

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



please ask for Jonathon Partridge
direct line 0300 300 4634
date 20 March 2014

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 1 April 2014 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

Children's Services, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Cllrs Mrs A Barker (Chairman), N B Costin (Vice-Chairman), R D Berry, D Bowater, Mrs G Clarke, Mrs R J Drinkwater, Mrs D B Gurney, P Hollick, D Jones and R B Pepworth

[Named Substitutes:

Mrs S A Goodchild, K Janes, B Saunders, A Shadbolt and N J Sheppard]

Co-optees: Mr Chapman (Parent Governor), Mr Court (Parent Governor), Mrs Crook (Parent Governor), Ms Image (Roman Catholic Diocese), and Mr Reynolds (Church of England Diocese)

All other Members of the Council - on request

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
MEETING**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members.

2. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 February 2014 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations of interest and of any political whip in relation to any agenda item.

4. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and any matters of communication.

5. **Petitions**

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

6. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements or deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of part A4 of the Constitution.

7. **Call-In**

To consider any decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.10 of Part D2.

8. **Requested Items**

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

Reports

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
9	<p>Executive Member Update</p> <p>To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.</p>	*
10	<p>Exclusion of public and press</p> <p>To consider whether to pass a resolution under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting for Item 11 on the grounds that the consideration of the item is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.</p>	*
11	<p>Supply of agency workers and interim managers</p> <p>To receive a presentation regarding the supply of agency workers and interim managers.</p>	*
12	<p>Q3 budget monitoring</p> <p>To receive a presentation setting out the quarter 3 budget monitoring information for the Children's Services directorate.</p> <p>Papers relating to this item were circulated to Members in the Executive agenda for 18 March 2014 (Items 19 and 20 refer). The report is available to view and print at the following website:- http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=577&MId=4399&Ver=4</p>	* 23 - 30
13	<p>The development of early intervention, early help delivered through children's centres</p> <p>To consider possible options for consultation for the future delivery of early help through Children's Centres</p>	* 31 - 52
14	<p>Q3 performance monitoring</p> <p>To receive the quarter 3 performance monitoring report for the Children's Services Directorate.</p>	* 53 - 62
15	<p>Work Programme 2013 - 2014 & Executive Forward Plan</p> <p>The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.</p>	* 63 - 66

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 25 February 2014

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs A Barker (Chairman)
Cllr N B Costin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:	R D Berry D Bowater Mrs G Clarke Mrs R J Drinkwater	Councillors:	Mrs D B Gurney D Jones R B Pepworth
Parental Co-optees:	Mr J M A Chapman Mr S Court		
Church of England Co-optee:	Mr J Reynolds		
Roman Catholic Co-optee:			
Apologies for Absence:	Cllrs	P Hollick Mrs F Image	
Substitutes:	Cllrs	B Saunders (In place of P Hollick)	
Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	A L Dodwell C C Gomm Mrs S A Goodchild B J Spurr M A G Versallion	Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Executive Member for Children's Services
Officers in Attendance:	Ms L Baker Ms C Churchley Marianna Cunto Mrs J Keyte Ms G Redbond		Freedom Programme Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator Relay Officer Head of Community Safety Freedom Programme
Others in Attendance:	Ms A Birch Ms C Banks Ms L Johnson Ms L Johnson		Healthy Relationships Programme Home Group Freedom Programme Headteacher at Hawthorn Park Community Lower School

Ms L Gillespie

Sorted

CS/13/102 **Minutes**

The Committee received the Minutes of the previous meeting and in addition to noting that Mr J Reynolds had been in attendance it was agreed that Minute CS/13/98 should be amended to read “the Council would continue to lobby central government on the formula upon which it allocated funding...”

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 January 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendments above.

CS/13/103 **Members' Interests**

None

CS/13/104 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and thanked officers and the Headteacher of Hawthorn Park Community Lower School for arranging a visit for Members to discuss issues relating to the impact on children of living in circumstances of domestic abuse/domestic violence. A summary of the visit and some key issues that Members might consider raising during the meeting had been circulated. The Chairman also outlined that the purpose of the meeting was to develop an understanding of the impact of domestic abuse/domestic violence on children and to arrive at recommendations to present to the Executive to enhance the Council’s offer in this area.

The Chairman also commented on her the recent appointment as a Member of the Social Care, Health and Housing OSC and the contribution of former Councillor Anita Lewis, who had recently passed away.

CS/13/105 **Petitions**

None.

CS/13/106 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

None.

CS/13/107 **Call-In**

None.

CS/13/108 **Requested Items**

None.

CS/13/109 **The impact on children of living in family circumstances of domestic violence and abuse**

In setting the context for this item the Committee watched a DVD demonstrating the experiences of victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. A presentation was also provided by the Client Service Manager for Central Bedfordshire's Refuges with regards to the "Children's Worker Pilot". This presentation demonstrated the benefits of the Pilot that commenced in April 2013 and the impact of these posts on meeting the needs of women and children. The presentation highlighted the numbers of children that had been supported and detailed some of the other supported outcomes that had been achieved as a result of the pilot.

The Committee also received a presentation of the Deputy Executive Member that provided an overview of the prevalence of domestic abuse, the impact of abuse on children and the current support that was available in Central Bedfordshire. The presentation also set out some of the challenges and pressures in relation providing support for children and responding to incidents of domestic abuse.

The Committee discussed the issues in detail with a range of professionals and a service user in attendance at the meeting. A full report of the meeting is **appended** in which the following issues were discussed:-

- The benefits of early intervention and the extent to which additional funding could be made available to provide additional resources that would enhance the services that were available. There was a need to recognise that funding in early intervention could reduce spend in the long-term although it was accepted that spending more on intervention and prevention could result in reduced funding being available to fund more reactive programmes of support.
- The need for effective co-ordination of training and support for children across Central Bedfordshire in order to maximise outcomes.
- The need to address the continuum of abuse that can occur where children learn behaviours they have learnt in relation to domestic abuse, which they then consider to be acceptable.
- The importance of schemes such as the Healthy Relationships Programmes and encouraging schools to take part in these.
- The difficulty of distinguishing between learning difficulties and the impact of domestic abuse.
- Whether money could be saved by training a number of dedicated professionals to go to schools to deliver support, rather than schools arranging their own support.
- The importance of understanding the prevalence of women as perpetrators of domestic abuse and the levels of support provided to male victims.
- The need to ensure that rural areas of Central Bedfordshire had the same level of access to programmes as those in urban areas.
- The value of Central Bedfordshire refuges and the service that they provided for women.
- The negative impact of the national media and television programming in the manner in which it displays domestic abuse.
- The importance of a multi-agency approach in order to effectively address the prevalence of domestic abuse.
- The critical importance of HomeStart as a way of engaging with families.

- The need to enhance signposting in schools to those services that are available in Central Bedfordshire.
- The need to ensure Members contacted the Intake and Assessment Team (during the day) or the Emergency Duty Team(out of hours) if they were made aware of an incident of domestic abuse of a child and the Police who should also be contacted.
- The difficulty of addressing incidents where children are domestically abusing their parents.
- The need to address the 75% of incidents that were perpetrated by repeat offenders.

(The Committee adjourned at 1135 and reconvened at 1155)

Following a short break the Committee reconvened and heard of the experience of a service user who had personal experience of domestic abuse and use of Women's Aid.

The service users experience and the discussion of the Committee informed several recommendations that were proposed and discussed with the following issues being raised:-

- The benefit of training being delivered by those who have experienced domestic abuse and providing more targeted and continued training for professionals.
- The critical importance of raising awareness in relation to domestic abuse, which the Committee felt needed to be prioritised above the other recommendations agreed. Of particular importance was need to ensure that Councillors were aware of the services that were available in light of their roles as corporate parents.
- The need for the Council's directorates to work collaboratively in relation to domestic abuse and to focus effort on both children and adults in order to achieve successful outcomes. This included the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees also working collaboratively to ensure that appropriate Members and officers were engaged in conversations.
- The importance of a 6-month review of progress in relation to any recommendations of the Committee to ascertain what happens as a result.
- The need to understand what constitutes a 'healthy relationship' to inform the training that is provided.
- As a result of a recent HMIC Inspection the Police were already undertaking work in this area to develop their approach and develop more effective means of supporting victims. It was requested that a copy of the HMIC report be provided to Members once it had been published.

RECOMMENDED as a priority that organisations develop more effective means of signposting to the support that is available for the victims of domestic abuse. The issue of domestic abuse should also be highlighted:-

- (i) through 'Central Essentials' (the school newsletter), the Governors and Headteachers Forums in order to encourage attendance at Local Safeguarding Children Board training; and**

(ii) at the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, especially in relation to mental health and substance misuse services.

RECOMMENDED that following detailed work on the above priorities the following also be considered:-

1. That the co-ordination of preventative and early intervention work to support children at risk be further enhanced.
2. That the Executive continue working with the Community Safety Partnership to identify sources of funding to preserve and enhance the current services that are available to support the victims of domestic abuse.
3. That the benefit of support and training for professionals to help identify victims, preferably delivered by those who understand the issues, be recognised and that targeted training be provided for frontline professionals, particularly those in universal services e.g. health visitors, Children’s Centres and GPs, with the aim of earlier identification of incidents of domestic abuse.
4. That the accessibility of services for victims in same sex relationships and disadvantaged groups, such as unemployed persons, Gypsies and Travellers and other BME groups be further enhanced.
5. That schools be encouraged to recognise the value of the “healthy relationships” programme and as well as developing similar programmes for younger age groups schools ensure that vulnerable teenagers are engaged in such programmes.
6. That all schools be encouraged to develop a system of staff mentors, particularly in areas of high incidence of domestic abuse, to provide support and a focal point for training.
7. That all schools be encouraged to designate a member of staff responsible for raising awareness and attending training in relation to domestic abuse and domestic violence.
8. That the level of future need for support services be identified and commissioned appropriately.
9. That an understanding be developed of the extent to which victims enter into a cycle of abusive relationships so organisations can determine the extent of support that is required.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 1.00 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

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Impact on children of living in family circumstances of domestic violence and abuse

Outcomes of the Children's Services OSC meeting on 25 February 2014

Background

The Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) is the Council’s committee with responsibility for scrutinising issues relating to children in Central Bedfordshire. The OSC agreed to arrange a detailed discussion regarding the impact of living in circumstances of domestic abuse/domestic on children.

The purpose of the meeting was:-

1. To increase the understanding of Members in relation to the prevalence of incidents
2. To consider how best to support a multi-agency partnership approach to deal with the issue.
3. To agree some outcome focused recommendations on how to enhance the offer to children in this situation.

Visit to Hawthorn Park Community Lower School

To support this meeting Members visited Hawthorn Park Community Lower School to meet the Headteacher and officers responsible for delivering the Freedom Programme (a programme of support for female victims of domestic abuse/domestic violence) in order to discuss the prevalence of issues in Central Bedfordshire and the manner in which support was currently being provided.

Members were advised that 33% of the population (nationally) were at some point the subject of DA/DV. It was accepted that the Freedom Programme offered valuable support to victims and that there were clear the objectives and outcomes of the programme but Members were not fully aware of the extent of the problem of DA/DV in Central Bedfordshire.

Members were also advised of the benefits of enabling groups of victims to talk to another about issues in order to empower victims to seek further support. It was important that authorities encouraged a move away from stereotypes about DA/DV or that excuses were acceptable. There was also a perception that there were significant numbers of women who did not receive support because they refused to accept they were the subject of DA/DV. This was a significant issue as to how those women who did not want to or were unable to attend the programme could be empowered to reach the conclusion that they needed to seek support.

Members were made aware of the concerns of the head teacher regarding the waiting lists for some support services that were commissioned by the Council (for example by Sorted and Action for Children). Although one school was in receipt of these services due to the waiting times it had been necessary to commission additional services so that support could be provided in a timely way. Although schools were allocated funding to commission services themselves, in this particular school the level of funding was not always enough to commission those additional services in a timely way.

Members were also made aware of the concerns of one head teacher that the level of counselling support to the education profession was felt to be insufficient, particularly when dealing with DA/DV. Staff were sometimes unsure of the action they had taken in relation to individuals and whilst schools could pay out of their own budget for additional training or support this could be to the

Background

detriment of other services. Sufficient training and advice was crucial to give staff the confidence to provide support to children and to encourage teachers to feel empowered to take appropriate action. It was also felt that whilst Child Protection Officers provided time 'on-site' in schools this was not always sufficient, particularly in high-risk schools.

Members discussed the value of community hubs as a means of delivering schemes such as the Freedom Programme. Community hubs provided a safe environment in which women could interact socially and seek support without feeling judged. There were however concerns that the refuges that currently operated in Central Bedfordshire were not fit for purpose and as a result it might discourage some victims from seeking support.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting

Following the visit the Committee invited a range of representatives to attend the Committee meeting on 25 February 2014 as follows:-

- CBC Community Safety Team
- CBC Relay Officers
- Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator
- Freedom Programme
- Healthy Relationships Programme
- Home Group – Refuge and IDVA service provider
- Hawthorn Park Community Lower School
- Sorted

In setting the context for this item the Committee watched a DVD demonstrating the experiences of victims of domestic abuse and

domestic violence. A presentation was also provided by the Client Service Manager for Central Bedfordshire's Refuges with regards to the "Children's Worker Pilot". The presentation demonstrated the benefits of the Pilot that commenced in April 2013 and the impact of these posts on meeting the needs of women and children. The presentation highlighted the numbers of children that had been supported and detailed some of the other supported outcomes that had been achieved as a result of the pilot.

The Committee also received a presentation of the Deputy Executive Member that provided an overview of the prevalence of domestic abuse, the impact of abuse on children and the current support that was available in Central Bedfordshire. The presentation also set out some of the challenges and pressures in relation to providing support for children and responding to incidents of domestic abuse.

A service user also informed the Committee of their personal experience of domestic abuse and use of Women's Aid. The service users experience of domestic abuse highlighted some personal concerns regards the services that had been delivered, which would be discussed with relevant officers. Although there had been a negative experience of several services the benefit of the CHUMS service and the impact this had on the person's children had been positive, although it had taken a considerable period of time for the service to be provided. The importance of ongoing support and the benefit of sharing experiences with other service users were highlighted.

Background

The remainder of this report is structured in relation to the key issues that were discussed at the meeting in order to supplement the Minutes of the meeting, available at the following link:-

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/documents/g4457/Printed%20minutes%20Tuesday%2025-Feb-2014%2010.00%20CHILDRENS%20SERVICES%20OVERVIEW%20SCRUTINY%20COMMITTEE.pdf?T=1>

Early intervention

The Committee discussed the benefits of early intervention and the extent to which additional funding could be made available to provide additional resources that would enhance the services that were available. There was a need to recognise that funding in early intervention could reduce spend in the long-term although it was accepted that spending more on intervention and prevention could result in reduced funding being available to fund more reactive programmes of support.

There was also a genuine need for effective co-ordination of training and support for children across Central Bedfordshire in order to maximise outcomes of the support that was provided.

At the OSC meeting the professionals in attendance highlighted the difficulty of providing support to victims as there was a need for people to accept that they were a victim of domestic abuse before support could be provided. In Houghton Regis a group of schools provided £8k each into a joint pot to fund two parent support advisers to work in those schools or with children who lived in Houghton Regis but attended school out of the area. Schools already worked with identified vulnerable families so that support could be directed in the most appropriate way. These advisers provided real benefits but their work-load was such that they were over-run. Early intervention provided real benefit but it was sticking a plaster over the cracks, organisations needed to get at the route cause of domestic abuse at a much earlier stage to prevent a cycle of abuse in the future. Although work was underway locally there was a need for a co-ordinator to work specifically with children to maximise outcomes and to encourage training and support for children at a much younger age to help them identify inappropriate

behaviours. A key role for this co-ordinator would be to address the cycle of abuse that can develop where children 'learn' behaviours.

It was noted that much of the work that was currently underway focused on MARAC and IDVA, which focused on high-risk victims only. If Members felt that work with medium/low-risk victims or early intervention should be prioritised this may be to the detriment of the funding that was presently available for programmes. It was however noted that the Freedom Programme itself delivered support for early intervention so funding would need to come from elsewhere.

Healthy relationships & identifying the impact of domestic abuse

The Committee discussed the importance of schemes such as the Healthy Relationships Programmes (which raises awareness and understanding for young people about what makes a healthy, non abusive relationship) and stressed the importance of encouraging schools to take part in these. There was however a need to understand what constituted a 'healthy relationship' to inform the training that is provided.

Attendees at the OSC felt that schools were the ideal place to run the Healthy Relationships Programme and this should be integrated more effectively into the school curriculum. There was a reluctance in some schools to become involved with this Programme but it was vital that they were carried out early in children's development and that the Police were involved in these conversations as well. There were a range of schemes currently in operation and getting schools to buy in to these was crucial. There was potential for relationship training to be delivered via Project Relay in the future.

Where possible the Committee felt there were real benefits to training being delivered by those who understand domestic abuse that more targeted and continued training should be provided for professionals.

The Committee specifically discussed the difficulty of distinguishing between learning difficulties and the impact of domestic abuse. Professionals referred to the Smile project, which had provided real benefits in terms of training professionals. It was felt that a similar approach could help them identify the impact of domestic abuse on children and this should be considered along side the recommendations regarding support and training.

Providing support

The Committee discussed the importance of understanding the prevalence of women as perpetrators of domestic abuse and the levels of support provided to male victims. In light of the number of incidents and the manner in which support was currently provided the Committee discussed whether money could be saved by training a number of dedicated professionals to go to schools to deliver support, rather than schools arranging their own support.

Presently the Project Relay Support Officers notified schools's safeguarding leads of referrals for specific children so that appropriate support could be provided. An additional Project relay Support Officer was being appointed to extend the level of support that was available. Programmes that were delivered in schools (such as theatre and drama) by specialist advisers had provided real benefits but there was not enough funding to deliver these schemes widely enough in all schools or to younger children.

The Committee also discussed the 22 units provided by refuges in Central Bedfordshire, which were felt to be a really valuable asset and the self-contained nature of these was quite unique. There were however issues relating to the number of referrals to the refuges and there was always a need for more capacity. Whilst the Committee queried why there were no refuges in the area for men it was noted that provision across the UK was very limited. Statistically there were not the high number of male victims within Central Bedfordshire to justify the delivery of an additional refuge although there were specific support programmes provided within Central Bedfordshire for male victims. Providing support for victims could be complicated as some victims (particularly men) could also be

perpetrators of domestic abuse so an assessment process in these cases was particularly important.

There was a particular difficulty in providing support to address incidents where children were domestically abusing their parents. The Committee were advised of the work that was undertaken to educate and break the barriers between parents and their children in these circumstances. The Council delivered a Family Adolescent Support Team but work in this area had only just started to emerge. Engagement in these cases was important in order to prevent a cycle of abuse in the future.

There was also a real need to provide support in order to address the 75% of incidents that were perpetrated by repeat offenders. The Committee were informed that multi-agency working in this area was effective but changes in the way that Probation Services are delivered will have an impact later in the year. There was a significant amount of work still to do in relation to perpetrators and to join up work between agencies in this area but this was underway to ensure that resources were used effectively.

In order to provide support effectively the Council's directorates needed to work collaboratively in relation to domestic abuse and to focus effort on both children and adults in order to achieve successful outcomes. This included the Council's OSCs to ensure that appropriate Members and officers were engaged in conversations.

The HMIC had recently undertaken an Inspection of Bedfordshire Police in relation to their approach to domestic abuse/domestic

Providing support

violence and as a result they were already undertaking work in this area to develop their approach and develop more effective means of supporting victims.

Finally the Committee discussed the following issues in relation to providing support that they felt needed to be taken into consideration:-

- The need to ensure that rural areas of Central Bedfordshire had the same level of access to programmes as those in urban areas.
- The value of Central Bedfordshire refuges and the service that they provided for women.
- The negative impact of the national media and television programming in the manner in which it displays domestic abuse.
- The importance of a multi-agency approach in order to effectively address the prevalence of domestic abuse.
- The critical importance of HomeStart as a way of engaging with families.

Where possible the Committee felt there were real benefits to training and support being delivered by those who understood domestic abuse and that more targeted and continued training should be provided for professionals.

Signposting & communication

The OSC discussed the need to enhance signposting in schools to those services that were available in Central Bedfordshire. There was a real need to ensure that Members contacted the Intake and Assessment Team (during the day) or the Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) if they were made aware of an incident of domestic abuse of a child and the Police who should also be contacted.

Members discussed the value of raising awareness of the issue of domestic abuse and ensuring that schools were aware of the support that was on offer within the area. Raising awareness was an important mechanism for trying to identify the level of 'unknown' victims within the area who required support. It was widely accepted that schools and others could do more in this area but as there were always competing pressures there was a need to balance the level of resource that was provided in this area. A designated lead with the school for coordinating this work however could be beneficial as a means of giving people a voice.

The Committee felt it was critically important to raise awareness in relation to domestic abuse, which the Committee felt needed to be prioritised above the other recommendations agreed. Of particular importance was need to ensure that Councillors were aware of the services that were available in light of their roles as corporate parents.

Recommendations

In light of their discussions the Committee discussed and agreed several recommendations that they agreed should be submitted to the Executive and reviewed in 6-months to ascertain progress. These recommendations were as follows

RECOMMENDED as a priority that organisations develop more effective means of signposting to the support that is available for the victims of domestic abuse. The issue of domestic abuse should also be highlighted:-

- (i) through 'Central Essentials' (the school newsletter), the Governors and Headteachers Forums in order to encourage attendance at Local Safeguarding Children Board training; and
- (ii) at the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, especially in relation to mental health and substance misuse services.

RECOMMENDED that following detailed work on the above priorities the following also be considered:-

1. That the co-ordination of preventative and early intervention work to support children at risk be further enhanced.
2. That the Executive continue working with the Community Safety Partnership to identify sources of funding to preserve and enhance the current services that are available to support the victims of domestic abuse.
3. That the benefit of support and training for professionals to help identify victims, preferably delivered by those who understand the issues, be recognised and that targeted

training be provided for frontline professionals, particularly those in universal services e.g. health visitors, Children's Centres and GPs, with the aim of earlier identification of incidents of domestic abuse.

4. That the accessibility of services for victims in same sex relationships and disadvantaged groups, such as unemployed persons, Gypsies and Travellers and other BME groups be further enhanced.
5. That schools be encouraged to recognise the value of the "Healthy Relationships" programme and as well as developing similar programmes for younger age groups schools ensure that vulnerable teenagers are engaged in such programmes.
6. That all schools be encouraged to develop a system of staff mentors, particularly in areas of high incidence of domestic abuse, to provide support and a focal point for training.
7. That all schools be encouraged to designate a member of staff responsible for raising awareness and attending training in relation to domestic abuse and domestic violence.
8. That the level of future need for support services be identified and commissioned appropriately.
9. That an understanding be developed of the extent to which victims enter into a cycle of abusive relationships so organisations can determine the extent of support that is required.

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Za Informacija

برای اطلاع

by telephone: 0300 300 4634

by email: scrutiny@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

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Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1st April 2014

Budget Monitoring Q3 – December 2013/14

Revenue

Key points to note (see link to the Executive report for details):

- The 2013/14 forecast outturn is to overspend by £2.622M (£2.633M Q2).
- The overspend is after the use of £3.8M of Earmarked Reserves brought forward from 2012/13.
- The Year to Date (YTD) spend is £1.522M above budget (£1.3M Q2).
- Total debt for Children's Services is £918k of which £180k is debt over 61 days.

Revenue

Key points to note (cont):

- Although there has been little movement overall since quarter two, increased pressures due to a rise in the number of Looked After Children (£0.89M), have been managed within the directorate.
- As at December, there have been 46 new independent fostering agency placements since the beginning of the financial year, where the average cost is £39k. Most of these placements are part sibling groups. This is in line with the increased numbers in Looked After Children. Three of these admissions are children or babies with disabilities who have higher than average annual costs
- All risks are now included in the current forecast. There is no further reduction anticipated in the Education Services Grant due to schools converting to Academy during 2013/14

Revenue

Key points to note (cont):

- The table below indicates the upward trajectory and pressure on the budget

	Total as at December 2012	Total as at December 2013	% Increase
Number of LAC	238	279	17.2%
In-House Placements	85	90	5.9%
Independent Placements	87	108	24.1%
Child Protection Plans	249	264	6%
Children in Need	1,711	1,562	(8.7%)
Number of Referrals (YTD)	1,798	1,982	10.2%

Slide 3

Revenue Forecast Outturn

	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance after Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Director CS	385	597	(39)
AD – CSO	28,681	33,466	1,505
AD – L & SC	4,425	4,121	(342)
AD – School Improvement	1,218	1,221	(55)
Transport	7,012	7,617	581
Partnerships	610	643	(7)
Sub Total	42,331	47,665	1,643
DSG Contribution to Central Support	(1,567)	(719)	848
ESG contribution to Central Support	(1,558)	(1,428)	130
Total Children Services	39,206	45,518	2,621
Schools Individual Budgets	86,638	86,638	0
Supported by DSG/EFA	(86,638)	(86,519)	0
Total Schools	0	119	0
Total Children's Services	39,206	45,637	2,621

Slide 4

Capital Position

Key points to note:

- The capital budget for 2013/14 is £27.4m (£0.7m net). The main issues to note are:
- Gross forecast is to spend £22m, below the original budget by £5.465m following the capital review process.
- Gross spend to date is £13.5m (£7.8m Q2), slightly ahead of profiled budget of £13.2m.
- All but two projects, Schools Access and Temporary Accommodation are funded wholly by grant receipts that have no expenditure deadline.

Capital Outturn

Scheme Title	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
New School Places	15,837	12,000	(3,837)
2 year old entitlement	450	150	(300)
Temporary Accommodation	352	159	(193)
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	1,380	1,380	0
All Saints Academy	557	557	0
University Technology College	139	29	0
Schools Access Initiative	247	69	(178)
Alternative Secondary Provision (Free School)	3,522	3,631	0
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	200	255	55
Schools Capital Maintenance	4,515	3,150	(1,365)
Short Breaks	197	550	353
Children's Services	£27,395	£21,930	(5,465)

Slide 6

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Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 01 April 2014
Subject: The Development of Early Intervention, Early Help delivered through Children's Centres
Report of: Cllr M.A.G. Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report proposes that members consider possible options for consultation for the future delivery of early help through Children's Centres.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Sue Tyler, Head of Child Poverty and Early Intervention
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

- Improved educational attainment.
- Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

Financial:

1. This will be completed on the attached Executive Paper

Legal:

2. This will be completed on the attached Executive paper

Risk Management:

3. This will be completed on the attached Executive paper .

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. Not Applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. To ensure that any decision does not unfairly discriminate, public authorities must be rigorous in reporting to Members the outcome of an equality impact assessment and the legal duties.
6. Public Authorities must ensure that decisions are made in a way which minimises unfairness, and without a disproportionately negative effect on people from different ethnic groups, disabled people, women and men. It is important that Councillors are aware of this duty before they take a decision.

When decisions are made, decision makers must have the relevant data, including the results of equality impact assessment, and of consultation and involvement, to ensure they reach an informed decision.

Public Health

7. This will be completed on the attached Executive Paper

Community Safety:

8. Not Applicable

Sustainability:

9. Not Applicable.

Procurement:

10. This will be completed on the attached Executive Paper .

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to:-

- 1. Consider possible options for Public Consultation Developing the Early Intervention, Early Help offer delivered through Children's Centres.**

Preparing for Public Consultation

11. It is proposed that a paper goes to the Executive Committee on 27 May 2014 with some options which will form the basis of the public consultation to commence that day and run until 19 August 2014.
12. A draft version of this Executive Paper is at Appendix A.
13. The draft contains 10 possible models, along with background information and explanations of the development of the possible models.
14. It has been advised that approx. four models would be appropriate for the public consultation exercise.

Conclusion and Next Steps

15. The views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be taken into account in development of the final version of the paper for Executive.

Timeline

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 16. | 01 April 2014 | Overview and Scrutiny - Principals of consultation |
| | 27 May 2014 | Executive – Permission to Consult |
| | 27 May to 19 Aug | Consultation Process |
| | 23 September | Executive – Outcome of Consultation |
| | September onwards | Operational delivery options |
| | 13 Jan 2015 | If needed – Approval of tender outcome |
| | 01 April 2015 | New delivery model commences |

Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Executive Paper 27 May 2014 - Developing the Early Intervention, Early Help offer delivered through Children's Centres

Appendix **A**

Meeting: Executive

Date: 27 May 2014

Subject: Developing the Early Intervention, Early Help offer delivered through Children's Centres

Report of: Cllr M. A. G. Versallion , Executive Member for Children's Services

Summary: The report proposes a Public Consultation Exercise around X potential models of delivery of the Early Intervention offer through Children's Centres.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Sue Tyler, Head of Child Poverty and Early Intervention

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Executive

Key Decision Yes/

**Reason for urgency/
exemption from call-in
(if appropriate)**

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

- Improved educational attainment.
- Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

Financial:

1. The modelling has been carried out within the current resource envelope.

Legal:

2. None

Risk Management:

3. Not applicable

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. Not Applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. This will be completed when the actual models for consultation have been agreed

Public Health

6. This will be completed when the actual models for consultation have been agreed.

Community Safety:

7. Not Applicable

Procurement:

8. Not applicable.

Overview and Scrutiny:

9. This matter has been considered by Overview and Scrutiny on meeting held 01 April 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive is asked to:

1. **Agree that consultation goes ahead based on X models**
2. **Approves the Public Consultation Document at Appendix B**

Executive Summary

TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING ON APRIL 1ST.

Background

10. The original Sure Start programme required delivery of services from 22 Children's Centres across the Council area. In 2012, following consultation, a reconfigured offer was put in place.
11. This consolidated the service offer into 9 hubs with some services being delivered from the smaller satellite centres, most of which were not in areas of high need.
12. The Hubs are in:
Dunstable North, Dunstable South, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard, Sandy, Flitwick, Biggleswade, Shefford and Stotfold with Arlesey.
13. The management of the Centres was commissioned out and the Centres are run by a mixture of schools and 2 large national voluntary organisations.
14. Since the consultation exercise in 2011, and the subsequent reconfiguring, there has been a growing awareness nationally of the importance of Early Intervention and Early Help with the most vulnerable families, and a number of other changes in the landscape affecting the services delivered out of Children's Centres.
15. These include:
 - Funding to support 15 hours free child care for two year olds in low income families (881 children in Central Bedfordshire to be benefitting by Sept 2014)
 - Provision of additional Health Visitors to support the Healthy Child

programme

- More funding directly to schools through the pupil premium to provide activities and interventions, particularly for those entitled to free school meals which at present is available from year R.
- More funding for vulnerable families and families where there are complex issues through the Troubled Families programme.
- The importance of Early Help identified in the report of Professor Munro on children's social care.
- A revised Ofsted framework for Local authorities in which there is an increased emphasis on Early help
- The new duty is for the Local safeguarding Board around the Early Help Offer.

More Early Help

16. In order to further develop the Central Bedfordshire offer around early help and targeted services, an increased focus on work with the most vulnerable families, at the expense of complete universality, is required. This will concentrate resources on a clearly targeted service to the most vulnerable families in order to really drive up life chances. This would be at the expense of the completely universal service, which provides a superficial level of support for the many.
17. The targeted use of resources will give an enhanced opportunity to
 - Improve health and education outcomes
 - Prepare for major national Early Intervention projects
 - Adopt a more integrated approach
 - Raise standards of parenting

Factors in developing Models

18. A number of factors are to be considered in the development of the Early Help Offer through Children's Centres going forward. These include:
 - Age range
 - Who are the services for (known as Reach)
 - Where Services are to be delivered
 - Which services should be delivered from Children's Centres
19. **a. Age Range**
 - i. The original Sure Start model covered children from conception until their fifth birthday. In reality this became until they started school, which in most cases will be at 4+ and could be as young as just over 4 years for the late summer born children.
 - ii. The original model also included provision either onsite or linked with childcare. The Central Bedfordshire model only included linked early years provision, namely local pre-schools, day-nurseries, child-minders and lower school foundation stage units that are listed at a Children's Centre as providing this part of the service delivery.

- iii. Children from the term after their third birthday are eligible for 15 hours a week free care and education at an early years provider. This limits the hours that are then available for accessing Children's Centres Services. It does however enable parents to access services which may be delivered from a Children's Centre around training for work, or taking up volunteering opportunities. In Central Bedfordshire the current take-up rate of three year old provision is over 95%.
- iv. Following a pilot, a more comprehensive offer for two year olds is presently being rolled out across the country. In Central Bedfordshire 556 two year olds have been identified as amongst the 20% most deprived and from Sept 2014 881 which is 40% of the most deprived two year olds will be identified and offered places.
- v. If virtually all three and four year olds and the 40% most vulnerable two year olds are in early years and childcare provisions for up to 15 hours a week, this leaves limited time for participation at a Children's Centre. Although for many of the most vulnerable families support throughout the day could prove beneficial.
- vi. Not all two year olds are able to enter provision immediately they reach their second birthday therefore offering services until they start this provision would ensure they are accessing services until that time and would enable their parents to continue to access parental services around training and education skills to enable work.
- vii Some children will be on specific programmes that would require attendance by them and their parents/carers beyond the age of two.
- viii An age range that covers pre-birth to the age of two but was flexible up to the age of three to covers the points made regarding access.

20. **b. Who are the services for (Reach)**

- i. Since 2012 the Children's Centres have been offering a targeted service within a universal environment. This has proved challenging and threatens to weaken the Early Help offer for the most vulnerable in favour of a high numerical level intervention for families who do not have specific needs.
- ii. Data analysis both within the authority and across our partners indicates that many of our vulnerable families are living in particular areas known as lower super output areas (LSOA) – these are a very specific area within a ward. Data indicates that poor health outcomes, unemployment, higher rates of crime, and many other deprivation factors are focussed in these specific areas of need.

- iii. Some Children are accessing specific services, delivered following an Early Help Assessment (EHA formerly known as a CAF), others are subject to Child in Need (CIN) Plans and being supported by our Family Support Teams, and some are on Child Protection (CP) Plans. These children will be from 0-16. Children's Centres should be playing an integral role in the delivery of these very specific interventions.
- iv. A concentration within a Centre on working with families and children from specifically defined LSOAs or accessing services through an EHA, CIN or CP plan would enable much more targeted work to deliver improved outcomes to our most vulnerable children and families.
- v. Most of the existing hubs are now offering some aspects of universal delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP). For example baby and weighing clinics, advice sessions, drop-in surgeries by health visitors and two year old checks are increasingly being delivered from Children's Centres. The continuation of this universal service should ensure that early identification of developing children and family problems from outside the previously identified cohort would be able to take place, along with an early help assessment and the provision of specific interventions. It also provides additional financial value by using the provision for multi-agency delivery.
- vi. There is a growing body of evidence emerging that improved parenting is a cost-effective and successful intervention for many families at a very early stage in their parental career. An extended Parenting offer of a short evidenced based parenting programme could be offered from Centres in conjunction with the universal HCP programme. This would contribute to helping all children have the best start in life, and as with the health Visitor work would enhance identification of parents who need additional assistance through an EHA who are not in the identified cohort.

21. **c. Where Services are to be delivered**

- i. There are presently 9 hubs for Children's Centre Services all based on school sites. At the last reconfiguration a number of satellite sites were retained.
- ii. Whilst levels of deprivation vary all the hubs presently have a reach which includes some deprivation. There are also children and families being supported on EHAs, CIN and CP plans in all areas. A data sheet including these figures is attached at Appendix A.
- iii. The data shows that targeted work is required in all hub areas, however in many cases the satellite sites are not in areas of high need.
- iv. A reduced number of hubs could be offered, for example only Centres in Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard could remain operational.

However in other areas such as Sandy, Flitwick or Biggleswade a reasonable number of children who would otherwise benefit from intensive and targeted services would not have the opportunity to access these.

- v. The resourcing of each Centre would be related to the numbers it was working with.
- vi. The satellite sites could be retained for delivery of specific programmes, or appropriate re-designation could be considered. This may include early years provision or enhancement of the school on which site they are based.

22. d. Which services should be delivered from Children's Centres

i. As part of an enhanced Early Help Offer, following the removal of many of the universal services, such as stay and play, baby rhyme time and similar groups, a more intensive range of services could be offered to the most vulnerable families. This would be in conjunction with many of the targeted services offered now to known children.

ii. Intensive programmes to the most vulnerable families:

- Family Work with 1:1 support for families with children 0-2 based on the Family Intervention Project Models
- Mellow Parenting Groups
- High level evidence based parenting courses for vulnerable
- Delivery of other specific targeted programmes linked with Child Protection and Child in Need programmes for children of all ages

iii. Targeted Programmes

- Speech and Language Work
- Group work with Early Years Professionals
- Freedom Programmes
- Evidence Based Parents as First Educators (PAFT)
- Healthy Eating – dietary and oral health/anti obesity
- Specific work as a result of EHAs, CIN Plans, CP plans
- Work with Job Centre Plus and Adult Education Services around training and work readiness
- Specific work around improving health outcomes – anti-smoking, breastfeeding, improved fitness, reduction in obesity Great Expectation Groups for Post Natal Depression

iv. Universal Services

- Delivery of Clinics and other aspects of Healthy Child programme (Especially by health partners)
- Short evidence based parenting course

Possible Models

Model No. 1 Existing Model	
Age	
0-5	
Reach	
A reach to all children in the hub area regardless of need is expected	
Where	
Existing 9 hub areas, and working in the satellite areas	
Services	
As now universal services are offered such as Stay and Play, Rhyme Time, and other groups open to all. Some targeted services are offered, but space and the times available limit other work taking place	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
<p>Universal coverage</p> <p>Open to all parents who want to access the services</p>	<p>Dilutes Early help offer</p> <p>Not able to offer Intensive or many targeted programmes due to resource limitations of time, space and staff availability</p> <p>Offering services to three and four year old who are in care and education, or at school</p>

Model No. 2	
Age	
0-2 flexible up to 3	
Reach	
LSOA Children and Families with Early Help Assessment Children and Families with Child in Need Plans Children and Families with Child Protection Plans	
Where	
Existing 9 Hubs	
Services	
Intensive Programmes Targeted Programmes Universal Offer	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
Able to offer all three levels of programme support Greatest opportunity for targeted early help across whole Council area	Some families above the age of three not able to access services Centres seen as only for 'problem families' Challenge over offer from families not in the identified cohort

Model No. 3	
Age	
0-2 flexible up to 3	
Reach	
LSOA Children and Families with Early Help Assessment Children and Families with Child in Need Plans Children and Families with Child Protection Plans	
Where	
Reduced Number of Hubs	
Services	
Intensive Programmes Targeted Programmes Universal Offer	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
<p>Able to offer all three levels of programme support</p> <p>Greatest opportunity for targeted early help across a specific part of the Council area</p>	<p>Vulnerable Children and Families in areas where hubs are not operating would not be able to access programmes</p> <p>Some families above the age of three not able to access services</p> <p>Centres seen as only for 'problem families'</p> <p>Challenge over offer from families not in the identified cohort or in areas where there are no longer services.</p>

Model No. 4	
Age	
0-2 flexible up to 3	
Reach	
Universal	
Where	
Existing 9 Hubs	
Services	
Some Targeted Programmes	
Universal Offer	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
Open to all families even if there is not an identified need	<p>Dilution of Early Help Offer</p> <p>Not able to offer intensive support due to universal offer</p> <p>Some families above the age of three not able to access services</p>

Model No. 5	
Age	
0-2 flexible up to 3	
Reach	
Universal	
Where	
Reduced No of hubs	
Services	
Some Targeted Programmes Universal Offer	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
Open to all families in hub areas even if there is not an identified need	<p>Dilution of Early Help Offer</p> <p>Not able to offer intensive support due to universal offer</p> <p>A universal offer in just a few areas and no offer in other areas could be challenged as discriminatory</p> <p>Some families above the age of three not able to access services</p>

Model No. 6	
Age	
0-5	
Reach	
LSOA Children and Families with Early Help Assessment Children and Families with Child in Need Plans Children and Families with Child Protection Plans	
Where	
Existing 9 Hubs	
Services	
Intensive Programmes Targeted Programmes Universal Offer	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
Able to offer all three levels of programme support Greatest opportunity for targeted early help across whole Council area	Centres seen as only for 'problem families' Resources will be directed to 3&4 year olds which may need to be spent on families at an earlier stage. Challenge over offer from families not in the identified cohort

Model No. 7	
Age	
0-5	
Reach	
Universal	
Where	
Reduced No of hubs	
Services	
Some Targeted Programmes Universal Offer	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
Open to all families even if there is not an identified need	<p>Dilution of Early Help Offer</p> <p>Not able to offer intensive support due to universal offer</p> <p>Resources may be directed to 3&4 year olds which may need to be spent on families at an earlier stage.</p>

Model No. 8	
Age	
0-5	
Reach	
LSOA Children and Families with Early Help Assessment Children and Families with Child in Need Plans Children and Families with Child Protection Plans	
Where	
Reduced No Hubs	
Services	
Intensive Programmes Targeted Programmes Universal Offer	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
Able to offer all three levels of programme support Greatest opportunity for targeted early help in hub areas	Centres seen as only for 'problem families' Resources will be directed to 3&4 year olds which may need to be spent on families at an earlier stage. Challenge over offer from families not in the identified cohort

Model No. 9	
Age	
0-5	
Reach	
Universal	
Where	
Reduced No. Hubs	
Services	
Targeted Programmes	
Universal Offer	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
Open to all families in hub areas even if there is not an identified need	<p>Dilution of Early Help Offer</p> <p>Not able to offer intensive support due to universal offer</p> <p>A universal offer in just a few areas and no offer in other areas could be challenged as discriminatory</p>

Model No. 10	
Age	
0-2 Flexible	
Reach	
LSOA Children and Families with Early Help Assessment Children and Families with Child in Need Plans Children and Families with Child Protection Plans	
Where	
Every Lower School within a Lower Super output Area , but close all Children's Centres	
Services	
Intensive Programmes Targeted Programmes Universal Offer	
Advantages of Model	Disadvantages of Model
Integration with and Transition to the school	Schools mostly not used to working with children 0-3 Most schools would not have space to deliver the services Unlikely to be a universal take-up in all applicable lower schools Possible legal difficulty if no Children's Centres exist.

Possible Future Developments

23. A number of potential developments offer support for this enhanced approach to targeted early intervention:
- From April 2015 the Troubled Families agenda is likely to become more of an early intervention model
 - A refresh of the government's Child Poverty Strategy is likely to continue the focus on poor educational attainment, parental ill health, and tackling barriers to underachievement
 - Increasing government approach to supporting the most vulnerable in society e.g. the increasing use of the Pupil Premium
24. Many other local authorities are in the course of reconfiguring Children's Centres, and the government has made clear that it wishes to focus the work of Children's Centres on those with whom it will have the greatest effect.

Challenges and Opportunities

- 25.
 - a. In the current financial climate funding will be a challenge moving ahead. The previously ring fenced Early Intervention Grant has been subsumed into the Revenue Support Grant and the ring-fence removed.
 - b. Delivery of these models is predicated on the same resource envelope, but by reducing the main universal approach more spend would be available for early intervention and early help work.
 - c. A stronger focus on Early Help would enable a clearer case to be made with partners, of the time and space resource that is available to work with families in need at the Centres.
 - d. A more integrated pattern of support would be facilitated by a key family worker thus ensuring that families were able to receive a suite of appropriate services in a timely and organised way rather than an ad hoc approach by a number of partner services. (This is how the FIP and subsequently Troubled Families interventions are organised).
 - e. The delivery of a universal aspect of the Healthy Child Programme offers Health partners an opportunity to enhance their delivery of the HCP.

Challenges and Opportunities

26.

27.

Time Scale

28.	01 April 2014	Overview and Scrutiny - Principals of consultation
	27 May 2014	Executive – Permission to Consult
	27 May to 19 August	Consultation Process
	23 September 2014	Executive – Outcome of Consultation
	September onwards	Operational delivery options
	13 Jan 2015	If needed – Approval of tender outcome
	01 April 2015	New delivery model commences

Risk

- 29. A change in government and a return to the universal Sure-Start model. Removal of funding so that an inadequate Early Help model can be offered

Conclusions

30.

31.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Relevant Data

Appendix B – Draft Public Consultation Document (To be written after Overview and Scrutiny on April 1st)

Background Papers:

Appendix A to the Executive report

Relevant Data

Centre	No of children in reach if a universal service is provided up to age 5	No of Children in Reach in LSOAs up to age 5	Nos on Child Protection Plans	Nos on Child in Need Plans	Nos on Early Help (formerly CAF)	Total of LSOA Reach CP, CIN, EH
Houghton Regis	1346	581	28	139	32	780
Leighton Buzzard	3362	167	29	201	51	448
Dunstable South	1217	278	21	75	18	392
Dunstable North	1619	119	30	136	32	317
Flitwick	3149	97	21	139	24	281
Sandy	1394	120	27	82	37	266
Biggleswade	1109	138	25	82	21	266
Shefford	1597	75	32	66	15	188
Stotfold & Arlesey	1216	110	14	38	25	187

Appendix B to the Executive report

Draft Public Consultation Document

To be written after Overview and Scrutiny on April 1st.

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Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 01 April 2014
Subject: Quarter 3 2013/14 Performance Report
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter Three performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, Head of Partnerships, Performance and Workforce Development
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The Quarterly Performance Report ensures that progress on the delivery of the Council's priorities is monitored.

Financial:

2. There are a number of performance indicators within the full corporate suite that have a financial link.
3. It will be important to consider any financial implications in addressing ongoing areas of under performance.

Legal:

4. Not applicable.

Risk Management:

5. Areas of ongoing underperformance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

6. Not applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

7. This report highlights performance against a range of indicators which seek to measure how services impact across all communities in Central Bedfordshire, so that specific areas of underperformance can be highlighted for further analysis.

8. As such it does not include detailed performance information relating to the Council's stated intention to tackle inequalities and deliver services so that people whose circumstances make them vulnerable are not disadvantaged. The interrogation of performance data across vulnerable groups is a legal requirement and is an integral part of the Council's equalities and performance culture which seeks to ensure that, through a programme of ongoing impact assessments, underlying patterns and trends for different sections of the community identify areas where further action is required to improve outcomes for vulnerable groups.

Community Safety:

9. There are Children's Services indicators that relate to ensuring children and young people are kept safe.

Sustainability:

10. Not applicable.

Procurement:

11. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes and reviews Quarter Three performance.

Background

12. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
13. The following provides an overview of the performance position for Quarter 3. This is supported by the detailed performance information provided in Appendix A.

Quarter 3 Performance Summary

14. Final results show that 57.7% of young people achieved 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths. This is an increase compared to last year although our relative position compared to other English local authorities declined to rank 113 of 151. Evidence from student progress data demonstrates that long term interventions will have a positive impact on improved outcomes in 2014.
15. Overall the proportion of schools being classified as good or outstanding has remained stable over the last three years. In Quarter 3 published inspection outcomes show that 84% of schools and colleges are either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

16. Following the publication of the Munro Review of Safeguarding and Working Together Statutory Guidance we have implemented a single assessment process, which replaces the previous system of initial and core assessments. This has resulted in two new indicators that align with expectations published by the Department for Education in the Safeguarding Performance Information Framework. Our performance in relation to completing assessments in 45 days is good and as the new system is embedded the ambitious targets around the percentage of referrals are expected to be met. The new process will be well established before 2014/15.
17. The Child Protection reviews within timescales continue to achieve the 100% target. Although timescales for adoption have dipped this quarter as some longer term cases come through the system, with more adoptions planned in Quarter 4 we are on track to meet target by the year end.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive (Quarter 3 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

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Performance Report Appendix A Quarter Three 2013/14
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

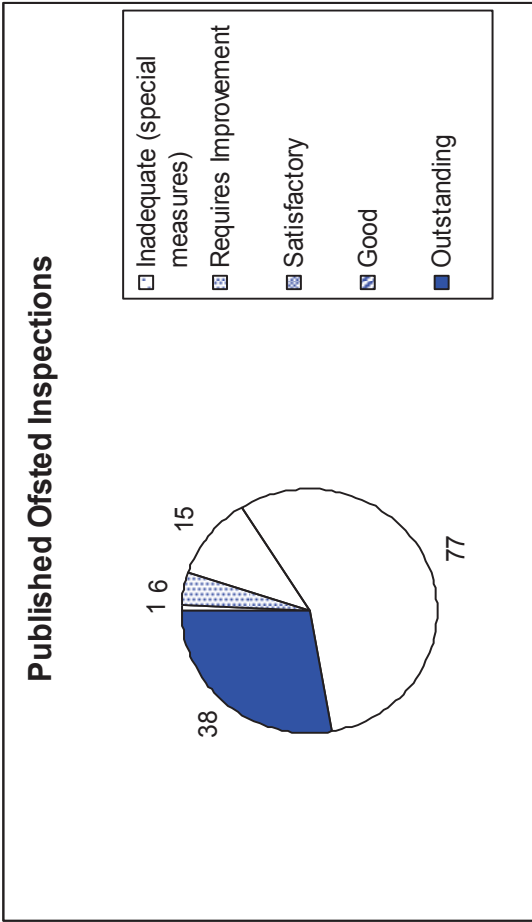
Ref	Indicator	Performance will be reported:	Performance information being reported this quarter	
			Time period	Performance
Improved educational attainment				
B 1 MTP	Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	Annually in Quarter 3	2012/13 Outturn	↔ R
B 2 MTP	Percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training. (NEET)	Annually in Quarter 4	3 month average	
B 3 MTP	Number of education and training opportunities for young people made available in the Autumn	Annually in Quarter 4	Sept - Dec 2012	
B4 MTP	Published Ofsted school and college classifications	Quarterly	Quarter 3 2013/14	↑ G
Promote health and wellbeing and protect the vulnerable				
C8 MTP	The percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments	Quarterly	N/A	
C8a MTP	Percentage of referrals of children leading to the provision of a social care service	Quarterly	Quarter 3 2013/14	New R
C9 MTP	Percentage of initial assessments within ten working days of referral	Quarterly	N/A	
C9a MTP	Percentage of children's social care assessments within 45 working days of start	Quarterly	Quarter 3 2013/14	New A
C10 MTP	Percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed	Quarterly	Quarter 3 2013/14	↔ G
C11 MTP	Average time in days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted	Quarterly	Quarter 3 2013/14	↔ G

Report comparison - Depends on the nature of the indicator		Performance Judgement	
Seasonal	Compared to the same time period in the previous year	Direction of travel (DoT)	RAG score (Standard scoring rules unless the indicator specifies alternative scoring arrangements)
Quarter on quarter	Compared to the previous quarter	↔	RED - target missed / off target - Performance at least 10% below the required level of improvement
Annual	Compared to one fixed point in the previous year	↑	AMBER - target missed / off target - Performance less than 10% below the required level of improvement
		↔	GREEN - Target achieved or performance on track to achieve target

Improved Educational Attainment

Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Annual report)																	
B 1 MTP											Latest comparator group average	62.0	Report comparison	Annual	Performance Judgement	↕	R
Unit	Good is	2009 Outturn	2010 Outturn	2011 Outturn	2012 Reported Qu 3 2012/13	2013 Reported Qu 3 2013/14	2014 Reported Qu 3 2014/15	2015 Reported Qu 3 2015/16									
%	High	50.0	54.2	59.4	57.6	57.7											
Ranking Position	Number 1 is the best	Ranking Position compared to all English authorities		60 /151	91/151	113/151											
	Target			Up 4 places compared to 2011/12	Up 10 places compared to 2011/12	Up 19 places compared to 2011/12	Up 23 places compared to 2011/12										
	Actual			Down 35 places compared to 2011/12	Down 63 places compared to 2011/12												
Comment:																	
<p>Final results show that 57.7% of young people achieved 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths. This is an increase of 0.1% compared to last year and a drop of 22 places in the ranking of English local authorities. In 2012 our schools were ranked 91 out of 151 and these results rank us at 113 out of 151. The England Average was 59.2%. The highest average within our statistical neighbours group is 67.1% and the lowest is 54.9%. The statistical neighbour average was 62%. Within this grouping Central Bedfordshire remains ranked 9 out of 11.</p> <p>The two LA maintained schools are receiving direct support and challenge through the School Intervention Strategy. Student progress data to date in these schools demonstrates that the actions taken by the schools will have a positive impact on improved outcomes in 2014.</p> <p>Council officers have worked with the Teaching School and the Upper School heads and Deputies group to ensure good practice is shared that will support improvements this year.</p>																	

Published Ofsted school and college classifications* (Published inspection outcomes during the quarter as shown by the figure in brackets)													
Ofsted category	Unit	2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		Latest comparator group average	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement
		Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4 / Outturn				
Total	Number	139 (37)	140 (33)	Schools: 137(8) College: 1(0)	Schools: 136 (5) College: 1(0)	Schools: 137 (9) College: 1(0)	Schools: 136 (17) College: 1(0)	N/A					G
Outstanding	Number	34 (7)	37 (3)	38 (1)	38 (0)	38 (1)	38 (1)						
Good	Number	71 (19)	67 (16)	73 (3)	74 (5)	71 (5)	77 (10)						
Satisfactory	Number	32 (9)	34 (13)	21 (0)	16(0)	20 (0)	15(0)						
Requires Improvement	Number	-	-	5 (3)	8(0)	8 (3)	6(6)						
Inadequate	Number	2 (2)	2 (1)	1 (1- Special Measures)	1 - Special Measures (0)	1 - Special Measures (0)	1 - Special Measures (0)						
Comment:	<p>Overall the proportion of schools being classified as good or outstanding has remained stable over the last three years. In Quarter Three published inspection outcomes show that 84% of schools and colleges are either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.</p> <p>As reported in Quarter Four 2012/13, Sandy Upper School was inspected on 13th February 2013 and judged to require special measures. The Council's support for the school was recognised by the inspectors and this support has been extended to ensure the school successfully addresses the issues raised. The school is rigorously addressing the identified issues and Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) monitoring recognises the impact of this on the school's progress. The second HMI monitoring report was extremely positive about the schools progress. The HMI suggested reducing Local Authority support. There has been a delay in academy conversion so support is continuing.</p>												

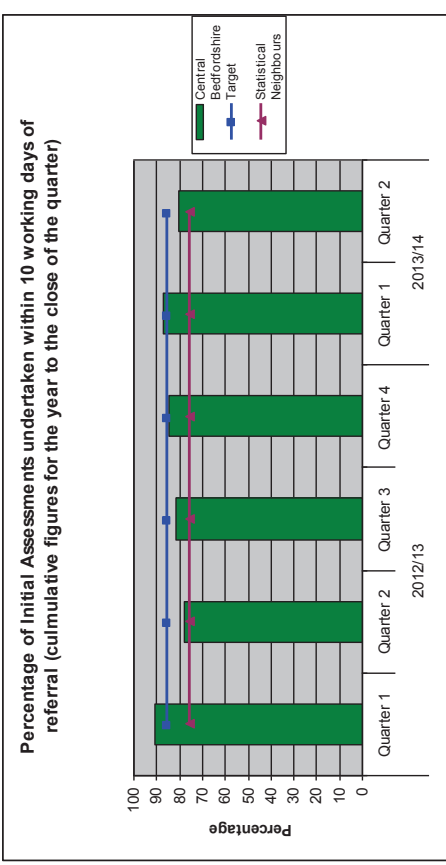


Promote health and wellbeing and protect the vulnerable

C8 MTP														Percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments (Cumulative)							
Unit	Good is	%	2011/12				2012/13				2013/14				Latest comparator group average	79.1% NFER (2012/13)	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	N/A	N/A
			Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4							
			78.5	75	82.1	82.9	79.8	80.3	82.3	75	79.8	77.6	N/A	N/A							
Comment:																					
Following the Munro Review of Safeguarding and publication of Working Together Statutory Guidance we have implemented a single assessment process, Initial Assessments are no longer completed and this indicator is no longer recorded in this way or monitored. The replacement indicator is below.																					

C8a MTP														Percentage of referrals of children leading to the provision of a social care service (Cumulative)							
Unit	Good is	%	2011/12				2012/13				2013/14				Latest comparator group average	New	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	New	R
			Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4							
			New						New	75	N/A	N/A	49.4								
Comment:																					
Following the Munro review of Safeguarding and the publication of Working Together Statutory Guidance, a new system of single assessment replaces the previously measured initial and core assessments. This means that new systems have been put in place and referrals are now progressing to a single assessment process. This new process is being implemented and early activity with a new format for identifying referrals resulted in recording errors leading to very low reported performance. All issues identified as contributing to this problem have now been addressed. Monthly monitoring is showing that performance is expected to achieve target in the final quarter. Although defined differently, performance for this new indicator is expected to be similar to MTP-C8 that it replaces, so the same target has been proposed.																					
This indicator reflects the proportion of referrals that go on to further social care input, in most cases this will be to start an assessment. Detailed analysis of completed referrals has shown that assessments are started where needed and continue to focus correctly on the right children who need our services.																					

Percentage of children's social care initial assessments undertaken within ten working days of referral (Cumulative)																	
C9 MTP	Percentage of children's social care initial assessments undertaken within ten working days of referral (Cumulative)										N/A						
	Unit	Good is	2011/12	2012/13				2013/14				69.1 NFER (212/13)	Report Comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement		
%	High	86.6	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn			
		85.0	85.0	90.7	78.1	81.8	84.7	84.7	85	87.0	80.5	N/A	N/A	N/A			
<p>Comment: Following the Munro Review of Safeguarding and publication of Working Together Statutory Guidance we have implemented a single assessment process. Initial Assessments are no longer completed and data for this indicator is no longer being produced. The replacement indicator is below.</p>																	



Percentage of children's social care assessments within 45 working days of start (N14 variant) (Cumulative)																	
C9a MTP	Percentage of children's social care assessments within 45 working days of start (N14 variant) (Cumulative)										New						
	Unit	Good is	2011/12	2012/13				2013/14				Latest comparator group average	Report Comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement		
%	High	New	85.0	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn		
		New	90.0	N/A	N/A	80.7			New	90.0	N/A	N/A	80.7				
<p>Comment: Following the Munro review of Safeguarding and the publication of Working Together Statutory Guidance, a new system of single assessment replaces the previously measured initial and core assessments. A high target has been proposed for this indicator, reflecting ambitious yet realistic expectations. Although this level of performance was not achieved in the initial period of this activity, this is good performance the Service is confident of future improvement. Feedback from 6 pilot authorities in 2012/13 returned an average of 78% within 45 days, our performance in Quarter 3 exceeded this. Initial and Core assessments have now been replaced with a new single assessment process. This indicator demonstrates that assessments are completed without delay which leads to timely identification of appropriate services for children in need.</p>																	

Chart not produced. New indicator so no comparative information from previous years for Central Bedfordshire or Statistical Neighbours.

C10 MTP Percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed													
Unit	Good is	High	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13				Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn
				Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3						
			100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Comment: Performance remains on target. Reviews are a key element in delivering Child Protection Plans and effective reviews should ensure the provision of good quality interventions to keep children safe and protected. This target should remain on 100% and graphical representation is not relevant.													
			Latest comparator group average	97.7 NFER (2012/13)				Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	G		

C11 MTP Average time in days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted													
Unit	Good is	Low	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13				2013/14				Qu 4 / Outturn	
				Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4 / Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4 / Outturn		
			New 579	631	624	616	608	593	578	562	547		
			579	576	552	604	600	539	476	548			
Comment: Following revision to national thresholds, recently published by DfE in the Adoption Scorecard our targets have been updated. The average time from entering care and moving in with adoptive family for the 3 years ending 31/12/13 was 14 days below the nationally set target threshold and 82 days below the 2012/13 comparator average. Our continued performance below the threshold demonstrates that children are placed in their permanent home without undue delay which is particularly important in enabling very young children to form positive emotional attachments. Whilst there might be some fluctuation in quarterly performance through the year, with more adoptions expected in Quarter 4, the 3 year average is expected to achieve target by the year end. This indicator was introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) based on a rolling 3 year cohort. Targets are set nationally by the DfE. Because this is a rolling 3 year average the figure includes activity from previous years.													
			Latest comparator group average	630 NFER (2012/13)				Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	G		

Meeting: Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 01 April 2014
Subject: Work Programme & Executive Forward Plan
Report of: Richard Carr, Chief Executive
Summary: The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

Contact Officer: Jonathon Partridge, Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The work programme of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities. Whilst there are no direct implications arising from this report the implications of proposals will be detailed in full in each report submitted to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. **that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
 - (a) **considers and approves the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;**
 - (b) **considers the relevant items of the Executive Forward Plan; and**
 - (c) **considers whether it wishes to add any further items to the work programme and/or establish any Task Forces to assist it in reviewing specific items.**

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

1. Appended is the currently drafted work programme for the Committee.
2. The Committee is now requested to consider the work programme attached and amend or add to it as necessary.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Forces

3. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members may also wish to consider how each item will be reviewed i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

Executive Forward Plan

4. Listed below are those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference contained in the latest version of the Executive's Forward Plan to ensure Members are fully aware of the key issues Executive Members will be taking decisions upon in the coming months. The full Executive Forward plan can be viewed on the Council's website at the link at the end of this report.

Ref	Issue	Indicative Exec Meeting date
1.	Provision of recruitment services for temporary agency staff	22 April 2014
2.	Consideration of outcome of statutory consultations of proposals to close Brewers Hill Community Middle School, Streetfield Community Middle School and Ashton CofE VA Middle School in August 2016.	27 May 2014
3.	Developing the early intervention offer through children's centres	27 May 2014
4.	Children's homes contract	15 July 2014
5.	Consideration of Representations Received to Statutory Notices Published for Proposals to Close Brewers Hill Community Middle School, Streetfield Community Middle School and Ashton CofE VA Middle School in August 2016.	19 August 2014
6.	Developing the Early Intervention Offer -	23 September 2014

Conclusion

5. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendments/additions they may wish to make and highlight those items within it where they may wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work. This will allow officers to plan accordingly but will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists.

Appendix – Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Background reports:

Executive Forward Plan (can be viewed at any time on the Council's website) at the following link:-

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=577&RD=0>

Appendix A

Provisional Work Programme for Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2014 - 2015

Ref	Indicative OSC meeting date	Report title	Description
1.	07 May 2014	Schools in Dunstable	To receive a presentation regards the proposals for changes to schools in Dunstable. This meeting will be held at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable. Executive: 27 May 2014

* An Executive Member update will be received at each meeting

Last update on 11 March 2014

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