

## **Safeguarding & Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Thursday 12 September 2024**

### **Recommendations**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Consider the proposed amendments to the Committee’s work programme for 2024/25.

### **Report of the Scrutiny and Support Officer**

#### **Summary**

#### **Background**

1. The Safeguarding & Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutiny of safeguarding, education and SEND, and of community safety. In particular it will lead on ensuring effective accountability of safeguards in place and scrutiny of the Council’s work around:
  - a) safeguarding vulnerable children;
  - b) safeguarding vulnerable adults;
  - c) education;
  - d) SEND; and,
  - e) reducing crime and the fear of crime.
2. This Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the Council’s work to achieve its priority that Staffordshire offers every child and young person the best start in life, and the chance to achieve their potential.
3. This Overview and Scrutiny Committee also scrutinises the Council’s responsibilities regarding reducing crime and the fear of crime and wider Community Safety priorities. It acts as the Council’s designated crime and disorder committee, being distinct from the role of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel (who are responsible for scrutinising the decisions of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner) but to whom it may refer matters as appropriate.
4. As the committee will be responsible for priorities around education, learning and SEND, the statutory education co-optees will sit on this committee. Its membership will therefore include the following co-optees who shall have voting rights when the Committee considers education matters:



## Contact Details

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### Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Date	Item	Basis/ Theme /Details	Actions/ Outcomes	
<b>Thursday 13 June 2024 at 10.00am</b>	Work Programme Planning	Annual update of Work Programme	An informal work programme planning session will take place prior to the July meeting	
	Education key themes	Following changes to the Committee's remit to now include education, a presentation on the work of Education Teams and current key themes and issues will help inform work programme planning	The key themes raised with the O&S Committee will form part of their informal work programme planning session.	
	Children's Services Ofsted Improvement Plan	Having scrutinised the draft improvement plan at the April meeting this is an opportunity to consider the final improvement plan document, as agreed by partners and Ofsted.	<a href="https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50237007">https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50237007</a> As part of their informal work programme planning session the Committee will consider how they wish to monitor progress	
<b>Thursday 25 July 2024 at 10:00am</b>	Domestic Abuse Contract – 6 months on	To scrutinise the implementation of the new Domestic Abuse contract more than six months after its introduction	The Committee welcomed progress made over the five years of the previous contract period to support both adult and child victims and perpetrators of DA.	
	Resettlement Team	Item for pre-decision scrutiny (scheduled to be considered by Cabinet in September)	The O&S Committee welcomed the progress made by the Resettlement Team in respect of Government schemes. They congratulated the	

**Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

Date	Item	Basis/ Theme /Details	Actions/ Outcomes	
			Team on the changing reactive nature of the work which made longer term planning so difficult. Members were happy to endorse the approach to the Resettlement Team and wish to include further scrutiny on funding in comparison to workload in 12 to 18 months time.	
<b>Thursday 12 September 2024 at 10.00am</b>	Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	Report brought annually		
	Managing Self-Neglect	Proposed at the February Triangulation meeting.		
	Adult Safeguarding backlog reduction	Review of progress made, and the sustainability of, the recent actions to reduce the adult safeguarding concern backlog		
	Recommissioning of Children’s Community Support Framework inc Domiciliary Care	Item for pre-decision scrutiny		
<b>Tuesday 8 October 2024 at 10.00am</b>	SEND	To share the current position and scrutinise the process and preparation for inspection, looking at timelines, and what value scrutiny can add		

**Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Basis/ Theme /Details</b>	<b>Actions/ Outcomes</b>	
<b>Thursday 28 November 2024 at 10.00am</b>	Progress with implementation of the Children's Services Improvement Plan	Detailing progress and development with the implementation of the Improvement Plan		
	School attainment	Consideration of attainment in Staffordshire schools.		
	School absenteeism and exclusions	Consideration of the current absenteeism from Staffordshire schools, and the rise in the number of exclusions, considering the reasons for both of these and the work to address increases.		
<b>Thursday 9 January 2025 at 10.00am</b>	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adults Safeguarding Partnership Board – Annual Report			
	Adult Vulnerability Hub (adult MASH) performance data	Considering the new Adult MASH, development of its performance data and reporting mechanism for this		

<b>Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Basis/ Theme /Details</b>	<b>Actions/ Outcomes</b>	
<b>Thursday 20 February 2025 at 10.00am</b>	MASH review and adoption of a Staffordshire Children's Front Door			
	Progress with implementation of the Children's Services Improvement Plan	Detailing progress and development with the implementation of the Improvement Plan		
<b>Thursday 10 April 2025 at 10.00am</b>				

<b>Further Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Work</b>	
Working Groups	
Briefings received outside of Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Help Pilot Project in Stafford &amp; Lichfield</li> <li>• Academies &amp; the role of the Regional Schools Commissioner</li> <li>• ILACS governance table</li> </ul>
Items for future scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consideration of the Resettlement Team's funding in comparison to workload be included on the Committee's work programme in 12 to 18 months from their July 2024 meeting</li> </ul>
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime &amp; Disorder</li> <li>• Children Improvement Board, now called the SSCIB – Staffordshire Strategic Children's Improvement Board, dates for 2024 are: 29.05.24 , 26.06.24 , 31.07.24 , 25.09.24, 30.10.24 , 27.11.24 , 18.12.24</li> </ul>

**Membership**

Bob Spencer (Chairman)  
Gill Burnett-Faulkner (Vice Chairman - Overview)  
Paul Snape (Vice Chairman – Scrutiny)  
Janet England  
Ann Edgeller  
Julia Jessel  
Johnny McMahon  
Gillian Pardesi  
Kath Perry  
Conor Wileman  
Rev Prebendary Michael Metcalf (Co-optee)  
Steve Bell (Co-optee)