

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Tuesday, 19 September 2017

Committee:
People Overview Committee

Date: Wednesday, 27 September 2017
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting. **Please note the earlier than usual start time.** The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of the Committee

Peggy Mullock	Elliott Lynch
Ed Potter	Cecilia Motley
Nigel Hartin	Kevin Pardy
Christian Lea	Price
Matt Lee	Kevin Turley

Co-opted Members (Voting):

Carol Morgan	Diocese of Shrewsbury (RC)
Sian Lines	Diocese of Hereford (CE)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting):

Mark Hignett	Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly
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Substitute Members:

Roy Aldcroft	Roger Hughes
Dean Carroll	Jane MacKenzie
Julian Dean	Claire Wild
Hannah Fraser	Paul Wynn
Rob Gittins	

Your Committee Officer is: **Tim Ward** 01743 257713 tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Election of Chairman

2 Apologies and Substitutions

To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee and notification of any substitutions

3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

4 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded they must not participate in the discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

5 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

The minutes of the meeting of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee held on 28 June 2017, are attached for confirmation.

6 Public Question Time

To receive any public questions or petitions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The deadline for this meeting is 5.00pm on Friday 22 September 2017

7 Members' Question Time

SSCB To receive any questions of which Members of the Council have given notice.

Deadline for notification: 5.00pm on Friday 22 September 2017

8 Early Help Family Hub

To receive a presentation from the Head of Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning

9 Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016-2017 (Pages 5 - 10)

Report attached marked: 9 (Appendix A is to follow)

10 Shropshire Academy Trust

To receive a presentation from the Commissioner for Education Improvement and Efficiency

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2017

2.00 - 4.30 pm in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Shropshire Councillors

Councillor Peggy Mullock (Chairman)

Councillors Ed Potter (Vice-Chair), Clare Aspinall, Nigel Hartin, Christian Lea, Matt Lee, Elliott Lynch, Kevin Pardy, Price and Kevin Turley

Co-Opted Members (Voting)

Sian Lines

4 Apologies and Substitutions

4.1 There were no apologies for absence

5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

5.1 Mr Lee declared an interest in the Youth Funding item as he was employed by TNS whose charity received youth funding

6 Minutes

6.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 29 March 2017 and 18 May 2017 had been circulated

6.2 RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meetings held on 29 March 2017 and 18 May 2017 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

7 Public Question Time

7.1 There were no questions from members of the public

8 Members' Question Time

8.1 There were no questions from Members.

9 An Introduction to Scrutiny

- 9.1 Members received a presentation from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer (copy attached to signed minutes) which gave an overview of the work of a scrutiny committee, in which he set out the roles and responsibilities of the Committee.
- 9.2 A Member asked when Members would receive the report from the recent LGA peer review. The Statutory Scrutiny Officer informed the meeting that a report had been taken to a meeting of the Political Structures Monitoring which had incorporated the majority of the recommendations of the Peer Review and that following this a report would be taken to Council.

10 An introduction to Children's Services

- 10.1 Members received a presentation from the Commissioner for Education Improvement and Efficiency (copy attached to the signed minutes) which set out the statutory roles and responsibilities of the Learning and Skills department and the key areas of focus and the priorities for the department for the forthcoming year.
- 10.2 In response to a question regarding small schools, the Commissioner for Education Improvement and Efficiency confirmed that he was working with Governors and Head Teachers to ensure the sustainability of all schools in Shropshire.
- 10.3 A Member asked whether the faith and church schools would be included in the Multi Academy Trust. The Commissioner for Education Improvement and Efficiency advised that the diocese was developing its own trust and that it was thought that the majority of Church Schools would join this. He informed Members that officers had regular meetings with Officers from the Dioceses.
- 10.4 Members received a presentation from the head of Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning (copy attached to the signed minutes) which outlined the work of the Early Help Team and the services offered.
- 10.5 Members received a presentation from the Head of Children's Social Care and Safeguarding which set out the work done by the Social care and Safeguarding Team. She explained that the Council had a statutory function to assess, investigate and meet the needs of Children In Need, Children subject to a Child Protection Plan and Children who need to be Looked After by the Local Authority and explained the functions of the various teams which carried this out.
- 10.6 In response to a query the Head of Children's Social Care and Safeguarding confirmed that a number of social workers had recently been recruited and that amongst these were some experienced social workers but that the majority were newly qualified. She added that the successful recruitment campaign had led to a reduction in the number of agency staff being used which had led to a budgetary saving.
- 10.7 A Member asked did the Council have sufficient residential placements. The Head of Children's Social Care and Safeguarding advised that the number of placements was kept under constant review but that placements were only used where essential as better outcomes were achieved by placing children in foster care.

10.8 The Chairman thanked Officers for their presentations

11 Local Commissioning of Youth Activities Task and Finish Group

11.1 Members received the report of the Locality Commissioning Manager which set out the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on the Future Commissioning of Youth Activities.

11.2 The Locality Commissioning Manager informed Members that subsequent to the work of the Task & Finish Group a review of the allocation of funding had taken place using a simplified funding formula based on 2 criteria rather than the 8 used previously and that this had resulted in funding of £167,000.00 being required going forward which was a reduction of £67,950 on the current budget.

11.3 The Locality Commissioning Manager advised the meeting that the contract with SYA for infrastructure support had recently been extended for 2 years and that currently SYA were working with 139 groups across the County.

11.4 In response to a query the Locality Commissioning Manager confirmed that the proposal regarding funding was that it remain at the current level for the 2017/18 financial year and then reduce to £167,000 for the financial year 2018/19

11.5 RESOLVED: -

- A. That the recommendations made by the Task & Finish Group at its meeting of the 26th April 2017 as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report be approved.
- B. That a budget of £167,000 be required the financial year 2018/19 in support of youth activity provision that respond to local need
- C. That the Committee note work underway on the development of opportunities and approaches for the input and review by young people in strategic and local commissioning decisions.

12 Date of Next Meeting

12.1 Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee would be held on Wednesday 19 July at 10.00am

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
Young People's Scrutiny Committee	
26 September 2017	
	<u>Public</u>

Covering report for the Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016-2017

Contact Lisa Charles – Acting SSCB Business Manager
e-mail: lisa.charles@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743254251

1. Summary

1.1 The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. This is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

1.2 The annual report of the Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) 2016-2017 is attached as Appendix A for your attention. The report will be presented by the Interim Independent Chair of the SSCB; Ivan Powell and covers the reporting period between April 2016 and March 2017.

1.3 The SSCB annual report 2016- 2017 provides an account of the activities, development and impact of the Board and its partners in fulfilling their statutory responsibility of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Shropshire. The report identifies areas for improvement and future challenges for effective multi-agency working to improve outcomes for children.

2. Recommendations

The Young People's Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note and comment on the information in the attached Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016-2017.

3. Report

The SSCB determined three main priorities for action during the year:

- Neglect

- Domestic Abuse
- Missing children (including child sexual exploitation and trafficking)

Good progress has been made against these priority areas and is summarised as follows:

Neglect

Following a Serious Case Review published in November 2015 SSCB has strengthened Shropshire's response to neglect to make sure that it is fit for purpose.

In November 2016 SSCB held its biannual conference on the theme of childhood neglect attended by 130 multi-agency delegates. The conference launched the Neglect Strategy and delivered workshops on the commissioned NSPCC "Graded Care Profile 2" (GCP2) which focuses specifically on the lived experience of the child and the impact on their safety, well-being and development.

Work has taken place throughout 2016-2017 relating to the length of time children and young people were subject to child protection plans. Focused work is being undertaken on children who are subject to a child protection plan for 9 months or more to consider whether the case should progress into Public Law Outline process or care proceedings.

Domestic Abuse

Children's Social Care have improved the step down process with children stepping down from child protection to Child in Need for a minimum of twelve weeks, before step down to Early Help. A six week period for handover of a case from CIN to Early Help has been implemented to ensure that step down plans are robust.

Shropshire Recovery Partnership have raised awareness amongst social workers on how and when to make a referral to their service.

Regular domestic abuse triage meetings now take place in COMPASS and notifications are sent to schools to alert them to domestic abuse incidents where children have been present in the household.

The SSCB dataset has been revised and will be an area of on-going development alongside the collation of domestic abuse data to monitor the effectiveness of the revised domestic abuse strategy.

The SSCB was of the view that the revised all-age Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-2020 would need to include a more robust and comprehensive approach to the safeguarding of children affected by domestic abuse. Based upon information and findings the SSCB provided a challenge and recommendation report to the Community Safety Partnership in January 2017.

As a result the SSCB hopes to see:

- Clarity around governance arrangements for leading the domestic abuse agenda across the partnership.
- A fully operational voluntary perpetrators programme.
- An increase in referrals to MARAC.
- Effective use of evidence based assessment tools.
- Improved provision of services for children and young people affected by domestic abuse, influenced by the views of children and young people.
- More sophisticated performance monitoring to measure outcomes in relation to domestic abuse and its impact on children.

Missing Children (including CSE and trafficking)

In 2016 the SSCB, through joint partnership funding, commissioned a comprehensive review of agencies response to CSE in Shropshire. The purpose of the review was to inform SSCB on what more needs to be done to maximise strategic links and address any gaps in CSE service provision locally.

The review found that:

- Significant activity has been coordinated by SSCB across a range of functions including training, communications and the development of an infrastructure that promotes information sharing in respect of CSE.
- Dedicated resources have been secured within the Local Authority and Police.
- An award winning Sex and Relationships Education curriculum is on offer to nearly all Shropshire children.
- Significant work has taken place to engage with private care providers, many of whom are caring for children placed in Shropshire by other Local Authorities. This has resulted in tangible outcomes for individual children e.g. every child in residential care has a trigger plan.

Developments as a result of the review have included:

- Local data was used to inform a revised CSE Strategy and action plan which is being monitored by the CSE sub-group.

- The CSE pathway, assessment tool kit and practitioner guidance was revised to ensure clarity of role and responsibilities of Children's Social Care and partner agencies in relation to victims of CSE.
- Revised terms of reference for both the CSE sub-group and the CSE Panel.
- The CSE Panel is now much more strategic, as opposed to case focused, enabling the panel to pick up on trends, themes and links, as well as supporting prevention and disruption.
- Individual cases are now managed through the case management processes within the local authority.
- The revised Thresholds document references CSE and has been re-launched via briefing sessions.
- An intelligence form has been developed to ensure vital information is shared with the Police and CSE Panel.

Responding to Challenges

During the course of the year the SSCB has presented a number of challenges to partner agencies. Challenges provided to Shropshire Council and the responses are outlined below.

Shropshire Council were presented with a challenge from SSCB when two Health Visitors were removed from COMPASS on the basis that they could not access their electronic systems. SSCB was concerned that this would impact on the effectiveness of the domestic abuse triage and information sharing which was enhancing decision making. Following discussion with the Lead Commissioner in Public Health the issue was resolved with an IT solution being provided.

The SSCB Executive considered an assurance report from MAPPA which highlighted the risk whereby there is a culture in **Children's Services** to close cases at the point where an offender is sentenced to custody. This was of particular concern as some families choose to take children on prison visits and this is not always appropriate.

Children's Social Care acknowledged that on occasions it is appropriate that ongoing work is undertaken with a family even when the offender is sentenced to custody. Children's Social Care have not been made aware of any cases where it was felt that a child was being placed at risk by attending prison visits prior to the assurance report from MAPPA. No cases had been

raised or formally escalated via the SSCB escalation policy. A briefing has been issued to social workers regarding consideration of the appropriateness of prison visits and to ensure that clear guidance is provided to the parent or carer.

4. Conclusions

Evidence suggests that Shropshire agencies are generally effective in keeping children safe across Shropshire, and that more children and families are receiving help at an earlier stage. We have seen a significant reduction in the number of referrals to Children's Social Care as a result of ensuring that children and families receive early help to meet their needs. Overall, there is also a reduction in children within the child protection system. However, numbers of looked after children have increased by 3.9%, partly due to the emerging challenges of accommodating unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Further development in strengthening families through early help services should assist with keeping children safe and improving their wellbeing without recourse to child protection and looked after processes.

Performance measurement has demonstrated improvements in practice as a result of multi-agency audits and learning. An identified area for improvement and challenge to partner agencies is improved data collection and analysis.

The Board has begun to respond to findings from the Wood review of LSCBs and the new legislation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The SSCB Strategic Governance Group has begun to consider new local safeguarding arrangements, primarily with a review of the effectiveness of the SSCB Business Unit. The review has sought to streamline processes within both the LSCB and Adults Safeguarding Board Business Units by joining both units to maximize efficiencies and create more joined up working across safeguarding issues.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Councillor David Minnery
Local Member
Appendices Appendix A - SSCB Annual Report 2016-2017

