key items highlighted for feedback, allowing opportunity to comment directly with CYPSC. Equally the Youth Cabinet would welcome comment to items on its agenda;
3. Access to a formal channel to request consideration of occasional business before scrutiny committees. This may include other committees e.g. Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee;
4. Open invitations to attend occasional Youth Cabinet meetings (currently held Saturdays around the county). CYPSC may also wish to request attendance by the Youth Cabinet at its meetings. For any extraordinary meetings a small meet was preferred rather than attending larger adult meetings;
5. Open to the idea of work experience opportunities (shadowing) for Youth Cabinet Members either as part of school based learning or holiday experience. This could be shared with senior officers and locality teams for a wider experience of Children's Services.

30 PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 1 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report which provided the Committee with key performance information for Quarter 1 2015/16 that was relevant to the work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

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:

- Vacancy rate of social workers – vacancies were generally covered by agency staff to help manage workloads within the team. There were only one or two teams which did not have any agency staff within them;
- There was a rolling programme of recruitment for social workers. The authority was working on the recruitment of more experienced staff. It was noted that this was a problem nationally as well;
- There were plenty of new social workers graduating from university, and the authority was seeking those with Lincolnshire connections, as those without local connections tended to stay for a few years, gain experience and then move on to a bigger city;
- The Scrutiny Review report on Frontline Social Workers and safeguarding made some very specific recommendations regarding recruitment and retention, and members were advised that most of the recommendations were now ongoing pieces of work. It was noted that there was an update on the

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 SEPTEMBER 2015

action plan scheduled to come to the meeting of the Committee in November 2015;

- It was requested whether clarification regarding what the meaning of the symbols used in the performance reports could be included in future reports. Officers agreed to include this next time;
- It was queried whether members could receive information on how complaints were resolved;
- It was noted that the authority did not have any power to investigate complaints within schools, and it was the responsibility of governors to manage the complaints, unless it was a complaint against the head teacher of a maintained school;
- It was noted that the information in the customer satisfaction report only reported the complaints that the authority was made aware of. There may be some that were only reported to schools, and this information would not be fed back to the authority;
- Percentage of Teenage Mothers in EET – it was noted that this target had been reached and the performance was being sustained. Officers would be looking at whether this target could be stretched;
- It was commented that it was positive that all nurseries in the county had been judged as outstanding or good by Ofsted;
- Percentage of 0<5 year olds registered having at least one attendance within last 3 months (Children's Centres) - it was noted that the percentage of targeted families attending was very high;
- In relation to teenage pregnancies, it was noted that this indicator was owned by Public Health, and reported to the Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee;
- The targets were reviewed each year;

RESOLVED

That the performance information presented be noted.

31 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME 2015/16

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

Members were advised that there was to be a report on Troubled Families on the October agenda. Members had previously asked whether it was possible to have some families who had been 'turned around' attend. However, after checking with officers, it was felt that attending a public meeting with so many people might be too daunting for them. Instead officers had identified a couple of families who were willing to meet with some members who would then feed back to the October meeting about these meetings. One family was based in Grantham and could meet on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The other family was based in Bourne and could also do Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Volunteers were sought to meet with

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 SEPTEMBER 2015**

the families in Grantham and Bourne. Councillors Mrs H N J Powell, S R Dodds, L Wootten and R Wootten volunteered to meet with the families.

It was also reported that following the last meeting where the Committee considered a report on progress 8, officers would like to arrange a workshop for the Committee on Progress 8 so that members could gain a better understanding of this. It was planned to hold the workshop on the afternoon of 27 November 2015 after the Committee meeting.

Members were also advised, that due to the unavailability of key officers, the Chairman had requested that the October meeting be moved from Friday, 16 October to Monday, 19 October 2015.

RESOLVED

1. That the content of the work programme as set out in Appendix A of the report be noted;
2. That the content of the Children's Services Forward Plan as set out in Appendix B of the report be noted;
3. That officers arrange for Councillors Mrs H N J Powell, S R Dodds, L Wootten and R Wootten to meet with the 'turned around' families';
4. That a workshop to look in more detail at Progress 8 be arranged for the afternoon of Friday, 27 November 2015;
5. That the meeting scheduled for Friday, 16 October 2015 be moved to Monday, 19 October 2015.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 October 2015
Subject:	Families Working Together Service

Summary:

This report outlines:

- Phase 1 of the national "Troubled Families" Programme, led by the Department of Communities & Local Government
- Progress to national targets during Phase 1
- An outline of the requirements of Phase 2 of the "Troubled Families" Programme
- A summary of families that will have been visited by Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the report and the reports from Councillors following the family visits.

1. Background

1.0 National Troubled Families Programme – Phase 1

- 1.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) identified 120,000 'troubled families' across the country; 1370 of whom are in Lincolnshire. The Prime Minister set the Troubled Families Unit in DCLG the task of 'turning around' those 120,000 families by March 2015.
- 1.2 Troubled families are characterised by there being no adult in the family working, children not being in school and family members being involved in youth crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.3 "Families Working Together" (FWT) is Lincolnshire's response to the national Troubled Families Programme. The team consists of 48 Key Workers alongside a Performance and Management team. Key Workers are either directly employed by Lincolnshire County Council or seconded from partner organisations.

- 1.4 The DCLG targets for Phase One of the Troubled Families Programme were to evidence that 100% of families are identified, worked with and turned around by May 2015.
- 1.5 Lincolnshire has identified and has worked with 100% of the 1,370 families and by May 2015 had “turned around” 100% of families.

2.0 Strengths of the Lincolnshire Troubled Families Programme

- 2.1 The FWT team deliver the Family Intervention Service (FIS) model of working, which in essence is; one worker to co-ordinate agencies working with the family, working with the whole family, the establishment of a trusted relationship, intensive work over a long period of time, typically 6 – 9 months and the use of rewards and sanctions to support the family to achieve improved outcomes.
- 2.2 In Phase 1 the FWT team have worked with the top quarter of families. This has made a significant contribution to the overall result for Lincolnshire through working successfully with the most complex families in the overall cohort of "Troubled Families". This work is in addition to the intensive support provided to 16/17 year olds presenting as homeless and other families which did not meet the stringent DCLG criteria.
- 2.3 Family feedback demonstrates that families welcome the FIS way of working that the Key Worker provides, specifically the intensive and long term nature of the support and the co-ordination of agencies that are working with them. The effectiveness of the FIS way of working is also evidenced through a robust research base.
- 2.4 FWT Key Workers (KWs) receive a thorough induction programme and a comprehensive training programme. This, alongside monthly supervision and case management and ongoing training at locality and whole team meetings, has enabled KWs to develop a broad range of skills which include their ability to successfully engage hard to reach families.
- 2.5 In recognition of these skills, the FWT team has been asked to undertake the delivery of two additional services alongside delivering FIS interventions with families with the most complex needs.
- 2.6 In January 2014, the FWT team commenced the delivery of a countywide Youth Homelessness service for 16/17 year olds who present as homeless through the Single Gateway. One of the key aims of this service is to return young people home, where it is safe to do so. There have been 175 referrals in the 12 months to August 2015; of those, 44% either returned home to their parents or went to live with family members or friends.
- 2.7 In January 2015, the FWT team appointed four Key workers to use a family approach to work with Looked After Children to reintegrate them back into their family home, where it is safe to do so. This work will be reviewed in 12 months.

- 2.8 One of the primary reasons for the success of the FWT team has been the focus on getting parents into employment. The secondment of Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) staff has been key to this and has changed the culture in the team to one where employment is now a key priority during the assessment process and the wider benefits of being in employment are understood, including the positive impact on establishing routines in the household, creating good role models for the children and improving mental health for example.
- 2.9 Another important contribution to the successful working of the team was the early strategic decision to work with partner agencies to encourage them to second their staff into the FWT service. About a third of the Key Workers are on secondment from a range of agencies including West Lindsey District Council (DC), East Lindsey DC, North Kesteven DC, Youth Offending Service, Family Action, Police Service and DWP. There have been significant advantages of having seconded staff within the FWT Service including:
- Seconded staff are providing the FWT service with a broad range of knowledge and expertise;
 - Professional development for seconded staff from the comprehensive and thorough induction and training programme provided by FWT;
 - Sharing of knowledge and expertise of the FIS approach with colleagues in their host organisation to effect organisational change to better meet families' needs. One early example of this is some PCSOs now signposting families to support services when dealing with incidents in the family home.

3.0 Phase 1 – Performance

3.1 DCLG Performance Framework

DCLG requirements for a family to be “turned around” were that the family had to achieve the education and ASB target and/or the employment targets. Specifically this means:

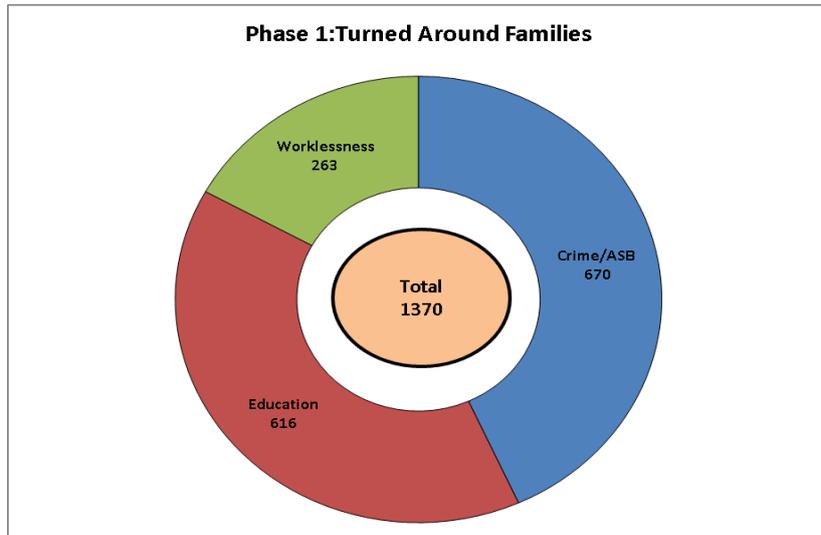
Education – children attending school above 85%

Crime - reduction in proven offending by 33%

Anti-Social Behaviour – 60% reduction in incidents

Worklessness – An adult who has had continuous employment for 6 months or more

3.2 The chart below shows the number of families “turned around” under the “Troubled Families” criteria:



4.0 Phase Two of the national "Troubled Families" Programme

4.1 In June 2014, the Government announced plans to expand the “Troubled Families Programme” for a further five years, from 2015 – 2020 with the aim of reaching an additional 400,000 families across England. £200 million has been committed to fund the first year of this five year programme.

4.2 From April 2015, Phase 2 criteria now includes:

- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Non – school attendance
- Families not in employment, risk of financial exclusion
- Families with a health problem
- Children who need help
- Families affected by domestic abuse

4.3 Whilst the FWT Service is providing much needed support for change for families, the service development and phase 2 of the Troubled Families Programme is also about transformational change and embedding a whole new approach to working with families in Lincolnshire across all public sector and voluntary organisations that work with this cohort of families. This change is underway following a recent consultation with Children’s Services staff. From 1 November 2015, all frontline staff will move to become Early Help Support Workers and will deliver holistic support to families.

5.0 Lincolnshire Family Outcomes Plan

5.1 DCLG requires a "Family Outcomes Plan" for each "Troubled Family". These will need to be made available for ongoing spot checks by DCLG and internal audit processes. The Family Outcomes Plan will demonstrate how a

family's outcomes have improved across all of the issues that a family is identified as having, in line with the 6 national outcomes.

- 5.2 Whilst there are over-arching national criteria for "Troubled Families", the indicators that underpin them are for Local Authorities to decide on, in line with local priority needs. Work has been carried out on this and a Lincolnshire Family Outcomes Plan has been agreed by Executive DMT. This is attached as Appendix A.
- 5.3 The Lincolnshire Family Outcomes Plan is currently being developed to include a practitioner plan for use by frontline professionals to support them to be able to accurately measure the outcomes they are able to achieve when working with families. This will enable practitioners to maintain a clear focus on work with families and maximise the funding available from DCLG.
- 5.4 Training will take place with all Early Help teams from November 2015, to support them towards delivering a holistic approach to working with families.
- 5.5 To date, 800+ families have been identified as eligible for support under Phase 2 of the national programme.

6.0 Family Visits by Members of the Scrutiny Committee

- 6.1 Visits are being undertaken by Councillors to a number of families that have received or are receiving a service from a FWT Key Worker. Councillors will report back to the Scrutiny Committee on their key findings from their visits.
- 6.2 Two families and one young person will receive Councillor visits:

Family 1 – South Kesteven

Key Issues: Daughter's poor school attendance – 57%. Mum not working, poor relationship between mother and daughter.

FWT support and Progress: FWT Key Worker supported daughter to attend school and improve the relationship between mother and daughter. Daughter's attendance improved and she has recently achieved 9 GCSEs and is attending sixth form. Relationship between mother and daughter improved and mum has started working part-time.

Family 2 – Alford

Key Issues: Son (15 years old) hadn't attended school for a year. Mum had not left her home for a year. Younger son (3½) still in nappies and demonstrating speech and language delay. Family evicted from their home within 2 days of starting work with them.

FWT Support and Progress: FWT Key Worker firstly worked with the family to find a home. She then supported the older son to attend school, which he succeeded in doing and he is now doing motor mechanics at

college. Mum started taking her younger son to the local Children's Centre and then to a nursery. He was able to progress there and was ready for school when he started in September, with his speech and language delay addressed. Mum has attended local training courses, her confidence has increased and she is now seeking work. The Team Around the Child arrangement for this family has closed, as the family are now able to operate successfully without agency involvement.

Young Person visit – Grantham

Key Issues: Young person (YP) living with grandmother. Lacking in motivation, staying at home all day, low mood and no pride in her appearance. Grandmother struggling to manage her behaviour and because of this, seeking other housing options for her.

FWT Support and Progress: Grandmother agreed to let YP stay if she was supported. YP was registered on National Citizenship Service programme for 3 weeks to help with motivation. Work completed with YP to identify support networks. Referral made to Relate and support given to attend first appointment for counselling. Telephone contact and support given to grandmother, particularly around boundaries and consequences. YP now helping around the home, is taking care of her appearance, is smiling and is attending Young People's Learning Partnership provision two days per week. This is a key step working towards enrolling at college and undertaking an apprenticeship next year.

2. Conclusion

This report summarises Lincolnshire's success in turning "troubled families" around in Lincolnshire and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on this progress and receive an update from the Councillors who have undertaken the three family visits.

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	Lincolnshire Family Outcomes 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 Alison Poxon, who can be contacted on 01522 552130 or 07910 117444 or Alison.poxon@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Appendix A

Lincolnshire Family Outcomes Plan

Background

The national “Troubled Families” Programme, led by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), started in April 2012, with Phase 1 of the programme ending in March 2015. The first phase of the “Troubled Families” Programme, aimed to address family issues in relation to reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour, increasing school attendance and increasing the numbers of parents going into employment and moving off benefits. The Lincolnshire “Troubled Families” programme has experienced considerable success with the establishment of the “Families Working Together” (FWT) team, a team of 44 Key Workers who have effectively delivered the holistic family support approach across the cohort of the most complex families. There has been a partnership approach to this work with direction for local developments provided by the Troubled Families Partnership Board and at a more operational level, a commitment to the development of the FWT team through secondments from a number of partner agencies into the team. This has the additional benefit of sharing good practice about the benefits of holistic family working back in host organisations with some positive changes in practice as a result.

Lincolnshire has achieved the challenging target set by DCLG in phase 1 of the national programme and has “turned around” 100% of the 1,370 families identified as “troubled” by DCLG. This is a result to be celebrated across partner agencies and phase 2 of the national programme provides an opportunity to further develop and build on this success.

Phase 2 of the “Troubled Families” Programme commenced in April 2015 and under the guidance and leadership of DCLG, requires all local areas to work with and turn around 3.3 times as many families during the 5-year period of phase 2. The programme will continue to operate

Appendix A

under a payment by results process with a 55% reduction in funding. Phase 2 provides an opportunity to further explore the transformational change in services for families that will be required to meet the demands of a challenging financial climate and continue to effectively provide the relevant support to meet the needs of families across Lincolnshire. The criteria for what constitutes a “Troubled Family” have been broadened, providing opportunities to work with the increased number of families required by DCLG over the next 5 years of phase 2.

Lincolnshire Troubled Families Outcomes Plan

Families are important. There is no greater institution than the family, at its best it provides the support children need to thrive and have the best future they can, as well, it offers a myriad of benefits for adults and elderly people. Safety, security, fulfilment, bonding, purpose, love and relationships.

Many agencies however, work with families who need support because they are wrestling with multiple and complex issues which prevent them having the future they could. In ever more challenging times it is becoming more important that agencies and organisations work together efficiently with a shared purpose and striving to achieve joint outcomes.

The Lincolnshire Family Outcome Plan sets out our joint expectations across partner agencies of success following interventions or support which may then be applied on a per family basis.

The purpose of this approach is to make sure a well conducted assessment of the issues a family are facing is carried out. This leads to the identification of outcomes that we are collectively trying to achieve. This in turns facilitates actions by all to achieve those outcomes in a well-coordinated and effective approach using evidence based techniques and practices, working with families to deliver the future they deserve.

Below is Lincolnshire's Family Outcome Plan which has been written locally with the contribution of many partner agencies, looking at our strategic objectives, our needs and the needs of our families. It strives to achieve better outcomes for families, reduce demand /costs for public services but also reducing risk, harm and vulnerability. The Family Outcome Plan has been created to help identify and address the needs of those families who have many of the multiple and complex needs set out in the 6 criteria below:

Lincolnshire's Strategic Vision aligned itself to the following strategies and partnerships:

Appendix A

- Adult Safeguarding Board
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (Draft)
- Children and Young People's Plan 2013-2016
- Countywide Child Poverty Strategy (Draft)
- County Community Safety Board
- Joint Carers Strategy 2014 - 2018
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018
- Lincolnshire Alcohol and Drug Strategy 2014-2019
- Lincolnshire's All Age Autism Strategy 2015-2018
- Lincolnshire Children Services Early Help Strategy
- Lincolnshire Youth Housing Strategy 2013 - 2018
- Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board

Page 25

The Family Outcome Plan has been created to help identify and address the needs of those families who have many of the multiple and complex needs set out in the 6 criteria below. It also promotes a common set of outcomes for all agencies and partner organisations to achieve which will reduce risk and vulnerability for individuals /families whilst encouraging service transformation and reducing the access to and costs incurred in service delivery in particular the use of crisis services.

1. Parents and young people involved in crime or antisocial behaviour

2. Children who have not been attending school regularly

3. Children who need help

4. Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion, and young people at high risk of worklessness

5. Families affected by domestic violence and abuse

6. Parents and children with a range of health problems

The Family Outcomes Plan provides an county -wide set of significant and sustainable outcome measures applicable to all families. For example, if a family has two of the above criteria e.g. domestic violence problem and unemployed adult at the point of engagement, then relevant

Appendix A

outcomes would be drawn from the Family Outcomes Plan and form the goals against which significant and sustained progress would be judged for this family.

1. Parents and young people involved in crime or antisocial behaviour

Indicator

- 1.1 A family member has received an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) intervention (or equivalent local measure) in the last 12 months,
- 1.2 A child who has committed a proven offence in the previous 12 months,
- 1.3 An adult prisoner who is less than 12 months from his / her release date and will have parenting responsibilities on release,
- 1.4 An adult who is currently subject to licence or supervision in the community following release from prison and has parenting responsibility,
- 1.5 Family member referred by professional because their potential crime problem or offending behaviour is of equivalent concern to indicators above (e.g. police call outs to an address).

Outcome(s)

Source

1A. 33% reduction in offending in the last 6 months,

Police (NICHE)

Appendix A

1B. 60% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the last 6 months	Police (NSPIS) / Sentinel System
1C. Reduction in police call outs,	Police (NSPIS)
1D. Adult prisoner successfully reintegrated back into family home with no concerns/carrying out their parental responsibilities,	CRC Offender Outcome Plans/Mosaic
1E. No re-presentation at the Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC for a minimum of 6 month,	ASBRAC Co-ordinators
1F. A reduction in re-offending following a Criminal Justice Outcome,	Police (NICHE)
1G. No progression of enforcement action taken by housing provider in relation to ASB within 6 months,	Housing Providers
1H. No increase in ASB related enforcement e.g. ABC to CBO	District ASB Officer

Appendix A

11. Successful completion of a community order	Probation
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Appendix A

2. Children who have not been attending school regularly

Indicator

2.1 A child who is persistently absent from school for an average across at least the last three consecutive terms (10% missing session)

2.2 A child who has received at least 3 fixed term exclusions in the last 3 consecutive school terms

2.3 A child who has been permanently excluded from school

2.4 A child who is in alternative educational provision

2.5 A child whose parent has received Fixed Penalty Notice for non-school attendance

2.6 A child referred by an education professional as having school attendance problems of equivalent concerns to the indicators above

Outcome(s)	Source
2A. Child attends school, over three consecutive terms, in excess of 90%	Children's Services (Census)
2B Child has attended school in excess of 90%, over three consecutive terms, with a reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions	Children's Services (Census)
2C. Child has attended school in excess of 90% over three consecutive terms with no permanent exclusion	Children's Services (Census)

Appendix A

3. Children who need help

Indicator

3.1 A child who has been identified as needing help as identified by an Early Help Assessment,

3.2 A child in need under section 17 of The Children Act 1989,

3.3 Young Carers,

3.4 A child who has been subject to an enquiry under section 47, The Children Act 1989 o

3.5 A child subject to a child protection plan,

3.6 Teenage pregnancy – families where a mother gave birth at the age of 18 or under, in the last 12 months

3.7 A child has been reported as missing

3.8 A child who has been identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation,

3.9 A child referred by a professional as having a problem of equivalent concern to the indicators above.

Outcome(s)

Source

Appendix A

3A. EHA review demonstrates progress	Children's Services (Safety scaling)/ Mosaic
3B. Children are stepped down from previous level of involvement and remain there for 6 months (CP to CIN, CIN to TAC, TAC to closure etc.)	Children's Services (Mosaic)
3C. No repeat S47 investigation in 6 month period due to improved family circumstances	Children's Services (Mosaic)
3D. Young Carers accessing support services for a minimum of 6 months	Children's Services (Mosaic)
3E. Teenage parent engages with appropriate support during pregnancy and for a 6 month period following birth of a child	Children's Centres Midwifery and Health Visiting Team records Adult learning
3F. Take up of 2 or 3 year old funding entitlement for early education and attending regularly for at least a six month period	Children's Centres / Birth to 5
3G. Registration at Children's Centre and accessing provision for a 6 month period.	Children's Services (Mosaic)

Appendix A

<p>3H. A child referred as at risk of child sexual exploitation has reduced risk for 6 months</p>	<p>Lead Professional / Mosaic</p>
<p>3I. Young people reported as missing have no incidents of going missing as compared with previous 6 month period</p>	<p>Lead Professional / Mosaic</p>

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Appendix A

4. Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion, and young people at high risk of worklessness

Indicator

- 4.1 Claiming any out-of-work benefits (or Universal Credit, if relevant),
- 4.2 A young person who is not in education, training or employment (NEET) or at risk of NEET,
- 4.3 Parents and families at risk of homelessness or eviction, in an insecure accommodation or who have regularly moved.
- 4.4 Families who have Council Tax/Rent arrears as identified by District Councils/Housing Providers
- 4.5 16/17 years old who present as homeless
- 4.6 Parents and families nominated by professionals as being at significant risk of financial exclusion (debt issues etc.).

Outcome(s)	Source
4A. 13 weeks consecutive employment (or 26 out of last 30 weeks for JSA)	DWP
4B. Young person registered as EET	Children's Services (Mosaic)
4C. An adult in the family has undertaken permitted therapeutic work or voluntary work for at least 13 weeks	DWP

Appendix A

<p>4D. A young person (aged 16-18, or 16-24 if LDD) makes job ready progress to work i.e. engaged with Careers Service, enrolled in higher or further education or apprenticeship for at least 12 weeks or formal volunteering or work experience or a programme/training course which removes a barrier to work for an individual</p>	<p>Training Provider / Volunteering Organisation/Mosaic</p>
<p>4E. An effective budget plan is in place which is on a firm trajectory to addressing family debt issues</p>	<p>Lead Professional / Mosaic</p>
<p>4F. An adult in the household has achieved a recognised qualification or undertaken progress to work through engagement with DWP/Job Centre Plus</p>	<p>Children's Services (Mosaic)/ DWP</p>
<p>4G. Parents and families residing in a suitable tenancy for 6 months</p>	<p>Housing Providers</p>
<p>4H. 16/17 year olds who present as homeless are supported to return home, supported living or private arrangement with Family/Friends, with no repeat presentations for 6 months</p>	<p>Children's Services (Mosaic)</p>
<p>4I. An adult is attached to the Work Programme and satisfying WP requirements over a 6 month period.</p>	<p>DWP</p>

Appendix A

5. Families affected by domestic violence and abuse

Indicator

- 5.1 A parent has been subject to a police call out for at least one domestic incident in the last 12 months,
- 5.2 A parent is known to local services due to historical or current DA or at risk of DA,
- 5.3 A parent who is known to local services as having perpetrated an incident of DA in last 12 months,
- 5.4 A parent that is presented at MARAC as a victim or at risk of becoming a victim of DA,
- 5.5 DASH scores at a level to indicate the need for support.

Outcome(s)	Source
5A. A reduction in incidents of DA with known victims over 6 month period.	Police (NSPIS)

Appendix A

<p>5B. CAADA DASH scoring is reduced: DASH score (above 14 - high) falls below 14 for 3 continuous months OR no further DASH assessment required for 6 months or DASH score (below 14) reduced by 25% and sustained for 6 month period.</p>	<p>Lead Professional / Mosaic</p>
<p>5C. The victim has engaged with specialist support services i.e. working with IDVA and implementing the Safety Plan, attending Freedom programme etc.</p>	<p>DA Support Providers</p>
<p>5D. The perpetrator has successfully completed a recognised rehabilitation programme</p>	<p>DA Support Providers/Probation Service</p>
<p>5E. Conviction/civil remedy/ Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) regarding perpetrator</p>	<p>Police</p>
<p>5F. No repeat MARAC referral in 6 months since first referral</p>	<p>MARAC Administrators</p>
<p>5G. Victim satisfied with support received through police/criminal justice process or targeted support provided</p>	<p>Lead Professional / Police</p>

Appendix A

6. Parents and children with a range of health problems

Indicator

6.1 A parent or child with mental health problems,

6.2 A parent or child with a drug and/or alcohol problems,

6.3 A parent or child with physical health problem,

6.4 A parent of child with a disability

6.5 A family member who is nominated by health professionals as having mental and physical health problems of equivalent concern to the indicators above,

Outcome(s)	Source
6A. All family members registered with a GP and a dentist and attending appointments.	Lead Professional / Mosaic
6B. Physical Health/Mental health issues are being well managed	Lead Professional / Mosaic/Probation
6C. Drug & alcohol misuse is being managed as per agreed plan over 6 month period.	Addaction / DART
6D. Reduced representation to drug and alcohol treatment services within 6	Addaction / DAAT

Appendix A

months of successful discharge.	
6E. Professionals and family report improved health outcomes	Lead Professional / Mosaic

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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:	19 October 2015
Subject:	Progress Report on the Lincolnshire Youth Offer

Summary:

This report gives a progress report on the development of the Lincolnshire Youth Offer and will update the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on current service delivery and plans for the future.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the update on the current Youth Offer and plans for the future.

1. Background

The Government has retained the duty on Local Authorities (LA) to secure sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for the improvement of the wellbeing of 13-19 year olds. This duty also requires LAs to take into account young people's views and to publicise information about the local offer.

Children's Services have been able to change the way we offer services and support to young people whilst maximising the resources available. We believe that this approach has better supported young people to achieve their full potential and to take a positive role in the community. This is not about the Local Authority delivering the Youth Offer, but about the Local Authority working with the community, voluntary sector and local business to provide the best opportunities for young people in Lincolnshire. Most importantly it is about partnership with young people.

Progress to date

A number of actions have been undertaken to try and establish the level of participation and engagement by young people in positive activities and whilst securing accurate data on this is a challenge, the following figures give an

indication of the numbers of young people in Lincolnshire that have **registered** to take part in positive activities.

There are an estimated 70000 young people aged between 11 and 19 in Lincolnshire.

From data provided to us we know there are currently the following numbers of different young people engaged annually, in positive activities:

- ❖ Positive Futures - 2750
- ❖ Duke of Edinburgh - 20000
- ❖ National Citizenship Service - 1200
- ❖ Army Cadets - 1000
- ❖ Young Farmers Clubs - 500
- ❖ Scouts (all ages) - 5000
- ❖ Performing Arts - 3000
- ❖ Music (run through LCC activities) - 900
- ❖ Pony Clubs and riding lessons - 3000
- ❖ Church based activities - 900
- ❖ Sports based activities - 40000 (allied to Lincolnshire Sports Partnerships, this figure does not include the high numbers of young people under the age of 11 that are participating in teams across the county)
- ❖ Air and Navy Cadets - 1500
- ❖ Guiding (all ages) - 5000
- ❖ St Johns Ambulance - 150
- ❖ Police Cadets - 150
- ❖ Wildlife trusts - 400
- ❖ Youth centres – 1700
- ❖ Youth Groups - 500

Total = 87,650

We estimate there will be a similar number of young people participating in positive activities which do not require them to register, or engaging with groups unwilling to give us their numbers. Unfortunately we have no way of establishing accurate figures for these activities.

The Youth Development Hub

Following the Core Offer, there was a need to bring together the countywide services working with young people and support the locality teams to ensure the resources, expertise and the performance outcomes of a range of different services both within LCC and within partner agencies were maximised. In response to that need the Youth Development Hub was created.

The Team Manager has a strategic lead for the Youth Offer and for a number of countywide services that focus on Youth including Positive Futures, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Team, The Anti Bullying Officer and The Participation Team. In addition the manager held responsibility for managing the Youth Development Project, supporting the transfer of the management of Youth Centres from LCC to community groups across the county, as well as providing support and funding to the Lincolnshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services.

In the most recent restructure the Hub has been further developed under a single manager who has responsibility for the Troubled Families Programme as well as the Youth Offer with two work streams, one with 4 FTE Senior Youth and Community Development Workers and 6 FTE Youth and Community Development workers and one with Positive Futures. Both of these work streams are aided by apprentices and volunteers.

The team work directly with young people across the county, and lead or are involved with many groups working with particularly vulnerable young people including V4C (the Children in Care Council), Young Carers, Lost Luggage, Children's residential homes, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) and SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). The team also work on a focussed one-to-one basis with many vulnerable young people.

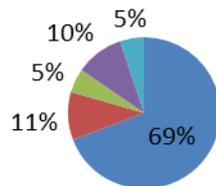
Members of the Hub lead the Lincolnshire Participation Action Group (LPAG) which aims to bring all those who work with groups of young people together so that projects can be coordinated and resources shared. This helps all groups to be more efficient and reduce duplication. This group has recently produced the Participation Strategy which aims to support all youth groups, wherever they may be (including Schools, Children's Homes, Secure Units, Faith projects, Housing projects, District councils etc) work **collaboratively** with young people to **coproduce** services and resources ensuring relevancy and effectiveness.

Through linking with other teams in the council and with external partners we are ensuring that information about, provision of and access to positive activities are maximised across Lincolnshire. We will continue to promote all of this provision so all young people have access to a choice of activities that are relevant.

Youth Centres

Youth centres, September 2015

- Centres fully signed over to the community
- Centres that will be signed over before Christmas
- Centres that will be signed over before the new financial year
- Centres Out of scope
- Centres where activities are being reorganised



The majority of Lincolnshire County Council Youth Centres (28) now have the Core Offer being provided by local community, voluntary or charitable groups with little or no direct support from our staff. Four more (Lincoln Youth Matters, Keelby, Skegness and North Somercotes) will be signed over during the next few weeks with another two before April 2016 (Ruskington, Deepings) meaning that 34 (85%) centres will have the Core Offer provided this way by the new financial year. All staff in these centres will have been fully trained, DBS checked and each centre will have comprehensive policies and procedures for issues such as Health and Safety and Safeguarding.

This will leave four that we have taken out of scope and two that are going through a reorganisation.

The four we have taken out of scope are those in particularly important targeted localities including St Giles, Lincoln; Carlton Road, Boston; New Beacon Road, Grantham; and Earlesfield, Grantham. Efforts to encourage community groups to provide positive activities in these centres have not been successful.

Coningsby and Market Rasen are currently reorganising their groups but we hope this will be completed by the new financial year.

We aim to provide a range of activities at all youth centres, whether they have been taken on by community groups or if they have been taken out of scope.

Examples of Youth Centre delivery

Bourne Youth Centre has been taken on by the organisation 'Not all Bad'. This centre is now used from 7.15am to 9pm every day of the week and is also open on Saturdays.

During the day the centre is used by a variety of groups including U3A, Fitness of Over 60s, special needs groups and carers, mums and toddlers groups, baby care groups, as well as offering yoga and Pilates sessions.

In the evening there are Junior and Senior Youth Club nights as well as Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies, netball teams and judo groups.

Every weekday, there are both Breakfast clubs and Homework clubs and on Saturdays there is family fun Softball in the afternoons. The centre is very well used. Rooms within the centre are also hired out at the weekends for birthday parties, discos, tumble tots etc. There is also a quiet meeting room suitable for small groups or training.

Carlton Road Centre has been taken out of scope due to the lack of interest by community groups in the locality. All activities are provided by the Youth and Community Development Team and Positive Futures. As a result there are still a lot of opportunities for young people to take part in Positive activities.

Carlton Road has new state of the art music recording studio and art studios. It has Junior and Senior Youth Club nights and a dedicated Arts night. It has a large outdoor MUGA with lines painted for a number of sports including basketball, tennis and 5-a-side football. Inside there is a snooker table, air hockey table, Nintendo wii, DVD player with large screen, internet access and quiet areas for homework to be completed. Opportunities available at the centre include the Duke of Edinburgh Award, YouthTrain, Arts Award and Asdan courses. It also has a coffee bar. During the day the centre is used by Solutions 4 and Pathways as well as our staff planning activities.

Not all activities for young people operate from youth centres. **The Positive Futures (PF) team**, for instance, operate at venues right across the county. These activities annually attract around 2750 young people. The team run three programmes during the year, coinciding with school term times. To give an example the Lincoln team (2 FTE) this term are offering Dance, Multi-sports sessions, Cheerleading (girls only), Netball, Junior Multi-sports, Boxercise, Boxing Fitness (Mums and Dads welcome too), Street Dance and 6-a-side football as well as a number of family fun days, usually at weekends. These activities are taking place at children's centres, leisure centres, community centres, church halls and outdoor parks. This kind of calendar will be replicated across the county.

The PF team also organise the Annual Streetgames and Fair Play Football Festivals which attract hundreds of young people. Please see the attached appendices for fuller details of the work of **Positive Futures**.

In addition to our 40 youth centres nearly 40 **Community Based** other groups have been set up with our help in small villages or estates, often in areas where there are not many formal youth centres. These groups provide a range of activities including sports, arts and crafts, music and many also offer accredited programmes such as Asdan awards. The groups can range in size from 10 to 40-50. In the larger groups our staff or LCVYS will regularly help out but with smaller groups they will have trained volunteers to run the groups themselves. Our staff ensures the volunteers running these groups have been fully trained, have up to date DBS checks and that policies such as Health and Safety and Safeguarding are put into place. Leaders running these groups know they can call on us at any

time for advice and support. Many are also in the LCVYS network who offers training and small grants to also help these groups thrive.

A good example of a local club we have helped establish is the **Hemswell Cliff Club**. This runs fortnightly from the Children’s Centre and is run by volunteers with occasional help from our Youth and Community development workers. It offers arts and crafts, dance, cooking, team building, gardening and music activities. It is attended by 25-30 young people and is hugely valued in a low-income neighbourhood with few others activities nearby. The young people are immensely proud of their club which is having a fantastically beneficial effect on the whole community.

Developments

An integrated way of reporting the performance of the range of services who contribute to the Youth Offer is currently being developed. We aim to work with the 'Institute for Youth Work', the 'Centre of Youth Impact', the 'School and Students Health Education Unit' and our East Midlands and East of England partner Children’s Services to develop a survey which not only measures the impact of youth provision for a variety of distinct groups of young people in Lincolnshire but also identifies value for money so that in future we can identify the significant savings that are made for the Council as a whole by supporting early help youth work.

2. Conclusion

In conclusion there continues to be progress in the development of Lincolnshire’s Youth Offer. There is significant evidence to suggest large numbers of young people are accessing a range of positive activities in the community. By working with a range of providers Children’s Services can ensure that the activities that young people want are delivered throughout Lincolnshire. Through the work of the Youth Development Hub, now including the Youth and Community Development workers, we can ensure that any gaps in service provision can be minimised and local communities have the support they need to develop relevant services and provision for young people.

3. Consultation

Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Positive Futures Summer Success
Appendix B	Positive Futures – Coaching in America Case Study

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 Jo Kavanagh who can be contacted on 01522 554505 or jo.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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Summer Success

Positive Futures took a brand new approach to summer activities this year, and what a success it turned out to be with nearly 1000 young people and families attending in Lincoln. The Active Lincoln project delivered sport & physical activity sessions for all the family to get involved with, from Parents to Grandparents, Aunties to Uncles and everyone else who took part. The themed days were an attraction that gave the children and families something to look forward to and an opportunity to try something new. Themes included circus day, picnic day, inflatable day, beach day, track & field day, and old skool games. The activities definitely appealed to a wide audience with the age ranging from our youngest participant of 18 months to our oldest of 70!

We have received some great feedback from those who attended, with one lady commenting;

"I popped along to the Boultham park one, absolutely brilliant. Was with a big number of parents who said they had thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, kids had a great time. It was cleverly set out next to the play park so kids were hopping in and out of activities. I have to say the team were really pro-active with the kids not just standing back but getting stuck in and helping some of those who were clearly a little shy"

And a parent who brought her two children for the day commenting;

"The boys flew a kite for the first time today, thank you for letting us know about your event, the kids had a whale of a time"

The park days also proved to be of benefit to a newly established coffee company by helping spread the word about their business. Darryl, Manager of Holly Bean's Gourmet Coffee Company said;

"Engagement between public and Positive Futures was extremely well received. Kids loved being part of 'something new' away from computers and being in the fresh air. What made it even better was the fact that it was free. Many families commented to me that 'this is what the park needs more of.

The two partnerships worked very well indeed, children played whilst the parents enjoyed a drink and treat - perfect combination. Working alongside Positive Futures gave Holly Bean's Gourmet Coffee a great opportunity to provide a much needed service".



This is the balance ball which was at the circus day

Active Lincoln is a partnership of several organisations aiming to get more young people and families involved in sport and physical activity. The park days were something new that we trialled to achieve this aim, which has been a great contribution particularly in capturing the projects target audience. It gave us the chance to get the word out to the community about what Active Lincoln is, and how families can get fully involved. It has given us the chance to build a good rapport with both young people and their parents and carers and I look forward to building on this in the future.

Case Study

Lori Candela's Progression

Positive Futures – Coaching in America

by Adam Henshaw and Hannah Laws

It all started in January 2014 when Lori Candela signed on to the Positive Futures Apprenticeship. She was working alongside her Positive Futures community sport worker Adam Thurston. When Lori first started her apprenticeship she lacked confidence and felt a bit out of her comfort zone. Lori's first job was to complete registers and contact forms. Lori had to learn how to work views online and when she did this her job was to upload all of the registers and contact forms of new participants onto the website. When Lori first attended the sessions she was a bit nervous but as the weeks went on she became more and more confident and the young people loved her.

The longer she was there; Lori gained more responsibility by leading sessions and in general aspects of the job role. Through this her confidence increased greatly. This showed as Lori started to interact with the parents and enjoyed leading the sessions she had organised. She also felt more confident in organising events. Back in April 2014 at the Fairplay Festival she was the mentor for Gainsborough's girl's football team and this ran very smoothly. In November 2014 Adam left his role with Positive Futures to work for the Lincolnshire FA. Because of this Lori gained even more responsibility as she was running all the sessions in Gainsborough whilst they were looking for a new worker to take over from Adam. Due to Adam leaving this resulted in Lori travelling to North Hykeham Youth centre a few times a week to work with David Sampher, the sports development manager for Positive Future.

In December, Lori and the other apprentices had to organise an event called the Big Challenge. This was based on Christmas themes. The event was a big success and because of this Lori's confidence increased and she met lots of Young people from different areas of Lincolnshire.



In January Steven Snell was appointed to the Gainsborough job. Lori already knew Steven so this wasn't a big problem and it also meant she was able to help him to understand and use views and introduced him to the young people and volunteers at the sessions.

After being asked about his welcome Steven said, **"Lori was one of the main reasons I felt so comfortable in my role when I was appointed in January 2015. As she had been with the project for over 10 months, Lori helped me settle in and also showed me how the Gainsborough sessions and admin ran. We worked really well and bounced a lot of ideas off each other"**. As she was going through her apprenticeship, Lori gained more and more confidence. Her confidence increased that much she felt like she actually knew what she was doing. When asked about her confidence she said, **"I was so nervous when I first started my apprenticeship, I was quiet and I didn't have a clue what I was doing. And I think being given more responsibilities helped me to increase my confidence so much that I ended up feeling like I actually knew what I was doing"**. Because of this, Lori was able to talk to parents, deliver sessions, organise tournaments and events. Other things included taking Young people to games, talking on the phone, attending LCC and WLDC meetings and actually understand what they were talking about and meeting different partners PF worked alongside.



In February, after having a conversation with Jonathan Coles, the most recent Football Development Officer, about wanting to progress in the sports industry, Jonathan told Lori about his time when he worked as a coach over in Massachusetts, America for Global Premier Soccer. This was something that sounded interesting to Lori. So this led Lori to researching about coaching in America and this looked appealing to her, so she applied. There was a quick response asking Lori to attend a training weekend at St Georges Park. As it was such a short process it made Lori feel nervous and unsure whether to go as they wanted her out in America within a month. Also it was a big decision she had to make and one that was completely out of her comfort zone. As she wasn't sure whether to go to America or stay in Gainsborough, she had a chat with Steve Rowe, Steven Snell and Debbie Chambers. They gave her lots of advice. After listening to this advice she decided to go to America and is having the time of her life. **"I'm so happy I listened to them and pursued it as this is a once in a life time opportunity and I'm having the time of my life here"**.



Out in America Lori's job is an office role which is HR communication where she works 9-5 then coaches elite players in the evening. She has professional development every Monday where she and fellow colleagues all get on field for sessions and learn from each other which is really helpful. Asked about her job in America, Lori said, **"It is hard work and I am working long hours although it is amazing and I've really settled in here now"**. Whilst out in America, Lori has completed her level 2 in coaching football award. She was then offered a coaching job at Liverpool FC Academy.

From where and how Lori was at the start of her apprenticeship to where and how she is now out in America is a big change and she has come a long way. Asked about the whole process, Lori said **"This job is so intense although it's honestly the best decision I've ever made and it's all down to Positive Futures getting me where I am today, without being given that Apprenticeship opportunity, I wouldn't be here today"**.

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 October 2015
Subject:	Member Feedback on Visits to Children's Services Social Work Teams

Summary:

This report invites members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to provide feedback from their visits to the social work teams in Children's Services.

Actions Required:

Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are asked to provide feedback on their visits to the social work teams in Children's Services.

1. Background

In 2013/14, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee undertook a scrutiny review into Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding. The Committee received the Executive Response Action Plan at its meeting on 24 October 2014 and at that meeting it was suggested that it would be beneficial for Members of the Committee to visit the Children's Services social work teams across the county to gain a better understanding of their work and the challenges faced by social workers.

Since February 2015, a number of visits have been arranged for Members to visit the eight Children's Services social work teams across Lincolnshire. The visits, and the Members who undertook them, are detailed in Appendix A. All eight of the social work teams have been visited at least once.

As the visits are now coming to a close, it would be useful to receive feedback from Members regarding the visits to highlight any good practice identified and issues or concerns that may need to be addressed.

2. Conclusion

This report provides members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to report back on their visits to the social work teams in Children's Services and highlight good practice and any issues or concerns that have been identified.

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	Member Visits to Children's Services Social Work Teams

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.

Member Visits to Children's Services Social Work Teams

Date and Venue	Attendees
Lincoln:	
10 th February 2015	Cllr Mrs Jane Smith Cllr Mrs Jackie Brockway
14 th July 2015	Emma Olivier-Townrow
East Lindsey North:	
27 th February 2015	Cllr John Hough Cllr Sarah Dodds
South Kesteven:	
3 rd March 2015	Cllr Linda Wootten Cllr Ray Wootten
4 th March 2015	Cllr Mrs Helen Powell
Boston:	
23 rd March 2015	Cllr Mrs Sue Ransome
North Kesteven:	
14 th May 2015	Cllr Mrs Helen Powell Cllr Mrs Jane Smith
West Lindsey:	
19 th May 2015	Cllr Mrs Jackie Brockway
South Holland:	
3 rd June 2015	Cllr Mrs Sue Wray
East Lindsey South:	
16 th June 2015	Cllr Mrs Helen Powell
15 th September 2015	Cllr Sarah Dodds Cllr John Hough
27 th October 2015	Cllr Mrs Helen Powell

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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:	19 October 2015
Subject:	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Annual Report

Summary:

This report presents the annual sufficiency report for comment and gives the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee an update on the delivery of Lincolnshire's Childcare Sufficiency report for 2014/15. Following the presentation of the sufficiency paper in January 2015, it was agreed that the Birth to Five Service would develop the annual sufficiency report based on the following :-

1. Revisit the methodology of assessing sufficiency to give assurance that it is fit for purpose;
2. Develop and deliver the annual sufficiency report for 2015 within associated costs and timeline agreed;
3. Consider strategies for financing sufficiency gaps once the assessment is complete.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to

- Approve the attached annual sufficiency report
- Support the working group to continue to meet as a collective to review the resource allocations to ensure the local authority meets its statutory duties regarding sufficiency of childcare places
- Give consideration to identifying a funding stream of both capital and revenue to support meeting the gaps identified through the sufficiency assessment process

1. Background

When the update was presented in January 2015 it was confirmed that the sufficiency duty remains the responsibility of the local authority (LA). The LA is charged with securing sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 years (or up to 18 years for disabled children).

The guidance indicates that local authorities should take into account what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means in their area. Consideration should be given to:-

- The state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
- The state of the labour market;
- The quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise.

It is suggested that LA's should influence the market place to ensure sufficient childcare by

- Encouraging schools in their area to offer out-of-hours childcare from 8.00am and 6.00pm;
- Encouraging existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market.

In the past, financial incentives were offered to schools and the PVI sector via grant funding in order to stimulate the market place when a sufficiency gap was identified. These grants are no longer available, however we have applied to the DFE for permission to capitalise some of the revenue funding to enable the LA to develop provision around the needs for 2 year old provision. Permission has been received and confirmed.

In order for the sufficiency of childcare places to be monitored the duty requires the LA to produce a report which will have two key audiences; Elected Members and parents/carers. Further information is included in the attached report.

The revised requirements give the LA the flexibility to determine the appropriate level of detail in their report, the geographical division and date of publication, however the report should include:

- A specific reference to how they are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of: disabled children; children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up early education places; school age children; and children needing holiday care;
- Information about the supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision;
- Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

As advised by Hemsall's the content and detail required to be produced within the LA annual childcare sufficiency reports has changed significantly in recent years.

Lincolnshire has adopted an approach taken by many which is to take a snap shot survey and utilise this data to form the basis of the assessment. Further information is included within the annual sufficiency report attached.

2. Conclusion

The working party has reviewed the processes and systems used previously with a view to identifying approaches that would enable the LA to collect meaningful data in a timely and cost effective way.

The data collection process has been integrated in to the Early Years Census.

Proposed process for assessing sufficiency of childcare places in Lincolnshire for 2014/15

The local authority completed a capacity audit with all providers registered to deliver the Early Years Entitlement funding in January 2015 as part of the Early Years Census to capture their current occupancy levels and vacancy information across the 0-11 year age range.

This provided a snap shot approach to data collection to give a picture of current childcare take up levels on the week that the census takes place. Although this process has been more time and resource effective than previous models we feel that lessons could be learnt and the questions revised in order to get a more robust data set. It became evident on analysing the data that there was a significant variant in the responses received due to interpretation of the questions. This required additional resources to follow up and clarify responses and a further data cleansing exercise to be undertaken which has resulted in a delay in producing the report. However it is felt that this could be refined and improved in future years.

Overview of the content of the local authority's annual sufficiency report for 2014/15

- Introduction - linking childcare sufficiency to wider duties and priorities and annual reporting requirements
- Overview of sufficiency - summary of key findings relating to the capacity audit, including an analysis of the impact of any known changes to population, housing and school planning
- Gaps in provision - identification of any gaps, including: geographical; type; age of child
- Priorities - planned actions to address identified gaps

Publication and format of the report

The proposal is to provide the attached report for Senior Officers and Elected Members, with a summary produced for parents which will be published on the local authority's website.

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	Lincolnshire's Annual Report 2015
Appendix B	Capacity Audit (appendage to the Annual Report 2015)
Appendix C	Parent Report

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
The Childcare Act (2006)	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents
Children and Families Act (2014)	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted
Childcare and Education Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (September 2014)	https://www.gov.uk/government/.../early_education_and_childcare_for_local_authorities.pdf

This report was written by Geraldine O'Neill, who can be contacted on 01522 552752 or geraldine.o'neill@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

**LINCOLNSHIRE'S
ANNUAL SUFFICIENCY
REPORT**

2015-16

CONTENTS

1. National Context
2. Lincolnshire's Position and Approach
3. Supply & Demand
4. Analysis
5. Planning to meet identified needs
6. Reporting
7. Priorities 2015-16

1. NATIONAL CONTEXT

The Childcare Act (2006) requires local authorities in England to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children.

Local authorities formally had a duty (section 11 of the act) to undertake a detailed childcare sufficiency assessment (CSA) every three years, with annual updates as and when new data became available. The Government repealed section 11 of the act in the Children and Families Act (2013) with the aim of reducing resource costs and duplication of work with Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006.

Previously CSAs have been based on relatively large-scale research projects involving Early Years and childcare provider audits and parent/carer consultations and surveys across the county. With the revision of the statutory requirements the local authority has reviewed the process to assess sufficiency of Childcare provision across the county in line with legislative changes and the available resources.

In accordance with section 6 of the act, the local authority is required to shape and support the development of childcare in Lincolnshire in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. This role is described as a 'market management' function, supporting the sector to meet the needs of parents, children and young people, and stakeholders.

Within the requirements local authorities are obliged to produce an annual sufficiency report which must include the availability and sufficiency of funded early education places and childcare in the area under the Statutory Guidance (DfE September 2014). This information must be made available to elected members, parents and carers.

2. LINCOLNSHIRE'S POSITION AND APPROACH

Lincolnshire is the fourth largest county in England, covering an area of over 6,000 square kilometres with a population of 724,500. The county is a two tier authority. The main centres of population are Lincoln and Boston with the remainder of the population being widely dispersed living in small towns, villages and/or hamlet settings. The county ranks relatively lowly on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation but there are over forty wards across the county that are classed amongst the 20% most deprived in England, and an equal number amongst the least deprived.

This report serves to collate Lincolnshire's position using data, local knowledge and other supporting evidence, to demonstrate the sufficiency duty is being addressed, and where there are gaps ensure there is an action plan in place to address any areas for development.

The sufficiency duty requires joint work from several departments within Children services. To ensure this work is coordinated and well managed the local authority has established a working group which includes representatives of the Birth to Five Early Years' Service, School Organisation Planning, Property, Performance Assurance and the Family Information Service. This group has and will continue to work collaboratively to maintain a sustainable approach for reporting on childcare sufficiency in Lincolnshire. This group links with external partners that also play a pivotal role in considering the childcare market and the needs of parents, these include;

- Childcare providers (vacancy and waiting lists)
- Jobcentre Plus (working with parent/carers, identifying any childcare barriers)
- large employers (hospital and LA – any unmet need preventing parent/carers from working or taking up employment; patterns of work including outside 'normal' working hours)
- health (new birth data)

The local authority has access to a great deal of supply and demand information through a number of sources which is described further in the section below. This has been supplemented by undertaking an annual capacity audit. This information is collected and analysed providing information to inform the Lincolnshire annual sufficiency position. This will be collated presented within this report for senior managers and elected members. Following this, a summary of the report with key findings will be made available on the Lincolnshire County Council website to ensure parents and carers have access to the annual sufficiency position across Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire has a diverse and varied range of provision across the county which includes sessional preschools and day nurseries with a range of governance models across the private voluntary and independent sector. There are also maintained nursery schools, and an increasing number of provisions delivered through schools and academies. Childminders play an important role in the provision of Early Years Entitlement and childcare across the county due to the rural nature of the county.

3. SUPPLY AND DEMAND

The sufficiency duty is focussed on working parents and those studying or training for employment. This means that childcare is defined as that which is reliable and regular if it is to meet need. The local authority currently has several methods of reviewing childcare demand in Lincolnshire including;

- Analysis of FIS enquiries and brokerage work
- Population trends
- Provider vacancy and waiting lists
- Childcare provision occupancy

Childcare enquiries are received by the Family Information Service (FIS), these are typically referred by the Job Centre Plus, RAF Hives or NHS enquiries or directly from parents themselves. Information is provided to parents via the Family Information Service to assist parents to find a suitable childcare place for their child. Where childcare is unavailable, a Gap Form is recorded and stored and is monitored and reviewed and has been used to inform the analysis within the annual sufficiency report. The Gap Forms are also a key source of information for assessing childcare needs for parents whose children are of school age who require childcare outside of schools hours.

The Gap Forms are an important tool to enable the local authority to monitor and review changing demand and needs of parents across the county. Where there is evidence that current childcare provision is not sufficient to meet the needs of working parents and there is sufficient demand in a defined area to justify the development of a sustainable childcare provision, this information would be utilised to identify where new childcare places may need to be developed and this would form part of the wider sufficiency planning process.

Early Years Entitlement

Early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is regularly assessed based on family information provided to the local authority from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for targeted eligible 2 year olds and Lincolnshire's Research Observatory provides population data for 3 and 4 year olds. Local authorities have a duty to ensure there is sufficient provision available for targeted eligible 2 year olds and for 3 and 4 year olds, as there is a statutory entitlement of 570 hours per child per year.

Each Local authority is monitored and assessed with regard to the sufficiency of EYE provision across the county; however this is easily calculated as the information is readily available. This is assessed by the number of children entitled to a place in comparison to the number of places available by providers that are registered to deliver the Early Years Entitlement (EYE). This is a simple and effective method of assessment however for all other age ranges there is a need to develop a formulaic approach due to the number of variances and interrelating factors that determine a parents need for a childcare place.

Population data for all other ages is still a determining factor and forms the basis of any sufficiency assessment, however this is gathered and then a formula is applied to determine the number of childcare places required for that age range across the county. The ratio approach was developing some years ago when the need to assess sufficiency became a statutory duty on the local authority. In order to develop a consistent approach across the region a substantial piece of work was undertaken and a method of assessment was agreed. This approach is still used and is based on a large number of determining factors both social and economic including such elements that may influence a parents needs for a childcare place. Some examples are included below in no preferential order as parents choices are individual :-

- Age of child
- Needs of working parents for formal childcare

- Parent access to informal childcare i.e. grandparents
- Parent may choose not to work or to work part time
- Parents may or may not return to work within the first year of becoming a parent

Other factors that influence the formula are costs of childcare and staff ratio required for different age ranges of children. Therefore ratios currently used for the assessment of need are:

- Children under 2 year old – 1 place: 6 children
- Children 2-5 years – 1 place: 3 children

For children of statutory school age and over there are other determining factors which make it difficult to use even a formula based approach, when this has been applied previously it has not provided an accurate picture of demand or take up of provision. The changing market place in relation to this sector also has an influence as many primary and secondary schools/academies have before and after school clubs and activities which accommodate children of this age. However these are many and varied and it is very difficult for the local authority to measure and monitor these activities and how well they meet the needs of working parents, and therefore is a limiting factor in our ability to determine sufficiency.

The local authority recognise there is a concern specifically regarding childcare for over 11's, as detailed in recent reports published by the Family Childcare Trust. However, the Lincolnshire FIS do not have any Gap forms completed for this age range and therefore it is reported that the current demand is negligible for this age group in Lincolnshire.

It is recognised by the local authority that in a rural county such as Lincolnshire, Ofsted registered childminders play a particularly valuable and affordable option for parents who require registered childcare provision usually close to a child's school.

When assessing the level of provision the local authority has information in relation to all registered providers in the county. This includes the

- number of places available in registered childcare provision
- Ofsted inspection outcomes
- costs of childcare
- opening hours
- vacancies and waiting lists

Using a variety of aforementioned information, the local authority is able to report on the quality, affordability and accessibility of childcare in the current market as follows:

Quality

There are a significant number of providers in Lincolnshire that are registered to deliver EYE and the table below gives a breakdown of the Ofsted grading's as at spring term 2015 to give an overview of the quality of provision available across Lincolnshire:

Setting	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Awaiting Inspection
Private	31	116	8	1	21
Voluntary	12	78	10	1	5
School Gov	5	26	0	1	4
Independent	5	7	0	0	3
Childminder	23	154	15	1	10
TOTAL	76	381	33	4	43

Ofsted judgements have a direct impact on the provider's ability to deliver the funded early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Sufficiency of places fluctuates according to Ofsted judgements. The local authority works proactively with the maintained, private, voluntary and independent childcare sector to provide information and guidance to support them to achieve a good or outstanding Ofsted judgement.

Where a provider is judged less than good the local authority Birth to Five Early Years Service provides a programme of support to assist them to improve their Ofsted judgements as this ultimately supports the sufficiency duty. This includes the "Getting to Good Programme" and the "Targeted Improvement Programme". For providers judged as Inadequate, all funded places for new children are on hold in accordance with the local authority's guidance on delivering the Early Years Entitlements.

Affordability

In Lincolnshire, the current affordability rate is calculated at £3.75 per hour (Affordability Project 2013). A recent sample review of provider charges for 3 and 4 year olds indicates £3.75 is the average cost for this age group in Lincolnshire, therefore meeting the affordability rate.

Accessibility

To enable the Local Authority to assess the current availability of childcare across the county, we have undertaken a capacity audit. Please see Appendix A 'Capacity Audit' for the detail of the audit questions.

The audit was undertaken in January 2015 with all providers delivering the Early Years Entitlement funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. This included Private, Voluntary, Independent, Childminders and some School Governed Early Years Provision. This has been utilised as a representation of the sector in each district as EYE providers make up the majority of provision across the county for these age ranges.

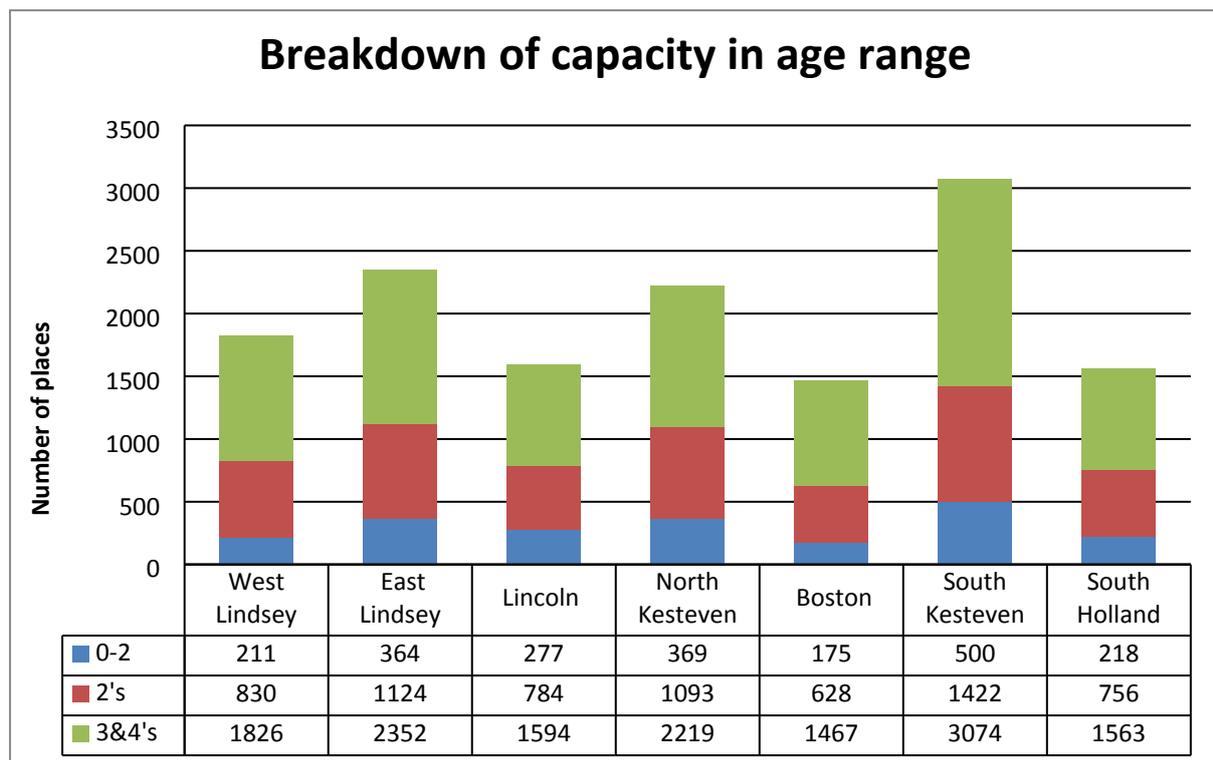
The data has been through a thorough cleansing process to ensure consistency and accuracy of information. The figures have then been extracted and imported into table and graphs to

give visual representation of the areas across Lincolnshire that may require new and additional childcare development.

4 ANALYSIS

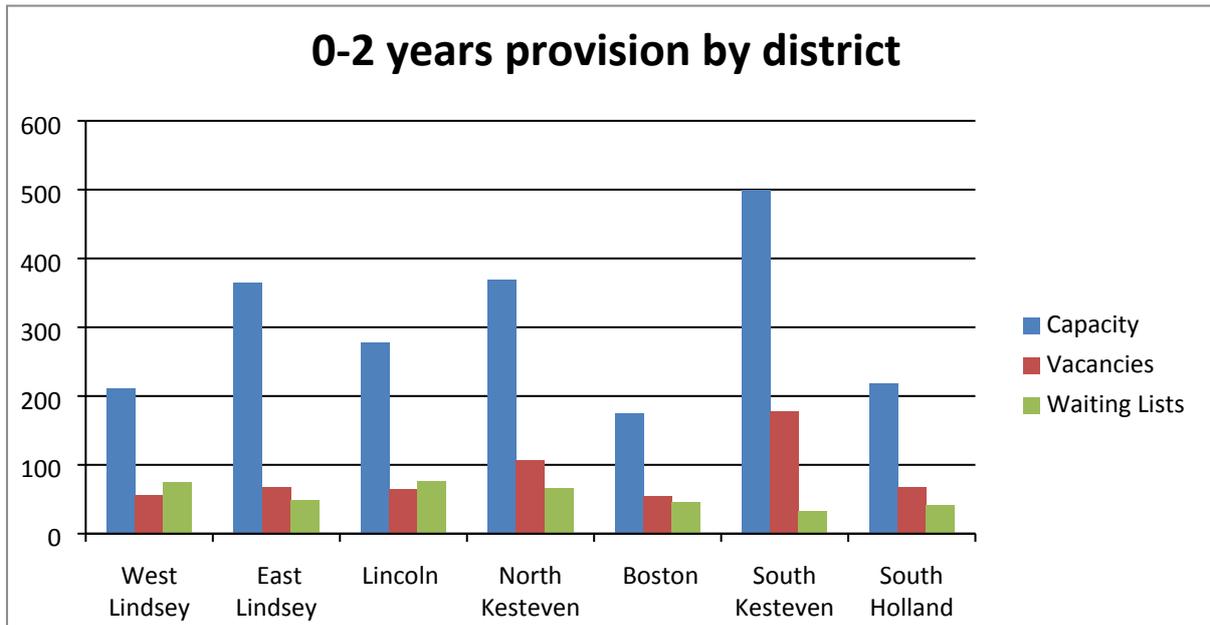
The graph below show the data collected as a snap shot in relation to capacity (the total number of places available), within the 7 District areas by the following age groups:

- 0-2 years
- 2 years
- 3 and 4 years.

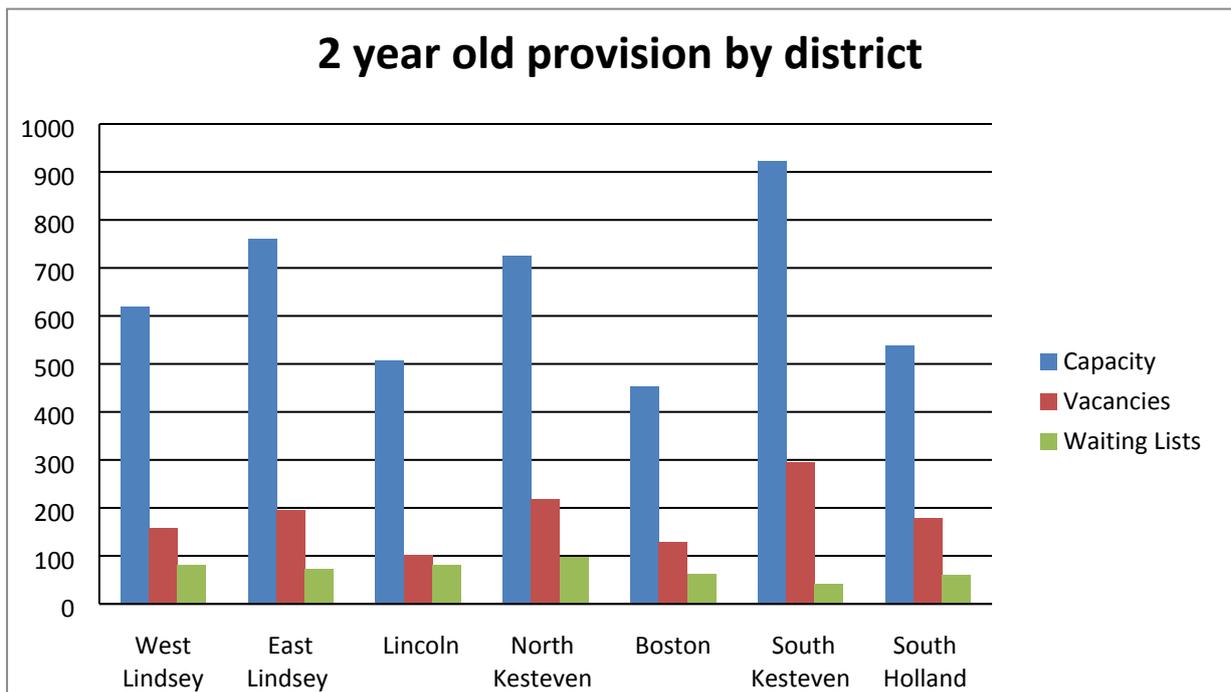


Following this, the information needs to be considered in line with data collected in relation to vacancies and waiting lists that exist in each of the districts for each of the identified age ranges.

0-2 YEAR OLDS



2 YEAR OLDS



In addition to reviewing the current capacity and waiting lists for those 2 year olds known to childcare providers, the local authority must consider the list of families eligible for the 2 year old entitlement provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.

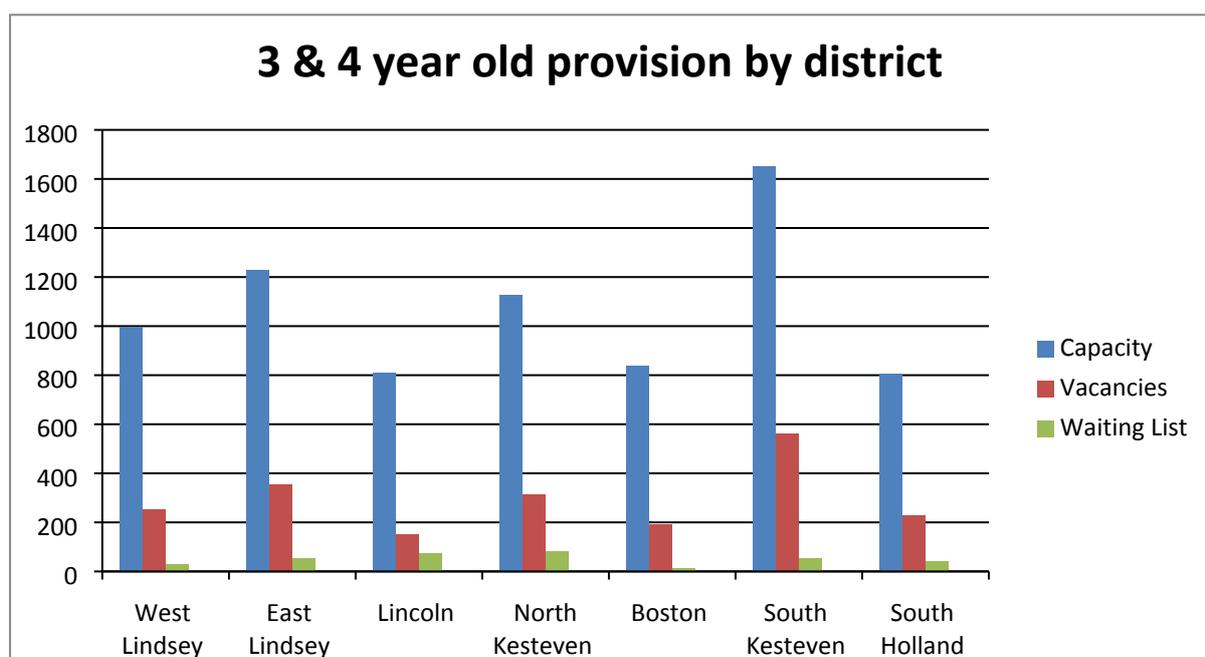
There are currently 896 children in Lincolnshire not accessing their 2 year old entitlement, of which 455 children’s places have been approved by the local authority. Anecdotal evidence shows that in some cases this is due to an insufficient number of childcare places available and in other cases this is due to parent preference.

Overview of current take-up by district area:

District	Take up	Out of County Take Up	DfE Potentially eligible	Take Up Difference to DfE by %
Boston	244	0	416	59%
East Lindsey	555	3	629	88%
Lincoln	406	0	647	63%
North Kesteven	227	0	311	73%
South Holland	294	1	415	71%
South Kesteven	371	1	501	74%
West Lindsey	297	4	381	78%
Grand Total	2394	9	3300	73%

Lincolnshire is also funding places for 26 children who reside out of Lincolnshire in partnership with other local authorities within the region. The Department for Work and Pensions provides local authorities with up to date lists of eligible families 7 times per year. This allows the Service to pinpoint the location of families not yet accessing provision and target new developments in areas where there is a need based on current capacity. This is further considered within the project planning process.

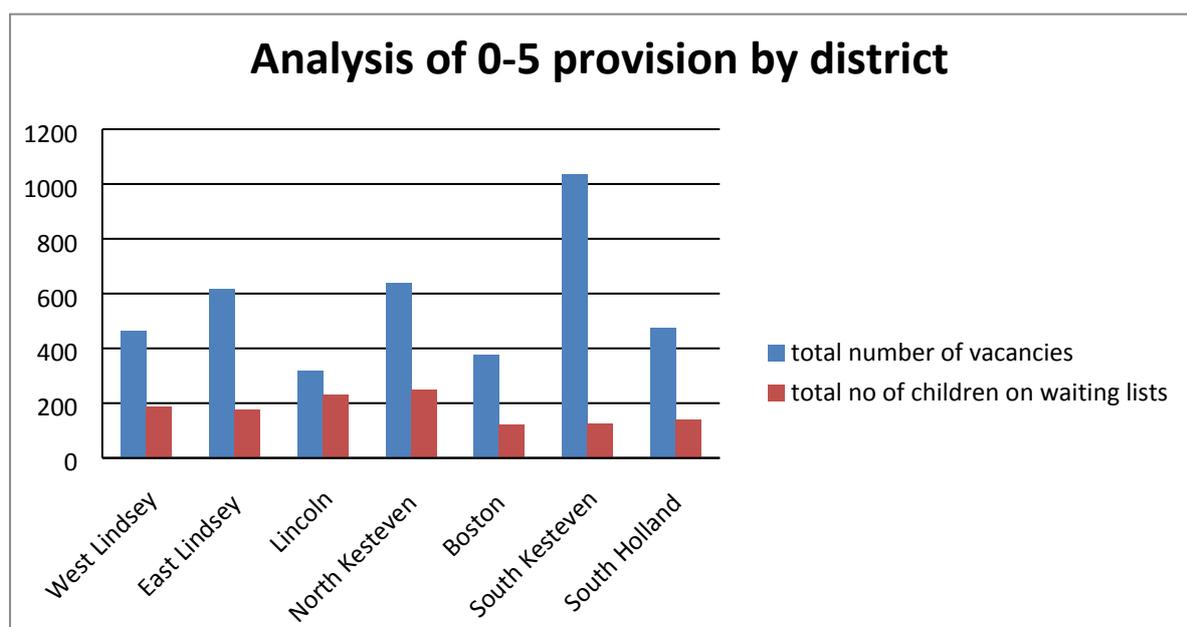
3 & 4 YEAR OLDS



Assessing waiting lists v vacancies

In the above information it is apparent that there are Vacancies that exist in the same District areas where waiting lists are in operation; however due to the size and nature of the district areas there are other considerations that must be accounted for. The local authority will need to review location, accessibility, affordability and parental preference when considering where the vacancies support the need to develop further provision. In some instance vacancies are shown in settings which have an Ofsted grading of less than good and parental preference results in a demand and waiting lists in other provision in the area, however places are available and the development of additional provision would destabilise the market place. In these instances the LA would engage with the providers in the areas and provide support and guidance to improve the quality of existing provision. New provision would only be developed where clear demand can be evidenced.

When and where this becomes evident further analysis at ward level is used to identify areas by a smaller radius to consider whether demand can be matched with vacancies.



Waiting lists

Anecdotal evidence, suggests that typically families will add their child to the waiting list of more than one local provider whatever the age of the child to enhance the chances of getting a place and supporting their return to work. This clearly represents duplication on waiting list numbers and distorts the number of places required and therefore the number of children not able to take up a place.

To mitigate this duplication, the local authority assume that children may be on as many as 3 waiting lists for different settings (based on a sample of feedback) and therefore this needs to be considered when reviewing the data. Other factors need also to be considered for example a parent when they are pregnant may put their name down for a place but not require a place for up to a year and this can also distort this information collected, in future capacity audits we intend to amend the questions to provide a more robust data set regarding places required at the point of data collection and future demand for provision. This will assist with planning timeframes for development of provision.

Summary of the analysis

As you can see from the table above there are no districts that have greater waiting lists than the number of vacancies when measuring 0-5 provision in each area as a collective however due to the complexities described above there are areas that will need to be a focus of development which are detailed in the priorities and planning section below. It becomes more apparent the focus when reviewing provision by age ranges.

In the 0-2 age range there are two areas (West Lindsey and Lincoln) which have greater numbers of vacancies to the waiting lists and one area which is almost equivalent (Boston), this will need further investigations and work with providers to review the market place and provision in these areas. For 2 year old provision one area will be reviewed (Lincoln) due to the level of vacancies and one area (Boston) will be reviewed due to the low take up of EYE provision in this district. For 3 and 4 years old places a the data suggests that one area needs to be reviewed (Lincoln)

Lincolnshire are currently funding 2,429 children to access the 2 year old entitlement (data recorded at the end of March 2015) which represents 73% of the total eligible families.

Lincolnshire has agreed places for 2,849 children to access their free education place from April 2015 which represents 86% of the total potentially eligible appearing in the latest list produced by the DWP. This exceeds the national take-up which is currently 62% (Statistics supplied by the Department for Education in March 2015)

The number of Early Years Providers delivering funded 2 year old places continues to rise and there are currently 442 providers offering the entitlement for 2 year olds in Lincolnshire, this includes 166 Childminders and 20 school governed providers. This is 85% of all providers delivering free education places to 3 and 4 year olds. The Service is continuing to build this offer to ensure high quality provision is available for all eligible children in Lincolnshire. The DfE has commended the local authority's progress with the initiative.

The number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing the free entitlement continues to rise and national figures published in January 2014 indicate that 97% of 3 and 4 year old children accessed their free entitlement in Lincolnshire in 2012. This is above the national figure of 96% and on par with the regional East Midland figure of 97%. The increase in children accessing the 2 year old entitlement can be seen to be having an impact as children transition into accessing the 3/4 year old offer.

Lincolnshire has a large number of childminders who are not yet registered to deliver the Early Years Entitlements, these providers all have additional places available for parents who wish to pay for provision as this is their preference or the childminder is able to offer additional childcare outside of the EYE which they may access through an alternative provision.

5 PLANNING TO MEET IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The local authority acts as an enabler and a commissioner of services rather than a direct provider of childcare services. The PVI sector in the county is diverse and continues to strengthen. Due to the rural nature of the county many of our providers are sole traders, or small partnerships. This infrastructure supports many direct and indirect jobs which larger companies do not find an attractive business proposition in our county.

- A. Work with the sector to identify provision where sufficiency gaps have been identified. Further in depth local analysis will be required in the following areas

0-2 places	2y old places	3 & 4y old places
West Lindsey	Lincoln	Lincoln
Lincoln	Boston	
Boston		

- B. Continue to work with providers to complete capital investment projects that are in progress.
- C. Set up a sustainability fund to support existing provision with high numbers of children – support sufficiency of places (acutely linked)
- D. Target available capital funding to areas of greatest priority with a focus on 2 year old provision and gaps identified, develop robust process for allocation.

To address the sufficiency gaps within Lincolnshire, the Birth to Five Service has carried out some developments as part of a targeted funding programme to enable providers to deliver sufficient, high quality, early education places to eligible two year olds. Some of these developments are in progress and there are other areas being identified where developments have not yet started.

Previous sufficiency analysis identified where capital funding was required to give assistance to early years' childcare providers by administering a Premises Improvement Grant. This was a discretionary grant and was awarded against specific criteria. The grant scheme for private providers did not seek to fully fund projects but contribute in order to ensure creation of the new places. As part of the application process providers were asked to demonstrate what financial commitment they had to offer as part of the programme.

These small businesses and voluntary organisations provide significant and vital services for families on behalf of the county. Access to inward investment and external funding for capital for small businesses poses a huge challenge in our county. Many funders traditionally

see early years and childcare as the responsibility of the local authority under the education banner thereby limiting accessibility.

Lincolnshire's childcare market has been developed over the years using a combination of grant funding and providers funding to meet the sufficiency duty. Many of our properties are leased back to the Private, Voluntary or Independent sector. They are housed in a variety of purpose built and remodelled buildings including Children's Centres, remodelled schools, purpose built schools with integrated childcare facilities, Chance to Shares, youth buildings and Lincolnshire County Council community buildings.

To ensure that all eligible 2 year old children are able to access their entitlement, capital funding has been made available to local authorities to support the development of new places and the improvement of existing places. The local authority must consider the transition from 2 year old places to access of the Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. Therefore, when considering any investments the local authority must use the data for both of these age ranges.

As part of the continued commitment to develop new places for 2 year olds in Lincolnshire, we propose to use the same method for capital investment and small grants to childcare providers to support quality.

In compiling this report the Birth to Five Service has liaised with the Performance assurance and Property planning Team. Future work between the Birth to Five Service and the Property Team has been planned to ensure that there is a clear and concise co-ordinated approach with a suitable process in ensuring and addressing future sufficiency requirements.

6 REPORTING

Lincolnshire County Council will produce and publish the sufficiency report annually in accordance with the early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities (September 2014).

This report is presented to Senior Managers and elected members, a summary will be published on the Lincolnshire County Council website giving details of the outcome of the assessment with details of key finding and priorities for the year to ensure parents and carers have the information they require on sufficiency of childcare in their area.

7 PRIORITIES 2015-16

Summary of 2015-16 priorities
Undertake further analysis of the priorities districts identified above in relation to the potential gaps identified
Develop proposals and undertake developments for the delivery of sustainable provision in response to the analysis where evidence support new provision
Continue to raise awareness of the 2 year old EYE provision to eligible families. With a focus areas of low take up
Work directly with providers who have Ofsted grading of less than good to improve quality and to increase the opportunity for every child in Lincolnshire to have access to good or outstanding provision
Encourage and promote more childminders to become registered to deliver EYE provision in order to support families to have greater choice in their area supporting the sufficiency agenda
Continue to monitor and review the level of provision for 3 and 4 year olds to ensure the LA can meet their statutory duties

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Capacity Audit January 2015

The local authority is required to secure sufficient childcare places for childcare across Lincolnshire. As part of this requirement, we would like providers to inform the local authority of the number of places they have available and the number of vacancies or waiting lists that exist for various age ranges.

Definition of a place: where a child can have full time hours with you each week (full time hours may be 15, 30 or 50 hours per week for example, depending on your opening times)

Early Years Childcare

Please note, where 2, 3 and 4 year olds are combined, please just inform us of what the take-up and vacancies or waiting list looks like during this current week.

1. How many places in total could be offered during this week for the following ages?

(Please note, this does not mean the number of children in places this week, but the total places that could be taken)

0-2 years	2 year olds	3 and 4 year olds

2. How many vacancies do you have for each of these age groups during this week in total?

Please note, where sickness or holiday absences occur, please do not include these places as vacancies.

0-2 years	2 year olds	3 and 4 year olds

3. Do you have any children on a waiting list? Yes / No
4. If Yes, please indicate how many in each age range

0-2 years	2 year olds	3 and 4 year olds

Out of School Childcare

1. Do you provide out of school childcare provision? Yes / No
2. If Yes,

How many places could be offered in total this week?

Breakfast	After School	Holiday

How many vacancies do you have this week?

Breakfast	After School	Holiday

3. Any children on a waiting list? Yes / No

4. If Yes, how many?

Breakfast	After School	Holiday

Annual Sufficiency Report for Parents

This report serves to inform parents about the current childcare position for 0-5 year olds. Subsequent reports published by the local authority may focus on a different age range.

1. NATIONAL OVERVIEW

In accordance with section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006, the local authority is required to shape and support the development of childcare in Lincolnshire in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. This role is described as a 'market management' function, supporting the sector to meet the needs of parents, children and young people, and stakeholders.

Previously Childcare Sufficiency Assessments have been undertaken and based on relatively large-scale research projects involving Early Years and childcare providers, and parents/carers across the county. With the revision of the statutory requirements the local authorities are no longer required to undertake assessments on this scale. However, local authorities are obliged to produce an annual sufficiency report which must include the availability and sufficiency of funded early education places and childcare in the area.

2. LOCAL CONTEXT

This report serves to collate Lincolnshire's position using data, local knowledge and other supporting evidence, to demonstrate the sufficiency duty is being addressed, and where there are gaps ensure there is an action plan in place to address any areas for development. Lincolnshire County Council works with external partners that also play a pivotal role in considering the childcare market and the needs of parents, these include;

- Childcare providers (vacancy and waiting lists)
- Jobcentre Plus (working with parent/carers, identifying any childcare barriers)
- large employers (hospital and LA – any unmet need preventing parent/carers from working or taking up employment; patterns of work including outside 'normal' working hours)
- health (new birth data)

The local authority has access to a great deal of supply and demand information through a number of sources which is described further in the 'Supply & Demand' section below. This has been supplemented by undertaking an annual capacity audit with early years' providers. This information is collected and analysed providing information to inform the Lincolnshire annual sufficiency position.

Lincolnshire has a diverse range of early years and childcare providers across the county which includes childminders, sessional preschools, day nurseries and maintained/school

based provision under a range of governance models. All providers play an important role in the delivery of funded Early Years Entitlement (EYE) places and childcare.

3. SUPPLY & DEMAND

The sufficiency duty is focussed on working parents and those studying or training for employment. This means that childcare is defined as that which is reliable and regular if it is to meet parents' needs. The local authority currently has several methods of reviewing childcare demand in Lincolnshire including;

- Analysis of FIS enquiries and brokerage work
- Population trends
- Provider vacancy and waiting lists
- Childcare provision occupancy

In addition to the wider childcare sufficiency duty, the local authority has a duty to ensure there is sufficient provision available for the delivery of funded Early Years Entitlement places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. The statutory entitlement for targeted eligible 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds is currently 570 hours per child per year.

The recent capacity audit undertaken with Lincolnshire's providers suggests that there are enough childcare places within settings that have an appropriate Ofsted judgement to deliver funded Early Years Entitlements.

Previous methods to assess childcare demand are still used and are based on a large number of determining factors both social and economic. Some examples are included below in no preferential order:

- Age of child
- Needs of working parents for formal childcare
- Parents accessing informal childcare i.e. grandparents
- Parents choosing not to work or to work part time
- Parents returning to work within the first year of becoming a parent

Other factors that influence the formula are costs of childcare and staff ratios required for different age ranges of children. The method currently used for this assessment is:

- Children under 2 year old – 1 place for every 6 children
- Children 2-5 years – 1 place for every 3 children

The local authority recognise there is a concern specifically regarding childcare for over 11's, as detailed in recent reports published by the Family Childcare Trust. However, locally there is no evidence to suggest that Lincolnshire has a shortfall of places for children over the age of 11 years. Similarly there is no evidence to suggest that there is a shortfall of places for children aged between 5 and 11 years.

4. PLANNING TO MEET IDENTIFIED NEEDS

From the data collected in the capacity audit, there are no districts that have greater waiting lists than the number of vacancies when measuring 0-5 provision. However, due to the complexities of vacancies versus waiting lists (e.g. where a child may be on more than 1 waiting list or a waiting list includes pre-birth children, this distorts immediate demand) there are areas that will be subjected to ward level analysis to identify where new childcare places are needed in the future.

The district areas identified for more detailed ward level analysis are:

- Lincoln
- Boston
- West Lindsey

If you have a child aged between 0-16 years (18 with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities) and you are unable to find appropriate childcare in your area, please contact the Family Information Service on 0800 195 1635. The FIS will support you with your enquiry and recording your concerns will also serve to inform future childcare sufficiency reports.

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 October 2015
Subject:	Centre for Public Scrutiny's Guide to Scrutinising Children's Safeguarding Arrangements

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider the Centre for Public Scrutiny's guide for overview and scrutiny councillors on scrutinising children's safeguarding arrangements.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to

1. consider and comment on the CfPS guide for councillors on safeguarding children;
2. consider the questions relating to the Local Authority when the Committee receives the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Scrutiny Review - Second Monitoring Update report at its next meeting on 27 November 2015;
3. recommend that the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group considers the questions relating to the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board at its future meetings.

1. Background

In May 2015, the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) published "Safeguarding Children – A Practical Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Councillors". The CfPS guide, which is attached at Appendix A, is designed to support councillors on scrutiny committees when considering children's safeguarding arrangements and sets out key aspects of local safeguarding arrangements, statutory duties and the role of overview and scrutiny.

Scrutiny of children's safeguarding arrangements in Lincolnshire is undertaken by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group.

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group scrutinises the work of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) on a quarterly basis. The LSCB comprises a Strategic Management Group that meets quarterly and an Operational Delivery Group that meets every eight weeks. In addition the LSCB

has a number of Sub Groups that drive the work of the Board. The Independent Chair of the LSCB and the LSCB Board Manager attend every meeting of the Scrutiny Sub Group to provide updates on the work of the LSCB. The Scrutiny Sub Group also receives the reports from any serious case reviews undertaken by the LSCB. The minutes from the Scrutiny Sub Group are brought to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee after each meeting for information and any action if required.

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising the Local Authority's role in children's safeguarding arrangements. In 2013/14 the Committee undertook a scrutiny review into Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding, and the Committee has since been monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from this review on a six monthly basis.

2. Conclusion

The CfPS guide suggests 21 key scrutiny questions for councillors to consider when scrutinising children's safeguarding. Some of these questions relate to Local Authority safeguarding arrangements while others are relevant to the LSCB.

It is proposed that the Committee takes into account the questions related to Local Authority children's safeguarding arrangements when it considers the six monthly updates on the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding scrutiny review. It is also recommended that the Scrutiny Sub Group should consider the questions regarding the LSCB at its future meetings when considering the updates on the LSCB's work.

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	CfPS Guide - "Safeguarding Children – A Practical Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Councillors"

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.

Safeguarding Children

A practical guide for overview and scrutiny councillors



Contents

Introduction	03
Context & Background	06
Local Safeguarding Arrangements and the Child Protection Process	08
Children in Need and Early Help	12
Child Protection	14
Putting the Child at the Centre of Safeguarding	16
The Role of Overview and Scrutiny	19
Evidence, Data and Information	21
Conclusions	24
Key Scrutiny Questions for Safeguarding	25
References and Further Reading	27
Glossary of Key Terms	29
Checklist for Planning a Scrutiny Review of Children’s Safeguarding	31

Acknowledgements

This publication has been written by Paul Cutler, Independent Consultant and Su Turner, Head of Programmes, Children and Young People at the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

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We are a politically-led, cross party organisation which works on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government. We aim to influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to councils so they are able to deliver local solutions to national problems.

www.local.gov.uk

Introduction

Promoting an effective role for scrutiny in children's safeguarding

The welfare of all children and young people in the local community must be a top priority for any local authority. Safeguarding ensures that children are kept as safe as possible by identifying their needs, views and any risks they face. Services, information and support can then be provided as required. Where children are likely to suffer harm, local authorities have clear duties to intervene through child protection processes.

Over the last five years overview and scrutiny committees have become increasingly aware of the need to consider the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements. This was highlighted by Professor Jay's 2014 Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham and the response by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. These reports describe the essential role of overview and scrutiny in the safeguarding process. It uses the tragic example of the sexual exploitation of girls and boys in Rotherham to demonstrate the serious consequences of any failures of independent internal scrutiny and challenge.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined by the 2013 statutory guidance¹ as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

Child protection is part of wider safeguarding and refers to activities undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

As elected members of overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) seek to effectively scrutinise local safeguarding, they will need to build their understanding and knowledge of the topic. Good scrutiny is based on:

- A clear understanding of the roles and function of overview and scrutiny.
- Underpinning knowledge of the principles and practice of safeguarding and child protection.
- Understanding how local safeguarding arrangements are managed and structured.
- A commitment to putting the child at the centre of safeguarding through listening and understanding the experiences of diverse children and young people.
- Support to navigate complex systems of multiple agencies and organisations with different yet complimentary contributions to overall safeguarding.

1. Department for Education 2013 Working Together to Safeguard Children. Unless otherwise stated, all references to formal safeguarding definitions and statutory guidance are taken from this publication

-
- A willingness to work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders whilst maintaining a critical challenge.
 - A commitment to demonstrate the potential impact of good scrutiny on the local safeguarding process and ensure that recommendations are monitored and reviewed.

Supporting members to feel confident in their capacities to scrutinise safeguarding is crucial. Low public confidence in safeguarding and unfavorable media attention can create an environment of anxiety and concern. At the same time there may be internal challenge to the value of scrutiny from within the council. Louise Casey highlighted this threat in her 2015 inspection report on Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council:

“ Inspectors concluded that overview and scrutiny had been deliberately weakened and under-valued. The structures and processes look superficially adequate, but the culture has been one where challenge and scrutiny were not welcome.”²

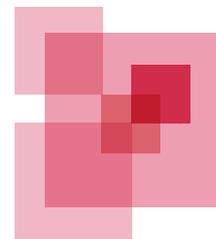
2. Page 76, Report of Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Louise Casey, 2015

Reinvigorated scrutiny can play an important role in balancing these concerns and bring another layer of public accountability through the local democratic process.

Safeguarding is described as ‘everyone’s business’ – not least in the work of OSCs. Whilst formal reviews of safeguarding arrangements will have a clear focus on safeguarding from the outset, many other review topics are likely to have a safeguarding dimension. OSCs need to be vigilant for safeguarding issues when they consider a wide range of services and commissioning across social, health, community and environmental. Formalising the place of safeguarding in the OSC work plan through protocols and working arrangements with Local Safeguarding Children Boards and statutory partners can ensure that the topic is always on the agenda.

OSCs are well placed to promote the direct experience of local children and the knowledge and insights they bring of the safeguarding process. Stories, case studies and examples from children can make the safeguarding process more real to decision-makers and demonstrate the impact of how systems operate.

This guide is designed to support OSCs to explore the safeguarding arena and build their confidence to tackle reviews. It builds on the 2009 CfPS Safeguarding Scrutiny Guide and provides updates of recent changes, new reports and learning. The publication provides an overview of key aspects of local safeguarding arrangements and summarises statutory duties under legislation and guidance. It brings together in one place quotes and references from key safeguarding publications. It then offers a range of approaches to reviews. This includes working with a child-centred focus, exploring evidence and data, and formulating key questions. Final sections provide references and further reading, a short glossary of key terms and a checklist for starting to plan a scrutiny review.



A few notes on terminology for this guide:

- References to safeguarding are explicitly referring to children’s safeguarding but readers will want to be mindful of the links to the legislation and practice of adult safeguarding – particularly in terms of transitions for disabled young people and vulnerable parents. A coordinated approach is essential as in turn adult safeguarding activities are likely to have an impact on any children in the wider family.
- Children and young people are a highly diverse group in terms of age, gender, disability, health, ethnicity and other factors. Following the conventions of statutory guidance and in the interests of brevity this guide will use the term children to refer to anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday. Councils also have additional responsibilities for looked-after children in their care up to 21 years (and in some cases up to 24 years).
- All references to OSC reviews recognises that reviews can take many forms and timescales and have well established local processes.

Context and background

3. Department for Education 2013
Characteristics of Children in Need in
England: 2013 to 2014

The current duty to promote the welfare of children has been established in law since the Children Act 1989 and 2004. It is a significant part of the work and investment of local authorities across England. Safeguarding systems are not static, and have continued to evolve as developments in statutory guidance are published and embedded in local practice. These are supported with new lessons and learning from inquiries, report and local audits. New data sources such as the Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Framework have also been developed to assist in management and monitoring. The challenge for OSCs is to make sense of local performance and champion the interests of children whilst navigating this increased complexity and quantity of information.

Of the 11.4 million children in England, recent statistics³ for 2013-2014 report that almost 400,000 are assessed as children in need with 48,300 of those requiring a child protection plan. Over 650,000 new referrals to children's services were made in the same period and trends indicate that all these figures have risen in recent times.

A complex pattern of need and risk emerges from the data:

- Over 47% of children in need have experienced abuse or neglect in their care.
- 18% are described as in need due to family dysfunction.
- New concerns are emerging as understanding of sexual exploitation, online risks, bullying and teenage domestic violence grows.

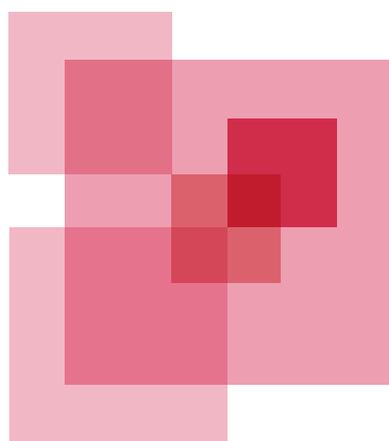
As safeguarding systems evolve through stronger working relationships and improved multi-agency communication, the wider context of local services is also changing. Difficult decisions about spending priorities in times of reduced budgets can influence provision and access to both universal and specialist services. The shift to greater commissioning of services in health and social care creates a diverse portfolio of new providers. Educational reform, the move to more academies and shifts in local authority responsibilities for services such as public health and health visiting also have an impact. It is crucial to maintain a strong focus on safeguarding during this time of change.

New studies and reports build awareness of the full range of risks and potential harm that children face. Recent concerns include systematic child sexual exploitation, child trafficking, online risks, female genital mutilation, bullying and emotional abuse.

What is clear is that the need for good quality overview and scrutiny has never been greater. The process of holding authorities to account can have a direct impact on the effectiveness of local safeguarding practices across a full range of local services.

These include:

- Child protection services for those at risk of harm.
- Domestic violence, substance misuse, mental health, learning disability and youth justice services.
- Services for children in need including early help and intervention.
- School and education services including approaches to tackle bullying, behaviour issues and discrimination.



-
- Safer environment for children to live and play – including housing, road safety, safe neighborhoods, parks and leisure services.
 - Services for looked-after children and those in the care system.
 - Universal services including early years services and access to healthcare.
 - Public health services.
 - Information and communication services for children and families on topics such as health, safety and risk.
 - Safe recruitment of adults working with children.
 - Promoting children's rights and welfare across all aspects of their lives.

Local Safeguarding Arrangements and the Child Protection Process

Key scrutiny question: How well do local safeguarding arrangements work to protect children?

- How are those in leadership roles held to account by the wider system?
 - How effective are local safeguarding arrangements in identifying and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children?
 - To what extent are local agencies and organisations working together effectively?
 - What level of internal challenge is there in local safeguarding arrangements?
 - How are lessons and learning implemented to improve the system?
-

Local safeguarding arrangements are based on a national framework outlined in legislation⁴ and statutory guidance⁵. This latest guidance for Working Together to Safeguard Children was updated most recently in 2013. It replaces previous guidance issued in 2010 as well as statutory guidance on safeguarding arrangements issued under section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

Central to these arrangements are the statutory responsibilities of the local authority and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Three senior safeguarding roles provide high-level leadership in this structure – the Lead Member for Children’s Services (LMCS), the local authority Director of Children’s Services (DCS) and the chair of the LSCB. Each has their own accountabilities and together they share responsibility to work with multi-agency partners to promote the welfare of children and ensure they are properly safeguarded.

The DCS and the LMCS are statutory appointments made by every upper tier local authority under the Children Act 2004. Their roles⁶ are to discharge all the statutory responsibilities for children’s social care, education and for looked-after children in the authority. The Chair of the LSCB is an independent appointment charged with holding all agencies to account.

The DCS is the senior professional responsible for the operation of children’s services and directly accountable to the Chief Executive. They provide senior leadership for improving outcomes for children including overseeing safeguarding services and partnership work with other agencies. This will include the senior management of professional teams of social workers, early years teams, family support and education services etc.

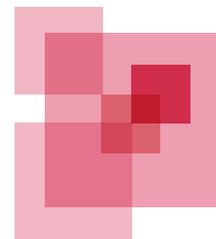
It is vital that the LMCS appreciates the role of scrutiny and has a commitment to encouraging collaborative partnerships with OSCs. Leadership from the top can assist committees in building positive relationships with local agencies and stakeholders. It provides a strong signal about the value of scrutiny for enhancing local safeguarding. The LMCS will also have an important role from an executive perspective in implementing any recommendations from a review. OSCs will find it helpful to engage with the LMCS at an early stage of the process.

These three statutory roles of DCS, LMCS and LSCB chair work together to promote safeguarding through a coordinated system of accountabilities and working practices. Since the original creation of these roles, statutory guidance has helped to clarify accountabilities and independence. OSCs have a crucial role in ensuring that all officers and executive members are held to effective account for the fulfillment of these roles within the local structure.

4. Section 11 Children Act 2004

5. Department for Education 2013 Working Together to Safeguard Children

6. Department for Education 2013 Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children’s Services and the Lead Member for Children’s Services



The Local Safeguarding Children Board

A LSCB is established for each local authority area. Its role is to:

- Coordinate safeguarding in the local area.
- Ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding activities of all local partners.

The LSCB has a number of functions:

- To develop local policies and procedures for safeguarding.
- To establish thresholds for interventions when there are concerns about a child.
- To identify training, recruitment and supervision standards for all local partners.
- To raise awareness of safeguarding and best practice.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local safeguarding including the individual and collective work of Board partners.
- To participate in the planning of services.
- To ensure that Serious Case Reviews are implemented where appropriate and lessons are shared.

Membership of the LSCB is made from a range of Board partners who are senior officers from local agencies including the Police, the Youth Offending Team and the Clinical Commissioning Group. Representatives of District Councils will also be included. The independent chair of the LSCB will also be supported by some lay members. Whilst LSCBs do not manage the delivery or commissioning of safeguarding services they will recommend priorities and areas for improvement.

The LSCB will work with other local strategic bodies such as the Local Family Justice Board and the Health and Wellbeing board. Their work underpinned by the profile of local children described in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The DCS will work directly with the LSCB as a member and the LMCS will be a 'participant observer'.

Leadership and Partnership

Strong leadership from all senior partners in local arrangements is essential to establishing an effective safeguarding system. In cases where there have been failures to safeguard, reviews often highlighted the absence of leadership and lack of partnership working as significant contributing factors. OSCs will want to be assured that all parts of the local system are working closely together with good communications and a good appreciation of each other's roles. They will want to see evidence of accountability, effective internal challenge and shared learning.

A variety of other agencies have statutory roles and functions in local safeguarding arrangements. Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires all partners to cooperate to promote wellbeing. Effective multi-agency working is based on clear protocols and strong local relationships. Organisations including the Police, the NHS partners (health commissioners and providers), Education services and Probation services, as well as the voluntary and community sector all have their own accountabilities and statutory guidance to outline their roles and responsibilities.

Information sharing is an essential part of good local safeguarding arrangements. Research and analysis has indicated that failure to share information has been a significant feature of poor outcomes for children. Scrutiny members will want to assure themselves that local agencies and practitioners are sharing information in an appropriate and timely manner. They will want to see evidence of sharing occurring in all aspects of the safeguarding cycle from early intervention to serious case reviews. It will be important to understand any barriers to information sharing. Statutory guidance⁷ on information sharing is provided both to individual case workers and senior officers concerned with strategic and information governance roles.

The LSCB plays a key role in supporting information sharing between organisations. Under section 14B of the Children Act 2004 the LSCB has the power to require a person or body to comply with a request for information to assist the LSCB in its functions. The LSCB will also be expected to lead and challenge to ensure continual improvement in this area. OSCs will want to be satisfied that all local partners have senior representation on the LSCB to assist this process.

Local safeguarding arrangements are subject to inspection by Ofsted who will provide an overall rating for their effectiveness and robustness. OSCs will find these reports useful in understanding the strengths and gaps in local arrangements, however it needs to be understood that these reports provide a snap shot of services at a moment in time and should be read in conjunction with other research.

Commissioning and Safeguarding

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on commissioners to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children for any services and functions they commission. These duties apply to local authorities and district councils, NHS organisations, police services and probation services amongst others.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 outlines Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) responsibilities for children's safeguarding for local health services and commissioned services

Scrutiny members will need to understand the process and lines of accountability for ensuring all commissioning arrangements fulfill the above duties. Statutory guidance requires commissioned services to:

- Promote a culture of listening to children and their participation in decision making processes.
- Create information sharing protocols for sharing safeguarding concerns and information.
- Designate a 'lead professional' in the commissioned organisation for safeguarding.
- Put in place a safe recruitment practices.
- Ensure supervision and safeguarding training for staff.
- Establish policies for managing safeguarding allegations against staff.

The role of a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is to provide advice and guidance to local provider organisations including those not directly commissioned by the local authority such as local employers, voluntary and community organisations and local faith groups.

The Safeguarding Workforce

The development of a high quality and effective workforce is essential to good safeguarding. OSCs may wish to look in depth at this area by exploring:

- The skills profile of staff in all local agencies and partners.
- The quality and frequency of supervision for social workers and other roles.
- Access to training and development.
- The diversity of the workforce and other employment practices.
- Current rates of vacancies and staff turnover.
- Recruitment strategies.
- Staff surveys, satisfaction and engagement.

Children in Need and Early Help

Key scrutiny question: How well do local agencies identify and support children in need?

- Who are the most vulnerable children in the local area? What are their needs and how are they met?
 - How effective are services in ensuring local children and their families receive early help to reduce the need for child protection interventions?
 - Are local services evidence-based?
 - Do frontline social workers and other practitioners have the skills and resources to offer effective early help?
-

Local authorities have a duty to support all children in need in their area. Under the Children Act 1989 children in need are defined as:

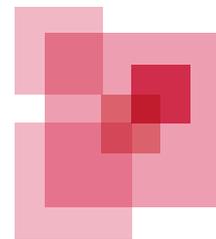
- The child is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health and development without the provision of services by a local authority under Part III of the Children Act 1989.
- The child's health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision of such services; or
- The child is disabled.

Working with children in need is an important part of the safeguarding process. Early help and intervention can ensure children and families get the help they need at the right time. This may reduce the risk of safeguarding concerns escalating in ways that could cause further harm. Early intervention can also reduce the need for more costly and disruptive interventions later in the safeguarding process. In 2011 the Graham Allen Review Early Intervention: The Next Steps analysed and evaluated a range of early intervention approaches and concluded that:

- A balance of services and resources to meet children's needs at an early stage can prevent the escalation of safeguarding issues.
- Early intervention skills are essential for practitioners working with children.
- A shift to greater early intervention can have a positive impact in child protection data and outcomes.
- Early intervention reduces the need for children to enter the child protection and care systems.
- A wide range of organisations can assist in providing early intervention support including community and voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

The 2010 Marmot Review Fair Society, Healthy Lives provides a valuable resource for understanding the impact of health inequalities on children and describes two policy objectives for early intervention:

- Give every child the best start in life.
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their own lives.



Each local authority will publish its own local protocols for children in need assessments in partnership with other local agencies. The steps and stages for referral, assessment, intervention and review will often be described as a series of stages. These documents are a useful tool for scrutiny members to understand their local processes.

The features of successful early intervention strategies to reduce harm to children include:

- Organisations and agencies working together to share approaches.
- Identification of a lead professional for each child and family.
- A clear assessment process.
- A strong understanding of the evidence base for effective early intervention strategies and systematic approach to assessments.
- Ensuring the child has a voice.
- A holistic approach to addressing the needs of the child and their family that consider social, emotional, educational, economic and cultural needs.
- Advocacy support for the child and the family.

Eileen Munro's 2014 follow up to her original 2011 Review of Child Protection highlighted the importance of the speed and quality of children in need assessments for delivering positive outcomes for children. She also emphasised the importance of the skills of the frontline social worker in undertaking these activities.

Successful partnership working with parents and the wider family can support the safeguarding process. Whilst this may not always be possible, the best outcomes for children can be achieved where services and parents are able to work together and agree clear and shared goals. Good quality information needs to be provided to support parents to keep their children safe. Services need to recognise the additional needs of parents and clarify any vulnerabilities they may have. Potential issues may include literacy, English as a second language, physical disabilities, long-term health conditions and learning disabilities. This may also highlight the roles that some children fulfil as young carers. Access to additional services to support vulnerable parents is crucial to avoid misunderstandings and conflict.

OSCs will want to satisfy themselves that local networks are in place to support vulnerable parents to enable them to participate in child protection assessments. Effective assessments need to achieve a complete picture of the child's circumstances. They will take into account parenting capacity, family and environmental factors. In specific cases there may need to be close cooperation with the adult safeguarding team.

Child Protection

Key scrutiny question: How well do local services protect children at risk of significant harm?

- How effective are child protection assessments and plans?
 - How aware are services of the full range of potential risks that children face both at home and in the local community?
 - What are the outcomes for children who experience abuse or neglect?
 - What lessons and learning have been identified by Serious Case Reviews and other forms of monitoring? How have they been implemented?
 - How well do multi-agency partners work together to protect children?
-

It is important that OSCs appreciate the way that the child protection process operates once a concern about a child's welfare has been identified and shared. The Section 47 duty under the Children Act 1989 requires the local authority to complete an enquiry where it 'has reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found in their area is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm'. Significant harm is the term used to describe forms of abuse and neglect.

There are a number of stages by which the process will evolve depending on circumstances and outcomes. Members may find it helpful to use the maps and flowcharts provided by statutory guidance to understand how the process is managed. Key stages of the process include early help and intervention, referrals, statutory assessments, immediate protection, children in need plans and child protection plans, conferences and reviews.

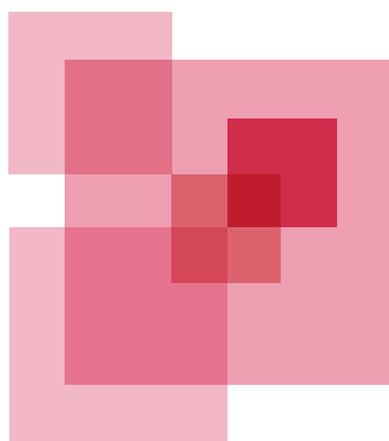
The purpose of the child protection plan is to:

- Ensure the child is safe from harm and prevent him or her from suffering further harm.
- Promote the child's health and development.
- Support the immediate family and wider family members to safeguard and promote the welfare of their child, provided it is in the best interests of the child.

OSCs will want to consider trends and patterns from this work. They will want to see evidence that plans are effective and appropriate support is given to the child during and after the child protection process. Where appropriate, they will want to see that specific lessons have been learnt from individual reviews and that more general learning is shared across agencies.

There will also need to be a Serious Case Review under an independent chair in cases where abuse or neglect is known - or suspected - and:

- (i) a child has died; or (ii) a child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.



The 2011 Munro Review of Child Protection provides a timely focus on developing child-centred systems in child protection. The review focused on ways to help professionals make the best judgements when protecting vulnerable children. It advocates a systemic approach to map the full experiences of children in relation to family, community and services and ensure that the child is central to decision making processes. One of the outcomes from the Munro Review has been the publication of the Chief Social Worker for England's list of core social work competencies and skills. OSC will find this useful in understanding the role and approach of frontline staff.

Putting the Child at the Centre of Safeguarding

Key scrutiny question: How are children placed at the centre of local safeguarding arrangements and frontline practice?

- What do children say about their experiences of the safeguarding system?
 - How well are children supported to express their wishes and feelings?
 - What evidence is there that systems are in place to ensure that children are able to participate in decisions about their lives?
 - How do groups of children have a voice in the review and development of local safeguarding arrangements? What impact does this have?
-

Whilst statutory guidance for safeguarding provides a comprehensive framework for local practice, that same guidance is clear⁸ that the specific needs of the child are paramount. Implementation of the guidance must be understood in terms of their essential interests. OSCs will want to understand how local safeguarding practices adhere to both the letter and spirit of this approach and do not lose sight of the actual child at the centre.

A child-centred approach to safeguarding is strongly established by legislation

- The section 53 amendment of the Children Act 1989 by the Children Act 2004 requires local authorities to give due regard to the wishes of the child when making decisions about services.
- The welfare checklist under the Children Act 1989 courts to consider the wishes and feelings of the child when making decisions.
- The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by the UK Government in 1991) protects the rights of all children. Article 12 asserts the right to participate and have a voice in any decisions about their life.

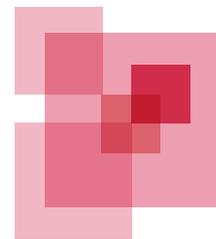
Listening to Children

The voice of the child is an essential part of understanding the local safeguarding process. Children of all ages have valuable contributions to make about their experiences of the processes and systems. Listening ensures that scrutiny reviews are child focused and recognise the rights of local children. It is also a powerful way to appreciate the diversity of children who experience harm and the different perspectives they may have.

Scrutiny committees will need to be sensitive in how they handle the engagement of local children in a review. They will want to be mindful of the need for confidentiality. And they will need to recognise that where criminal proceedings are ongoing that some children will not be able to participate at that point.

It is important to recognise the diversity of children and their different needs and interests. Factors such as age, gender, disability, ethnicity, class and culture will need to be considered. Child development data provides an overview of the needs of children and young people across their different ages. This is particularly important when considering ways of working with younger children.

8. Section 1 of Department for Education 2013 Working Together to Safeguard Children London HMSO



The Equality Act 2010 makes public bodies responsible to have ‘due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity’ including in the area of safeguarding. What this means in practice is that all safeguarding processes must take into account the differing needs of individual families and children when identifying need and assessing risk. Individuals and groups must not be ‘treated less favourably’ in terms of access to services and support.

Often working through partner organisations who already support the needs and voice of local children is an effective way to promote participation. These organisations will have specialist participation workers and experts. They will have knowledge of the needs of certain groups – for example, in terms of sexuality, disability or additional languages. The CfPS toolkits on the Return on Investment scrutiny model offer a template for stakeholder engagement workshops that can enable members to engage with these organisations and begin conversations about the best way to promote the voice of local children.

Research indicates that disabled children have greater vulnerability to all forms of abuse and that they may find it more difficult to disclose their experience to safe adults. Factors such as greater dependency on carers and communication needs contribute to this situation. It is also important to recognise that attitudes and organisational cultures may minimise the risk that disabled children face.

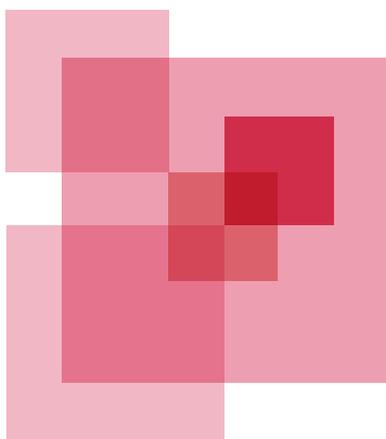
The 2009 Department for Education publication Safeguarding Disabled Children – Practice Guidance describes the steps to ensure safeguarding of this vulnerable group. These include:

- Highlighting awareness of the needs of disabled children.
- Developing systems to protect disabled children.
- Creating partnerships with organisations and agencies that work with disabled children.
- Training and supporting child protection staff on effective ways to work with disabled children.
- Championing the rights and voice of the disabled child in the wider safeguarding system.

At a systemic level, OSCs will want to see clear evidence that local safeguarding arrangements are putting children at the centre of decision-making and service development. This will include:

- Evidence of and clear recording of the wishes and feelings of individual children in all stages of the child protection process including during assessments, planning and reviews.
- Appropriate participation of children in meetings, conferences and other decision making forums.
- Working with the local children in care council and other representative bodies of local children.
- A strategic approach to listening to children across the local authority.

-
- The presentation and use of evidence of the views and wishes of children in the strategic processes of the LSCB, the local authority, commissioning and service planning.
 - Clear references to the experience and voice of children and families in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Health and Wellbeing strategy and Public Health plans.
 - Examples of child friendly literature and information to assist children in understanding their rights and the safeguarding process
 - Clear collaborations between local experts and organisations in children's participation and engagement and safeguarding services including support for working with children from a wide variety of cultural, faith and social backgrounds.
 - Access to advocacy support for children.
 - Examples of direct participation in service development.
 - A holistic approach to the needs of the child and their life which includes consideration of many factors including health, education, interests, strengths, culture, community and friendships.



The Role of Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Committees were established by the Local Government Act 2000 to hold executive members and officers to account in the local authority. They can provide a local community perspective on safeguarding and introduce lay perspectives and critical challenge to help improve services and performance.

Safeguarding crosscuts a wide range of areas and potential scrutiny topics. OSCs will need to identify the relevance of safeguarding to their work and ensure their initial scoping and key lines of enquiry focus on the local issues. Safeguarding should always be on the initial agenda for any review topic and OSCs will want to challenge themselves to ensure they have identified any areas where it is relevant – even if indirectly. Some places where safeguarding will be directly relevant to a review include:

- An explicit focus on the overall effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements including strategic trends, plans and priorities.
- A more detailed focus on one aspect of safeguarding or child protection.
- An exploration of the outcomes and experiences of specific groups of local children – for example, disabled children.
- Safeguarding will be one consideration in the scrutiny of specific children's services – for example, when scrutinising mental health services for children, universal services or access to immunisations.
- Scrutiny of education topics.
- Multi-agency working and partnerships.
- Consideration of commissioning arrangements and the safeguarding practices of providers across a full spectrum of services.
- Any topic where children are stakeholders including health, wellbeing or the local community.

OSCs can use scoping documents and impact statements to help identify and refine a scrutiny topic. They can also work with advisors and safeguarding experts to help discover the key issues and debates.

Committees will need to identify and manage any potential risks in scrutinising the safeguarding process. This will build confidence both for members and for multi-agency partners. This process may include:

- Ensuring members are trained and supported to engage with the children and young people's sector and safeguarding.
- Identifying the resources needed to support the scrutiny process.
- Recognising issues that may have sensitivity for local stakeholders and approaching these in an appropriate and respectful way.
- Early dialogue with the LSCB to avoid duplication or unclear roles.

Working with stakeholders is an important part of the scrutiny process. Mapping the stakeholders and then involving them in the development of the review can be a powerful way to use local knowledge to focus a review and build cooperation and momentum. CfPS provides toolkits and case studies describing ways that OSCs have used stakeholder workshops at the start of a review to formulate a clear focus.

Many committees have found it helpful to establish a protocol of understanding with the LSCB. This can help manage expectations and priorities and assist the LSCB in understanding the role of scrutiny and the types of evidence and information that the OSC will need. Whilst OSCs will routinely receive yearly reports from the LSCB they will want to consider further ways to work together, and how they can effectively challenge the LSCB and seek assurance on services.

The recent 2014 reports by both Professor Jay and the Communities and Local Government Committee highlight

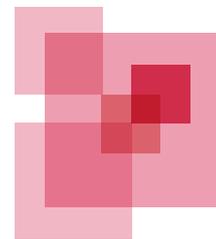
“ the failure of scrutiny and challenge within the system of governance at Rotherham. ”

In particular the report demonstrates the lack of scrutiny in checking the implementation of written child protection plans and strategies. Learning from the scrutiny process in Rotherham will be of benefit to all OSCs. Key lessons included:

- The need to check evidence and data presented to the scrutiny committee.
- The importance of councilors using their local knowledge to sense check reports and approaches.
- A lack of measures to monitor the effectiveness of the scrutiny process.
- The importance of clarity between executive and scrutiny roles for members.
- The need to monitor the implementation of scrutiny recommendations.
- The need for clear and good quality minutes and records of scrutiny sessions.
- The need for effective challenge.
- The importance of using the scrutiny process to hold the executive to account.

OSCs will want to create effective scrutiny recommendations to improve safeguarding processes and accountability. Effective recommendations share common features including:

- Focus – often a smaller number of key recommendations can have most impact.
- Smart – they are specific and measurable.
- Monitored – to track how the recommendations have been taken up by agencies and partners.
- Reviewing learning and impact can provide a powerful follow-up to the work of the committee.



Evidence, Data and Information

OSCs will be able to draw on a wide range of safeguarding evidence and information to support their review. This material can assist the scoping of the review to clarify the remit and purpose. Having a clear plan with identified key lines of enquiry will enable the committee to focus on specific areas of safeguarding data to help structure their questions and enquiry.

One of the challenges will be to prioritise which evidence will be most helpful. Working closely with an advisor and with local stakeholders can ensure that members are properly briefed on the key issues. OSCs will be able to relate local evidence of practice and performance to national legislation, statutory guidance, inquiries and research. They will also need to bring their own lay perspectives and knowledge of local communities, children and families to triangulate their findings.

Evidence and data will also be important to frame recommendations from the review and track implementation. OSCs may want to consider ways to measure the impact of their work and can use a variety of models to formalise their approach.

Committees will benefit from contrasting statistical evidence with the insights and experiences of organisations. As the Munro Report 2011 stated:

“ Performance information should not be treated as a straightforward measure of good or bad practice, but interrogated to see what lies behind it ”

It is helpful to hear from both senior and frontline staff involved in the safeguarding process. Members will find it beneficial to listen to the voice of the child at an early stage of the review and understand their experiences of services and support.

Evidence sources may include data from:

1. The Children’s Safeguarding Performance Information Network (2015) provides national and local information on five key areas of interest to OSCs:

- Outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- Child protection activity including early help.
- The quality and timeliness of decision making.
- The quality of child protection plans.
- The child protection and safeguarding workforce.

2. Each LSCB will produce key documents:

- An Annual Report.
- The assessment process and services for early intervention.
- The thresholds for intervention from children’s social care services.
- The LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework.
- Local reviews, quality assurance and audits of case files.

3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) will identify and articulate the health and social care needs of children in the local area.

4. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy

5. Reports and summaries from Serious Case Reviews

6. Joint Working Protocols between local agencies – with a particular focus on multi-agency issues including:

- Child protection processes.
- Mental health issues.
- Substance misuse.
- Young carers.
- Education services.
- Young offenders.
- Early years services.
- Gangs and violence.
- Female genital mutilation (FGM).

7. Ofsted's Integrated Inspection Model for Children's Services and the Inspection Framework

8. Department for Education (2014) Characteristics of Children in Need in England 2013–2014 Dataset

9. Department of Education (2014) National and Local Authority Tables

Outlining key performance data and comparisons for measures including:

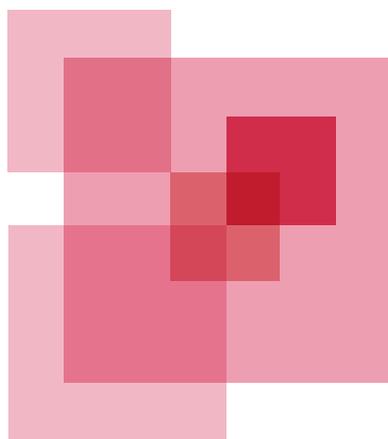
- Numbers of children in need including breakdowns by age, gender and ethnicity.
- Numbers of children in need by disability.
- Child protection plan data.
- Referral and completion data.
- Child protection conference data.

10. National panel of independent experts who advise LSCBs to review Serious Case Reviews

11. Child Development data

12. Early years profiles

13. Evidence from victim support groups and local organisations providing assistance and counseling



14. Joint Working Protocols between local agencies – with a particular focus on:

- Mental health issues.
- Substance misuse.
- Young carers.
- Looked after Children.
- Transitions for disabled young people to adult services.

15. Evidence from the local children in care council

In considering the evidence, OSCs will want to ask some key questions:

- What are the key messages from the evidence?
- How do local trends compare to national patterns and reports?
- What does data indicate about the timeliness of children's access to assessments and services? How does this compare to national requirements?
- How well do different sources of evidence and data tell the same story? Do they triangulate or are there areas of disagreement and divergence?
- How confident are agencies themselves in the reliability of the local evidence? (For example, have there been any initiatives to audit and test the evidence)
- Does the evidence accurately describe the experiences and outcomes of all groups of children? (Are any groups excluded or under-represented in the evidence including social and environmental factors)
- How far does the evidence reflect local experience in the community?
- How strongly does the voice of the child emerge from the evidence?

Conclusions

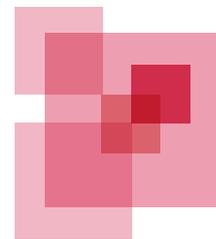
Good scrutiny is an essential part of balancing the local system to ensure positive outcomes for children and to safeguard their welfare. It can offer a critical check and challenge to the performance and quality of all aspects of safeguarding. It provides another mechanism to hold executives to account. Because scrutiny is separated from the strategic and day-to-day operational management of services, it is well placed to consider the needs of local children in a holistic and joined up way.

Given the continued history of failures to protect groups of children, the scrutiny contribution is timely and significant. As this publication demonstrates, safeguarding permeates many aspects of local services and duties. OSCs will need to be vigilant of the impact on children's safeguarding of decision-making across diverse policy areas.

To make the most of this potential for scrutiny, OSCs will need to build their knowledge and confidence to tackle the safeguarding agenda. This guide is designed to be one step in that process that should include a commitment to continual learning and partnership. Much useful information and advice can be obtained locally. Members of OSC will also find it helpful to share practice and approaches through wider scrutiny and local government networks.

Taking an appreciative and collaborative approach to working with local partners can build respect and value to the scrutiny process. Being clear about the role and function of scrutiny can reassure stakeholders that the purpose of OSCs is to make a positive impact on children's lives. It can demonstrate that reviews have been planned in a careful and sensitive way – based on a solid understanding of the local safeguarding arrangements and statutory processes.

A good scrutiny review will demand evidence that systems are in place to listen and understand the experience and needs of local children. It can provide new perspectives on how individual and diverse groups of children have access to services that support and protect them. By asking key questions about how child-centred local services are, scrutiny can be an important partner in protecting children and ensuring they thrive.



Key Scrutiny Questions for Safeguarding

1. What level of challenge is there in local safeguarding arrangements?
2. How are those in leadership roles for local safeguarding arrangements held to account by the wider system?
3. How do local commissioning arrangements, strategies and frontline services for children and families take into account the latest safeguarding guidance?
4. How aware are different organisations and practitioners about their roles in the local safeguarding process?
5. How are local commissioners considering safeguarding issues in their work across a full range of local services?
6. How effective are 'early help' strategies in identifying children in need and addressing factors that may lead to concerns about safeguarding?
7. What has been learnt from early intervention approaches in the local area? What is effective and what are the resource implications?
8. Does the local area have a range of effective and evidence based services in place to assess and meet the needs of local children and their families?
9. Are local assessments of need effective in ensuring children and their families are able access early support and services to reduce risk and meet needs? How effective is access to these services in preventing potential safeguarding interventions?
10. How effective has the LSCB been in monitoring and challenging the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements? What evidence is there that this challenge has led to changes in these arrangements and local working practices and relationships?
11. How effective is the LSCB Local Learning and Improvement Framework in sharing lessons from experience and driving service quality and development?
12. How does the LSCB systematically ensure that the voice and feedback of children is embedded in local safeguarding arrangements at the individual and strategic levels? Does the approach enable children from diverse backgrounds and with different needs to share their voice?
13. What evidence is there that the child is at the centre of local safeguarding arrangements?
14. Who are the most vulnerable children in the local area? What are their needs and how well are they met?
15. To what extent are local organisations, agencies and practitioners working together in an effective way?
16. How effective are local safeguarding services in working with these groups?
17. Is there evidence of strong leadership of local safeguarding arrangements from:
 - Local authority members?
 - The Director of Children's Services?
 - The Lead Member for Children's Services?
 - The Clinical Commissioning Group?
 - The Police?

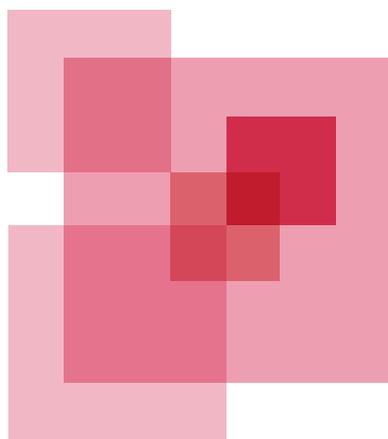
18. How robust and systematic is the Local Authority's approach to assessments of need? Do assessments routinely meet the quality standards set out by the latest statutory guidance including:

- Taking a systematic and evidence based approach?
- Using a child centred approach?
- Focusing on action and outcomes for the child?
- Taking an integrated approach across a variety of services and areas of need?
- Ensuring that assessments are a continuing process rather than a one-off event?
- Focusing on the child's developmental needs and whether they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm?
- Considering parents and carers capacities?
- Looking at the impact of wider family, community and environmental circumstances?

19. How effective are local protocols for sharing appropriate information between practitioners and organisations?

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

21. How well do local services adhere to timelines for assessment and intervention? What is the local performance data?



References and Further Reading

Legislation and Guidance

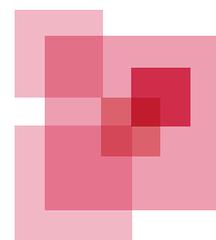
- Children and Family Act 2014
- Care Act 2014
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Equality Act 2010
- Children Act 2004
- Adoption and Children Act 2002
- Local Government Act 2000
- Children Act 1989
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (ratified 1991)
- Department for Education 2014 Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges
- Department for Education 2013 Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Department for Education 2013 Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services
- Department for Education 2009 Safeguarding Disabled Children – Practice Guidance

Reviews and Reports

- Louise Casey 2015 Report of Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Department for Education 2015 Revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children: Government Consultation
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- Department for Education 2014 Characteristics of Children in Need in England: 2013 to 2014
- Communities and Local Government Committee 2014 - Third Report Child sexual exploitation in Rotherham: some issues for local government
- Professor Jay 2014 Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham
- Department for Education 2014 Brandon, M. et al Missed Opportunities: Indicators of neglect – what is ignored, why and what can be done?
- Local Government Association 2014 Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: A Resource Pack for Councils
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 - Ofsted 2014 Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspections of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers: Reviews of Local Safeguarding Children Boards
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 - Department for Education 2013 National Panel of Independent Experts on Serious Case Reviews: Information for LSCBs and Chairs
 - Centre for Public Scrutiny 2013 Valuing Inclusion: Demonstrating the Value of Council Scrutiny in Tackling Health Inequalities
 - 2012 The Munro Review of Child Protection: Moving Towards a Child-Centred System: Progress Report
 - General Medical Council 2012 Protecting children and young people: the responsibilities of all doctors, GMC
 - National Children's Bureau 2012 The Voice of the Child in the Child Protection System Research Summary 7
 - Centre for Public Scrutiny 2012 Tipping the Scales: A Model to Measure the Return on Investment of Overview and Scrutiny
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 - 2011 Early Intervention: The Next Steps – The Graham Allen Review
 - Ministry of Justice 2011 Achieving the Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Guidance on Interviewing Victims and Witnesses and Guidance on Using Special Measures
 - Ofsted 2011 Ages of Concern: Learning Lessons from Serious Case Reviews
 - Marmot Review 2010 Fair Society, Healthy Lives
 - Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health 2010 Safeguarding Children and Young People: roles and competences for health care staff, RCPCH
 - 2009 Lord Laming Update to his Report on Victoria Climbié - The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report
 - Department for Children, Schools and Families 2008 Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers
 - Lord Laming 2003 Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report

Glossary



The General Duty

Section 17(1) of the Children Act 1989

The general duty of the local authority to:

- (a) Safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need; and
- (b) So far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families.

Children in Need

Section 17(10) of the Children Act 1989

A child shall be taken to be in need if:

- (a) The child is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health and development without the provision of services by a local authority under Part III of the Children Act 1989.
- (b) The child's health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision of such services; or
- (c) The child is disabled.

Section 47 child protection enquiry under the Children Act 1989

Statutory duty for the local authority to complete an enquiry where it 'has reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found in their area is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm'.

Child Protection Plan

The plan to protect a child who is at risk of suffering significant harm. Plans are reviewed by multi-agency child protection conferences.

Safeguarding

Working Together 2013 defines safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

Child Protection

Working Together 2013 defines child protection as activities undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

Abuse

Abuse can cover a range of harm including:

- Physical abuse.
- Sexual abuse.
- Emotional abuse.

Neglect

Brandon et al (2014) highlights how system can fail to detect neglect and the impact this can have on children's outcomes.

Early help and intervention

Preventive services and support to reduce the risks faced by children and avoid the need for child protection interventions. Early intervention takes a holistic view of the child and their family.

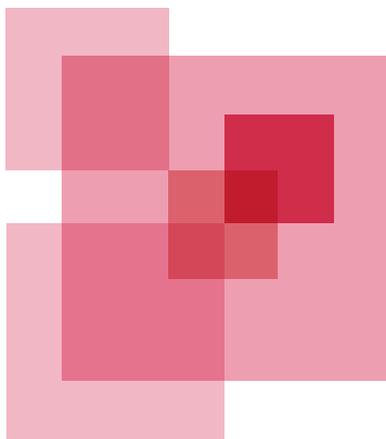
Local Safeguarding Children Board LSCB

A LSCB is established for each local authority area. Its role is to:

- Coordinate safeguarding in the local area.
- Ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding activities of all local partners.

Significant harm

Forms of ill-treatment, impairment of health or development including abuse or neglect.



Checklist for Planning a Scrutiny Review of Children's Safeguarding

This tool is designed to compliment the scoping phase of a safeguarding review. It offers some initial questions to consider in planning a review.

- What are your main concerns about children's safeguarding and their welfare in the community?**
 - Who are the children in need in your local area?**
 - What does the JSNA identify as priority issues for children and young people?**
 - What local safeguarding data and evidence is currently available to help you identify a focus for the review?**
 - How do safeguarding and child protection issues affect different groups of children and young people in your community? Who are the children most at risk in terms of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, location and other factors?**
 - What specialist expertise may you need to understand the particular areas of safeguarding, abuse and harm covered by a review?**
 - What specialist support may you need to appreciate the developmental needs of children and young people at different ages?**
 - Who are the multi-agency partners involved in the local safeguarding process? What are their different roles and responsibilities?**
 - Who could you work with to ensure that the voices of local children and young people are considered by your review?**
 - What are the risks of a review of safeguarding and how will you manage them?**
 - What support and training might members need to conduct a review of safeguarding?**
-

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 October 2015
Subject:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015/16

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 Ray Wootten

Monday 19 October 2015		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Families Working Together Service	Jo Kavanagh Head of Service Lincoln and West Lindsey Locality and Families Working Together	Project Update Report
Progress Report on the Lincolnshire Youth Offer	Jo Kavanagh	Update Report
Member Feedback from Visits to Children's Social Work Teams	Tracy Johnson Scrutiny Officer	Member Report
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Annual Report	Geraldine O'Neill Lead Consultant (EYE) Birth to Five Service	Status Report
Centre for Public Scrutiny's Guide to Scrutinising Children's Safeguarding Arrangements	Tracy Johnson	Status Report

27 November 2015		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Scrutiny Review – Second Monitoring Update	Janice Spencer Assistant Director – Children's (Safeguarding)	Scrutiny Review Activity
Special School Transport Procurement	Anita Ruffle Group Manager – Passenger Transport Unit	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision on 1 December 2015)
Changes to Ofsted Inspection of Schools	Keith Batty Director of CfBT Education Services	Status Report
Theme Performance: Quarter 2	Sally Savage Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's	Performance Scrutiny
Implementation of SEND Reforms – Lessons Learned and Progress Report	Sheridan Dodsworth Children's Service Manager – SEND John O'Connor	Status Report

Financial Challenges Workshop 2pm – 4pm

15 January 2016		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Children's Services Budget 2015/16 and 2016/17	Debbie Barnes Executive Director of Children's Services	Budget Scrutiny
Proposal to close the Mablethorpe site of Monks' Dyke Tennyson College	Heather Sandy Chief Commissioning Officer - Learning	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision on 29 January 2016)
Exclusion Strategy	John O'Connor Children's Service Manager – Education Support	Status Report
Additional Item		
Additional Item		
Additional Item		

4 March 2016		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy in relation to Discretionary Grammar School Transport – Final Report	Tracy Johnson	Scrutiny Review Activity
Proposal to consider the potential closure of Saltfleetby CE Primary School (final decision)	John O'Connor	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision on 18 March 2016)
School Performance 2015	Keith Batty	Performance Scrutiny
Theme Performance: Quarter 3	Sally Savage	Performance Scrutiny
Additional Item		
Additional Item		

Items to be Scheduled

20's Plenty for Us	Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership	Status 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, Senior Scrutiny Officer, on 01522 552164 or by e-mail at tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk

FORWARD PLAN OF DECISIONS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2015

Page 122

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
I009921 New!	Proposal to expand capacity at Lincoln Fortuna School (decision to go to Statutory Notice)	26 October 2015	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Interested parties as DfE guidance including parents, school staff, neighbouring schools, County and District Councils, MPs, Trade Unions and Diocese	Report	Admissions and Education Provision Manager Tel: 01522 553535 Email: matthew.clayton@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	No	Lincoln Birchwood; Lincoln Boultham; Lincoln Bracebridge; Lincoln East; Lincoln Lebe; Lincoln Martsholme; Lincoln Moorland; Lincoln North; Lincoln Park; Lincoln West
I010050 New!	Re-procurement of SEND Home to School Transport	1 December 2015	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Schools, Parents/Carers of Children with SEND, LPCF, Transport Providers, Pupils with SEND	Exempt Report	Group Manager - PTU Tel: 01522 553147 Email: anita.ruffle@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	All Divisions
I010051 New!	Proposal to consider the potential closure of Saltfleetby CE Primary School (decision to go to Statutory Notice)	8 December 2015	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Interested parties as DfE guidance including parents, school staff, neighbouring schools, County, Parish and District Councils, MPs, Trade Unions and Diocese	Report	Admissions and Education Provision Manager Tel: 01522 553535 Email: matthew.clayton@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	No	Louth Marsh; Louth North; Louth Rural North; Louth South; Louth
I009947 New!	Proposal to close the Mablethorpe site at Monks' Dyke Tennyson College - Final Decision	29 January 2016	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Interested parties consulted by the Governing Body as DfE guidance including parents, school staff, neighbouring schools, County and District Councils, MPs, Trade Unions and Diocese	Report	School Organisation Planning Manager Tel: 01522 553535 Email: matthew.clayton@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	Louth Marsh; Louth North; Louth Rural North; Louth South; Louth Wolds; Mablethorpe