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### Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

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**Time and Date**

2.30 pm on Thursday, 21st July, 2022

**Place**

Diamond Rooms 1 and 2 - Council House

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**Public Business**

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**
2. **Declarations of Interests**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 10)
  - a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2022
  - b) Matters Arising
4. **Overview of Education and Children's Services** (Pages 11 - 50)  
Briefing note and presentation
5. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues** (Pages 51 - 56)  
Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator (attached)
6. **Any Other Business**  
Any other items of business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

**Private Business**

Nil

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Julie Newman, Director of Law and Governance, Council House, Coventry

Wednesday, 13 July 2022

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Carolyn Sinclair Email: [carolyn.sinclair@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:carolyn.sinclair@coventry.gov.uk)

Membership: Councillors F Abbott, P Akhtar, J Blundell, B Gittins (By Invitation), S Hanson, J Innes (Chair), S Keough, A Masih, K Sandhu (By Invitation), P Seaman (By Invitation), R Thay, CE Thomas and A Tucker

**Public Access**

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**Carolyn Sinclair****Email: [carolyn.sinclair@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:carolyn.sinclair@coventry.gov.uk)**

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)**  
**held at 10.30 am on Thursday, 17 March 2022**

Present:

Members: Councillor J Innes (Chair)  
Councillor P Akhtar  
Councillor J Blundell  
Councillor S Keough  
Councillor R Simpson  
Councillor CE Thomas  
Councillor A Tucker

Co-Opted Members: Mrs S Hanson  
Mrs K Jones

Invited: D Benson - Independent Chair of the Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership

R Sprotson - General Manager for Family Health at South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT)

Employees (by Directorate):

Children's Services	J Gregg (Director) R Eaves, P Smith, S Watson
Law and Governance	G Holmes, M Rose
Public Health	H Nagra

Apologies: Councillor F Abbott and R Thay  
Councillor P Seaman (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)  
Councillor Gittins (Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

## **Public Business**

### **25. Declarations of Interests**

There were no disclosable interests.

### **26. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Further to Minute 21/21 the Board were thankful that the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) Funding had been extended and would be available over the Easter school holidays.

## 27. **Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2020-2021**

The Scrutiny Board considered a briefing note and Annual Report of the Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) 2020-2021. The Board welcomed the Independent Chair of the Partnership, Mr Benson and the Partnership Business Manager, Rebekah Eaves.

The briefing note recognised that Working Together 2018 stated ‘In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including information on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

Mr Benson noted in the report that it had been a unique year, with the challenges of the pandemic adding to what was already a very demanding safeguarding agenda. Partner agencies had seen an increase in need for their services and in many cases, there had also been heightened levels of complexity. The Safeguarding Partners; Police, Health and the Local Authority had worked well, liaising with other agencies to respond quickly and effectively to an evolving situation. He had witnessed timely information sharing, co-ordinated responses and decisive leadership. The report provided updates on the work of the CSCP, progress against priorities and areas where more work was needed. It also highlighted where learning had been identified and implemented and whether that emerged from the audit programme or from reviews. He recognised that 2021/22 would continue to present challenges as the effects of the pandemic were still relevant, but the partnership in Coventry would work effectively together to help safeguard and protect the children and young people of the city.

The report detailed:

- Local context
- About Coventry Safeguarding Children’s Partnership
- Progress against priorities
- Child Exploitation Indicator tool
- Neglect conference
- Local Authority Designated Officer
- Signs of Safety
- Right help right time
- Quality Assurance
- Learning from Reviews
- Training
- Safeguarding Together Action Group
- Voice of the child

The Board questioned those present, received responses, and discussed the following:

- The next Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Annual Report 2021-2022
- The benefits of a glossary in future reports
- The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub function review and partners systems sharing information

- Strengthening safeguarding and increasing awareness across the community including training Taxi Drivers, Hotel Staff and Housing Providers operating in the City
- The Child Exploitation Project Manager infographics in relation to Cuckooing
- Praise for all those who continued the commitment to improve during challenging times

The Board also recorded thanks and best wishes to Paul Smith the Strategic Lead for Looked After Children on hearing about his retirement.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:**

- 1) **note the content of the report and thank the officers and the Safeguarding Partnership Chair**
- 2) **request that**
  - a. **a glossary be added to the 2021-22 report and this be circulated to members**
  - b. **that the officers and relevant elected Members promote the priority Coventry give to essential safeguarding training regarding criminal and sexual exploitation for taxi drivers to neighbouring authorities.**

**28. Family Health and Lifestyle Services Annual Report 2020-2021**

The Scrutiny Board considered a joint briefing note and Annual Report of the Family Health and Lifestyle Services 2020-2021. The Family Health and Lifestyles Service was commissioned by Coventry City Council and was provided by South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT). The Board welcomed Rachel Sprotson, General Manager for Family Health at SWFT, who joined officers for the discussion.

The following services were integrated on 1st September 2018; Health Visiting, School Nursing, Be Active Be Healthy, Family Nurse Partnership, Stop Smoking in Pregnancy, Infant Feeding and MAMTA (offering support to BAME families ante-natally and postnatally). The third year had focused on continuing to deliver an excellent service to children and families in an adapted way, due to the challenges of COVID. The service had also continued to take the opportunity to innovate, particularly through launching an increased digital offer to families and adapt to the changing needs of communities. The report detailed key achievements in 2020/21 and priorities for 2021/22. The service aimed to give every child the best start in life ensuring there was an even greater focus on service provision to those with more health inequalities in Coventry.

The Board questioned those present, received responses, and discussed the following:

- The National Child Measurement Programme and the 'Map Me' research project
- Levels of breastfeeding across the city and national comparisons.
- Promoting breastfeeding at hospitality venues in the City and links with partners to enable this to happen.

- Work being done to support new fathers and how dads are being targeted by health partners with key parenting messages
- Improvements in the availability of health inequality data to enable targeting on a ward level

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:**

- 1) **note the content of the report and thanked the officers and partners delivering the Services**
- 2) **support links between the Family Health and Lifestyle Service, Trading Standards and Environmental Health regarding suitable areas to breastfeed in the City**
- 3) **request a report next year on the health inequalities data and ‘Map Me’ research project**

**29. Children's Services Continuous Improvement Progress**

The Scrutiny Board considered a report of the Director of Children’s Services which detailed the progress with the Children’s Services Improvement Journey over the last twelve months.

Ofsted re-inspected Children’s Services on 6th - 30th March 2017, the outcome of the inspection was published on 13th June 2017, Children’s Services were judged as “requires improvement to be good”. The Board had received reports regularly since this time detailing the continuous progress. Children’s Services Continuous Improvement was transferred to Coventry Safeguarding Children’s Partnership as approved by the Children’s Services Continuous Improvement Executive Group on 28th October 2020. The new arrangements were effective from 1st April 2021, the governance in place would ensure that Children’s Services continuous improvement remained a political priority. Board members would continue to receive reports on Children’s Services continuous improvement and progress on an annual basis.

In March 2020, Ofsted paused inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Children’s Services was anticipating a standard Inspection by September 2020. Ofsted published their interim plans to reflect the COVID-19 context for a phased return to routine inspections which commenced from September 2020. The interim visits were paused again during the November 2020 lockdown. On 5 January 2021 a further national lockdown was announced. Ofsted confirmed that interim assurance focused visits would be undertaken during the national lockdown period commencing from February 2021. The interim focused visit, (COVID-19 assurance) was undertaken on 12 and 13 May 2021. Interim focused visits differed from the usual focused visits in that they had a broader scope with a particular focus on the quality of decision making for children. The letter confirming the outcome was published on 25th June 2021. Three areas were identified for improvement. Children’s Services was likely to be re-inspected by Ofsted (Standard ILACS) Inspection in 2022.

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive continued to give public commitment that Children’s Services remained a key priority for the Council. This included prioritising funding for Children’s Services to maintain its capacity to

improve. The Council, alongside partner organisations continued a relentless focus on securing improvements in services for children, young people and families to ensure they were safeguarded and achieved positive outcomes.

The Children's Services Strategic Plan and Journey to Excellence September 2019- September 2022, outlined the improvement journey and the significant progress achieved by working with partners to improve practice, sustain the workforce, reduce reliance on agency staff, in delivering service changes. The service continued to work closely with its partners to focus on achieving good outcomes for children. The overarching strategic priorities included a sustainable workforce, improving the quality of front-line practice and partnership working. The Children's Services Strategic Plan would be refreshed in April 2022, embedding Coventry Family Valued relational restorative work with children and families and highlighting the significant progress against continuous improvement /transformation service changes and the aspirations for the future.

The report also detailed:

- Children's Services COVID-19 Journey
- Workforce update
- The Coventry House Project
- Coventry Family Valued Programme
- Ofsted Areas for Improvement Action Plan

The report explained that Coventry had a positive story to tell, the Director of Children's Services was passionate about improving services for children; with strong, timely and effective political and corporate support; with a strong leadership team working with partners to drive improvements and work with families to embed Coventry Family Valued in Coventry. Coventry wanted all children and young people in the city to achieve the best possible outcomes. The pressure of numbers of children looked after, and lack of local placement availability, had made it challenging to the service. Embedding Coventry Family Valued was significant to improvements, and the impact and opportunities it brought would strengthen Children's Services. In the lead up to the Ofsted Inspection, the Children's Services Leadership team and extended Leadership team continued to work together to drive forward practice improvements and services changes. There was explicit intention to ensure that Children's Services reached a position where it was continuously achieving good outcomes for the Children of Coventry.

The Board questioned officers, received responses, and discussed the following:

- Increased demand on the workforce and the need to recruit agency staff
- The involvement of schools in the Family Valued Programme
- The process for Family Group Conferencing and the effectiveness of the intervention
- The funding to continue the success of the House Project in future years
- Social Worker caseloads compared over time, with other local authorities and whether they were at an acceptable level
- Children's Homes in Coventry

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:**

- 1) note the current progress**

- 2) request the Annual Report on Family Group Conferencing be shared with Members
- 3) An Update on the Coventry Family Valued Programme and the House Project be added to the work programme

30. **Co-opted Members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)**

The Scrutiny Board considered a briefing note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator regarding Co-opted Membership and proposed changes to the Constitution being considered at Council on 22nd March 2022.

The report noted that Kellie Jones had been a co-opted member of the Scrutiny Board responsible for Education matters since 3rd July 2012. In December she resigned from the Board having been an active member since her appointment.

The constitution provided detail on the co-opted members of the scrutiny board that considered education matters. Part 2D and in particular, paragraph 6 was concerned with education representatives as detailed below:

“6. Education Representatives

6.1 The Scrutiny Board responsible for Education matters will include the following:-

- (a) One person nominated by the Church of England.
- (b) One person nominated by the Roman Catholic Church.
- (c) One parent governor elected by the parent governors in the City in respect of the Primary phase of education.
- (d) One parent governor elected by the parent governors in the City in respect of the Secondary phase of education.
- (e) One representative from other faith groups in the City

6.2 Such appointees, with the exception for the time being of the representative appointed under 6.1(e) above, may speak and vote on education issues only, but may speak on other issues.

6.3 They will also be invited to attend the meetings of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee (if it is considering a call-in on an educational matter) and of other Scrutiny Boards (if education matters are to be considered at those meetings) and may speak, but not vote upon those matters.”

The Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001 set out detailed provisions for Parent Governor Representatives (PGR's) including that they had voting rights, their term of office must be a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 4 years and we must appoint at least 2 and a maximum of 5 PGRs. Where a PGR ceased to be a parent governor because their term of office at the school had expired, they were not disqualified from continuing as a PGR but this would only be for the term of their appointment as a PGR.

Part 2D of the Constitution, in particular, paragraph 6 regarding education representatives and the Constitution divided the PGRs into primary and secondary



representatives. There was also nothing in the Constitution about what the term of office was which was required under the legislation. There were now no maintained secondary schools left in the city and the number of maintained primary schools was also greatly reduced. The most up-to-date version of this legislation had been checked and it was confirmed that the position remained the same and reference was only made to maintained schools but there was no stipulation that there must be a separate primary and secondary school PGR. As the number of maintained schools reduced and especially as there were now no maintained secondary schools left in Coventry, it was proposed that changes to the Constitution be made to remove the requirement for there to be a separate primary and secondary school PGR, in addition to the insertion of a four-year term of office. The proposal had been discussed by the Constitutional Advisory Group and would be presented to the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities prior to Council considering a recommendation to this effect at its meeting on 22nd March 2022.

In keeping with the legislation in this area and to reflect the fact that Coventry now had no maintained secondary schools, under Part 2D – Functions of Scrutiny, paragraph 6: Education Representatives the proposed changes to the parent governor representatives (PGR's) were:

- i. a four year term of office; and
- ii. removal of the requirement for a parent governor representative from both a maintained primary and secondary school in the city (instead introducing a requirement for a generic parent governor who could technically be from any maintained school)

In order to address the current vacancies, the scrutiny team would be liaising with colleagues in Education Services to recruit school governors, as well as groups and networks that could identify suitable representatives for the Board.

The Board discussed:

- the legislation
- changes to the current membership
- the great value Co-opted members bring to the Board including Education insight and a consistent commitment to challenge and support the Children's Services improvement journey
- concern about the regulation which restricted Co-opted Members from voting on non-education issues, due to the way Education matters were intrinsically linked to Children's Services matters.
- the appreciation for the valuable contributions made by Kellie Jones over a number of years, who's insight and expertise at meetings of the Board and Task and Finish Groups was outstanding.

**RESOLVED that the Board:**

- 1) note the proposed changes to the Constitution**
- 2) thank their Co-opted Member, Kellie Jones, for her valuable contribution to the work of the Board over the last 10 years.**
- 3) document concern about the regulation which restricted Co-opted Members from voting on non-education issues due to the way education matters were intrinsically linked to Children's Services matters.**

31. **Work Programme**

The Work Programme was noted and Members requested an item on the new Education White Paper be added to the work programme.

**RESOLVED that the work programme be updated**

32. **Any Other Business**

Vote of Thanks

Councillor Blundell on behalf of the Board thanked Councillor Innes for Chairing the Board for this Municipal Year.

(Meeting closed at 12.50 pm)



Coventry City Council

## Briefing note

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**To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022**

**Subject: Overview of Education and Children's Services**

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### **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To introduce a presentation on the service priorities of both Education and Children's Services, to support the Board in identifying work programme items for the municipal year 2022-23

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
  - 1) Consider the content of the presentation attached at Appendix 1
  - 2) Identify any further questions for officers and Cabinet Members
  - 3) Identify any areas the Board would like to consider in more detail for the work programme or as task and finish groups

### **3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 At the beginning of the municipal year, each scrutiny board can make suggestions for items to be added to the work programme, as well as areas to look at in more depth as task and finish groups.
- 3.2 The services that the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) cover are those within the portfolios of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 provides a presentation containing more detail on these services which each Director will present at the meeting.
- 3.4 Members of the Board will be able to question officers and the Cabinet Members in order to identify areas to consider in more detail for the work programme or as task and finish groups

Gennie Holmes  
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# Children's Services and Education and Skills

## Overview of focus and priorities for the year ahead

### Scrutiny Board 2

21 July 2022



# Wider context – Children’s Services, Education and Skills



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- Post-Covid system recovery
- Funding – implications of National Fair Funding, significant pressure on High Needs/ Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Government Schools White Paper (Opportunity for All) - school improvement, behaviour, attendance, academisation, Local Authority established Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs), Education Investment Areas)
- Government Green Paper: SEND Review: Right Support, right place, right time – consultation, context of nationally challenged SEND system
- Skills for Jobs White Paper
- Levelling up White Paper
- Independent Care Review
- Changes to inspection frameworks alongside ongoing inspection

# One Coventry Plan

2021-2030



Increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region



Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities



Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change



Continued financial sustainability of the Council



Council's role as a partner, enabler, and leader

# Our vision

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As champions of children:

- Successful partnership working enables children, young people and adults to access high quality education and learning, develop resilience, make positive life choices and contribute to a vibrant Coventry city
- Lift the cloud of limitation for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and enable their entitlement to an ordinary life
- Working to ensure that Coventry is a place where children and families matter and are valued and are at the heart of everything we do



# Our Vision 2019-2022

## One Coventry: together children and families are at the heart of everything we do

1

**Children are at the heart of everything we do**



Children and young people are involved as key partners in planning and decision making and help us to shape services.

We will work with children, young people and their families with openness and honesty to ensure we hear their views.

Our approach allows children and young people to receive help and support that makes a difference to their lives and allows families to be empowered.

The outcomes we achieve for children and young people compare favourably with high performing local authorities.



Children's Services

2

**Working with children and families and services around them**



We aim to deliver top class early help services, to optimise prospects for the best start in life for all children and young people.

We provide excellent help and support to our families. We work with them to understand the skills they have and need to raise their children in a loving, happy, healthy and safe environment, which enables them to become confident and responsible adults.

We listen to what our children and families say and build our support around them to enable families to remain together whenever possible.

When children and young people cannot remain with their families, they are able to live in or near to Coventry in the most appropriate placement to meet their needs.

3

**High quality child centred effective services that are reflective and responsive to change**



We deliver high quality, child centred, effective help and support to children and young people, their parents/carers and family at the right time and in the right way.

Our services reflect and respond to the changing needs of Coventry's diverse population of children, young people and their families.

Our quality assurance and reflective learning provides evidence of continuous improvements.

4

**Our One Coventry approach**

**ONE  
COVENTRY**

We are committed to One Coventry working with our partners and communities to ensure that our residents get the very best that the city can offer.

Our partnerships are mature, trusting and effective at both strategic and operational level. In our partnership work, the focus remains on the child or young person.

We have arrangements with our partners and communities that mean we can adapt and be dynamic in our response to emerging issues/need at strategic and individual level.

We are fully engaged with partners who share our vision and actively contribute to enhance the local authority offer.

5

**Committed sustainable workforce**



Our workforce is stable, skilled, motivated and committed to delivering excellent services to children and young people in Coventry.

We have a confident leadership team, with staff having confidence in leaders and feeling trusted and empowered to make decisions and are confident and clear about their role and accountability.

Social work practice will flourish.

We are recognised as a centre for excellence.



# Coventry City Education Partnership

As champions of children:

Successful partnership working enables children, young people and adults to access high quality education and learning, develop resilience, make positive life choices and contribute to a vibrant Coventry city.

Lift the cloud of limitation for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability and enable their entitlement to an ordinary life.



Children and Young People and their families at the heart of everything we do

Strength in partnership – cultural change from client to co-deliverers

Open and transparent

Collective moral purpose and accountability

Co-design and production

High quality demand-led services

High quality, committed work force with relevant skill set

Efficient & effective, value for money, outcome driven

# Children's Services

## Overview – main areas of responsibility



- Early Help
- Family hubs
- MASH
- Youth Justice
- Children in Need
- Child Protection
- Looked after children
- Fostering
- Adoption
- Children's Homes
- Care Leavers
- Participation
- Safeguarding Partnership
- Risk Management
- Prevent
- LA Designated Officer
- Commissioning
- Professional Support

- Family Valued project
- Reunification project
- House project
- FGC
- LifeLong Links
- Adolescent support project

*Statutory basis: Children Act 1989, Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Adoption and Children Act 2002, Children Act 2004, Education and Inspections Act 2006, Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Children and Young People Act 2008, Equality Act 2010, Children and Families Act 2014, Care Standards Act 2000*

## Overview – main areas of responsibility

### Statutory

- School Improvement
- Early Years sufficiency
- Looked After Children (Education)
- Elective Home Education
- Alternative Provision (inc. Pupil Referral Unit, Hospital Education)
- Library Service
- SEND (statutory assessment & review, Information & Advice Services, Early Years)
- School Organisation (Admissions, Pupil Place Planning)
- Assessment & Moderation
- Early Career Teacher Appropriate Body
- Adult Education
- School attendance and exclusions
- Ethnic Minority Achievement

### Traded

- Outdoor Education Service
- Coventry Music
- Governor Support Services
- Work Related Learning
- SEND support services
- Coventry Interpretation
- School Attendance
- Ethnic Minority Achievement

### Other provision

- Employment and Skills provision
- Holiday Activities and Food Programme

*Statutory basis: Education Act 1996, School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Education Act 2002, Education and Inspections Act 2006, Children and Families Act 2014*

# Children's Services– what we do



- Deliver **Early Help** on a multi agency basis including health partners, police, education and a variety of other services to ensure that families can access services at each family hub and receive targeted support through family intervention.
- Work effectively in **collaboration with partners** to provide a coordinated approach and support better outcomes for children and families.
- Offer **support and advice** to professionals and the public who have concerns regarding a child, young person, or a family through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- Identify children in need of **help and protection**.
- Encourage a **learning culture** through monthly interface meeting between social work teams and Early Help to generate ideas for best practice and learning from referrals. Re- referrals have reduced as a result of these.
- Co-ordinate and deliver an **out of hours emergency response** for people in Coventry

# Children's Services– what we do



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Undertake thorough **child protection enquiries** which lead to timely action and reduce the risk of harm for children. The vast majority of child social work assessments (84%) and Section 47 enquiries (98%) completed in 2021 were within timescale. Both over the national and statistical neighbour average.

- Work in a timely manner to **support children and families**. in 2021, 90% of child protection conference were completed within 15 days of a strategy discussion and 96% resulted in a child protection plan.
- Set expectations in the Social Work Academy to **support consistency** in practice.
- Embed a **strengths- based approach** to interventions with children and families.
- **Manage allegations** against professionals to ensure that these are addressed swiftly and proportionately.

# Children's Services– what we do



- Complete regular auditing, dip sampling, practice observations and moderation and review of Quality Assurance checklists. The senior leadership team and Lead Member for Children and Young People undertake quarterly Quality Assurance visits and twice-yearly Service Performance Reviews.
- Co-ordinate a programme of activity to support the participation of children and young people in designing services and incorporating their views.
- Utilise technology such as the **Mind of My Own** and **Leaving Well** apps to allow children and young people to participate and engage in their planning and relationships in the way that suits them.
- Promote an **advocacy service** where children in care and those subject to a child protection plan are offered an advocate and opt out rather than opt in. Advocacy is also available to children who are generally working with Children's Services.
- Use **feedback from families** to develop and improve services.
- **Tailor interventions** to best suit the needs of the child or young person.

# Children's Services– what we do



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**Coventry FDAC** (Family Drug and Alcohol Court) team provides support for families where one or more parent suffers from substance or alcohol abuse.

- Provide a **multi- faceted response to domestic abuse** referrals in the MASH and a dedicated workstream as part of the Coventry Family Valued programme to support sustained change to reduce and avoid repeat child protection plans.
- Work closely with **children and families with disabilities** to ensure they can access the right support for them.
- Prioritise **contextual safeguarding** to address the prevalence of gang affiliations and knife crime affecting young people in Coventry.
- Ensure **oversight of children who go missing from care** to ensure that they receive a well-coordinated response to reduce the risk of harm.
- Act as a **committed corporate parent** to support children who are looked after and care leavers.



# Children's Services– what we do



- Offer a **strong Edge of Care** service which means that children only come into care when it is in their best interests to do so.
- Ensure that children are not subject to S20 legal status inappropriately through **robust oversight of Legal Planning and the new Admissions Panel**.
- **Prioritise reunification** where it is in the young person's best interest through a dedicated Reunification team.
- Encourage children and young people to participate in their reviews so that their wishes and feelings are at the centre of planning.
- Provide a **strong participation offer** for looked after children who are encouraged to participate in the design of services and provide feedback. There are four key young people led groups which they can be involved with.
- **Celebrate the achievements** of our children and support them with education, employment or training.

# Children's Services– what we do



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Deliver new **Tier 2 Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service**, recommission **LAC CAMHS** service, redesign of **Speech and Language service**.

- Manage external relationships with **placement providers** with regular contact and **quality assurance visits**.
- Continue the **growth and development of Coventry's Fostering** service to ensure that more Coventry children can be placed with Coventry foster carers.
- Support young people until they are 25. Young people work with their Personal Advice (PA) until they choose to end the relationship.
- Oversee living arrangements of young people placed in **supported accommodation** to ensure that this arrangement meets their needs.
- Commitment to a **strong safeguarding partnership** to ensure that there are effective safeguarding systems to deliver the best outcomes for children and families in the city.

# Education and Skills – what we do



- Lead and provide the enabling infrastructure for **Coventry's education system** of early years providers, 116 schools (primary, secondary and special) and 2 FE Colleges with over 58,400 children – Coventry Family of Schools and work in partnership with schools to **deliver improved education standards**
- Manage **external relationships** on behalf of LA/Coventry schools (Department for Education, Ofsted, Regional Schools Commissioner)
- Work in partnership with other local authorities to **share good practice** – including co-ordination of the West Midlands Education, SEND and Skills network
- Ensure there are **sufficient quality nursery places** for early years' children and that these are taken up. c.1,100 2-year-old funded claims, c.5,100 3 and 4 year-old universal 15 hours claims, c.2,000 3 and 4 year-old 30 hours claims

Work with schools and external stakeholders to enable **sufficient school places** for Coventry pupils, establishing robust future projections to ensure all available section 106 contributions and grants are fully maximised.

# Education and Skills – what we do



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Oversee, plan and delivery of Coventry's £105m **education capital programme** for maintained schools including SEN and Alternative provision through the One Strategic Plan approach.

- Co-ordinate the **annual admissions processes** for entry into Coventry primary and (c.4,500 children) secondary schools (c.4,300 children) annually and in-year primary (c.2,600) and secondary (c.1,300)
- Work with schools and families to improve and **maximise attendance** and **inclusive practice** including supported transfers, reduction in exclusion practice and use of early intervention bespoke packages
- Deliver Alternative Education provision through the Coventry Extended Learning Centre provision including (school), Work-Related Learning activities (circa 160 pupils) and the Hospital Education and Outreach Service

# Education and Skills – what we do



- Identity children residing in the area who are not receiving suitable education - **Children Missing Education** and provide challenge/support
- Oversee schools approach to **keep children safe** in Education
- Manage the **statutory assessment process** (Education, Health and Care plans) for over 2,700 children with Special Educational Needs – new plans and annual reviews
- Deliver a wide range of **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities support** (Education Psychology, Social, Mental Health, Sensory and Complex Communication) to schools for children with special educational needs
- Oversee delivery of **travel assistance support** for eligible children and young people (including eligible children with Special Educational Needs)
- **Schools buy-in** £4.1m of education services from the local authority

# Education and Skills – what we do



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- Oversee and promote **quality education provision** for 454 **looked after children** per annum through the “Virtual School” including enrichment activities, support for additional needs and challenge on progress and attainment targets
- Provide focused support for newly arrived children into Coventry schools through the **Ethnic Minority Achievement** service.
- Co-ordinate the **Early Careers Framework**
- Oversee work with young people who **are Not in Employment, Education and Training**

# Education and Skills – what we do



- Lead an inclusive, high quality **Coventry Music** education offer for Coventry students across a diverse range of genres and styles. This enables over 4,200 children to benefit from weekly music provision (over 31% FSM and over 23% SEN).
- Deliver c.38,000 outdoor education session per year through our **Outdoor Education** provision at **Plas Dol-y-moch**, development of **Coventry (in-city) provision** and bespoke enrichment activities for various groups including vulnerable learners
- Provide **Governor Support services** to c.105 schools including generic and bespoke training package
- Lead and co-ordinate the **Coventry Holiday Activities and Food** programme benefitting over 2,000 children and families

CPAG (**Child Poverty Action Group**) – cost of the school day (poverty proofing work)

# Education and Skills – what we do



Page 22  
Offer learning opportunities for adults and young people aged 16 and over via **Adult Education Service** with over 4,000 learners a year. This offer includes:

- Accredited and non-accredited learning in a wide range of subject areas, provision from beginners to Level 5; Study programmes; Apprenticeships (including developing apprenticeships for young disabled people with Warwickshire County Council); Family Learning, working with schools in areas of highest need;
- Pre-Employment Training (PET) via Sector-Based Work Academy Programme (SWAPs) and Sector Gateways (short programmes developed for employers with guaranteed interviews to fill vacancies); classroom based, Online and Workplace learning;
- Developing new Step into Work alternative SEND provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) – study programme with additional employment support;
- Expanding our Changing Futures Together Supported Internship Programme for young people with SEND, with an EHCP. Employers include Coventry City Council, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, CVLife, Riverbank Academy and University of Warwick.



# Education and Skills – what we do



Lead the **Coventry skills agenda** including:

- Leading skills strategy development across the city
- Leading on the Council's approach to secure UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funds for People and Skills priorities Managing Coventry's flagship Job Shop and creating a Hub & Spoke model to continue our community place-based delivery model
- Delivering the remaining £14m of European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) grant programmes with partners across the city, working with young people and adults to address barriers to work;
- Creating effective pathways to good quality jobs for Coventry's most vulnerable residents.
- Challenging and supporting local employers to develop and offer good quality jobs for local people;

# Impact: Referrals and CP Plans



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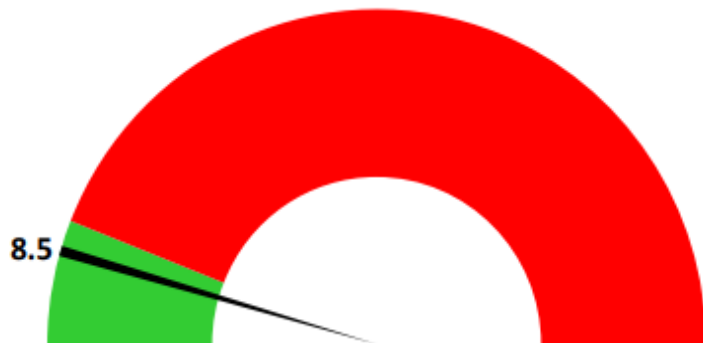
% Repeat Child Protection Plans- within 2 years

YTD

6.0%

Rolling Average

8.5%



Target

12%

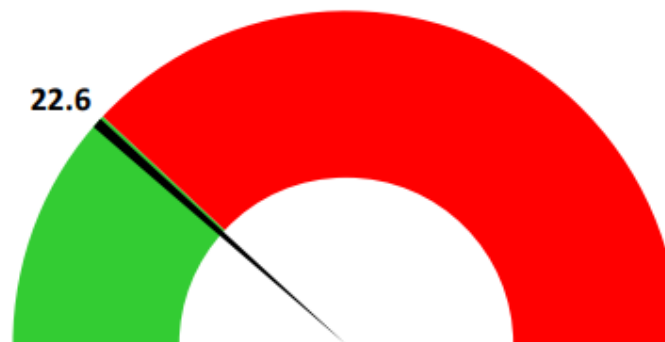
% Re-Referrals (Referrals started within 12 months of a previous Referral start date)

YTD

22.6%

Rolling Average

23.7%

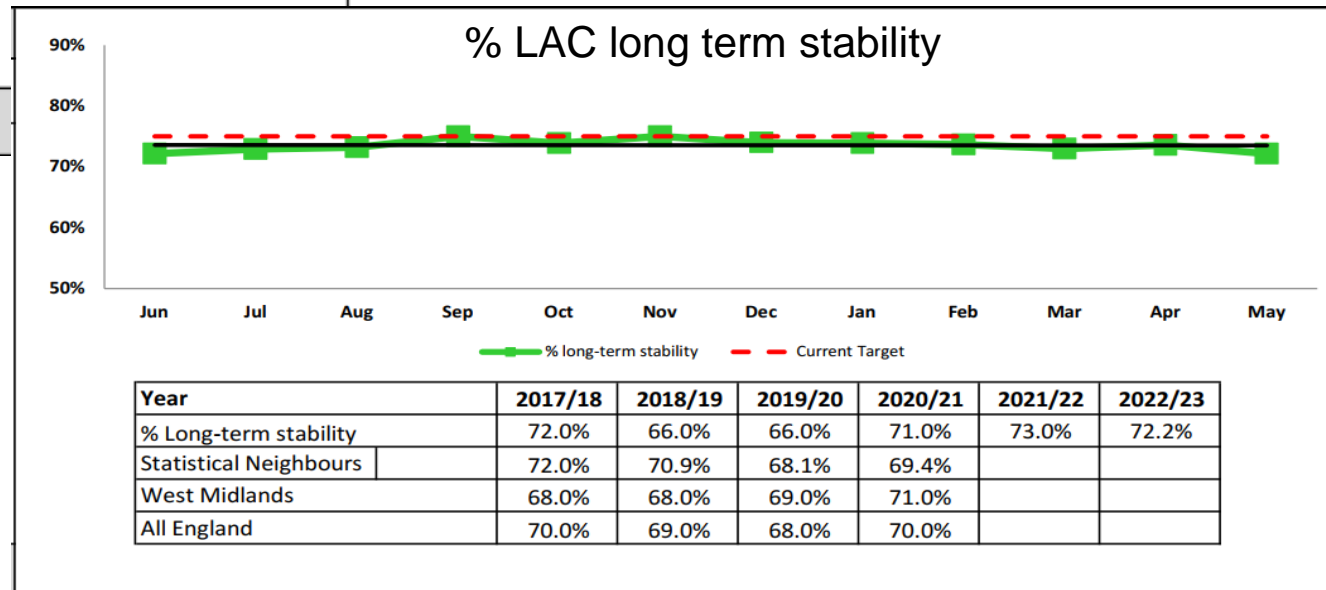
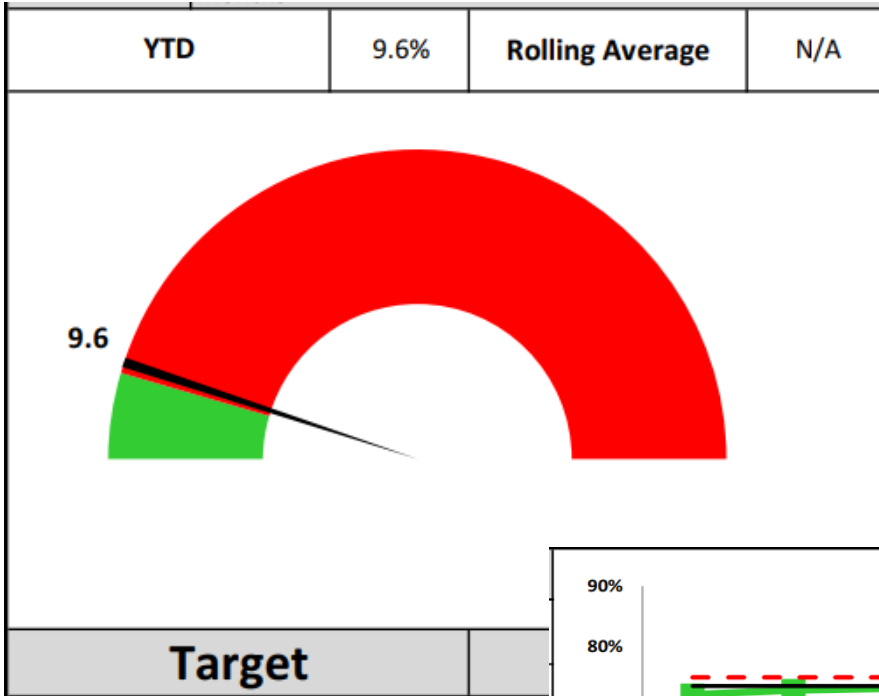


Target

24%

# Impact: Looked after children

% LAC with 3 or more placements in the previous 12 months



# Impact: Coventry Ofsted Profile



## Proportion of pupils attending good or outstanding schools (as at 1/7/22)

Phase	City %	Statistical neighbours (SN)	National
Early Years*	98.6%	Above SN (97.1%)	Above national (97.6%)
Primary	91.4%	Below SN (91.7%)	Below national (91.8%)
Secondary	86.4%	Above SN (81.6%)	Above national (85.7%)
Special	78.6%	Below SN (87.6%)	Below national (94.1%)
Overall	89.2%	Above SN (87.6%)	Above national (89.3%)

*\*Statistical neighbours and national figures are, as at 31/08/21. Note latest city % is 98.7% (as at end of Spring Term).*

# Help and Protection Priorities 2022/23



- Continue the development of pre proceeding work
- Develop a pathway across Early Help and Help & Protection for unborn babies
- Strengthen response to children identified at risk of exploitation
- Grow Family Group Conferencing offer across the whole service
- Strengthen the response to 16 & 17 year olds presenting as homeless
- Improve recording on children's case records that align with relational practice and Coventry Family Valued
- Improve the quality of supervision and ensure records reflect the wealth and depth of conversations
- Establish mechanisms for maximising claims against supporting Families Programme

# Looked After Children and Permanence Priorities 2022/23



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- Growth of Next Steps Fostering specialist scheme alongside continued stability for children in placement
- Promotion of permanence through improved special guardianship offer
- Continued promotion of permanence through long term fostering
- Improved timeliness of children moving to adoptive families once the court makes a placement order
- Improved performance for adopting black and ethnic minority children
- Development of new specialist homes for children with disabilities
- Consider placement sufficiency in light of challenges and recommendations in CMA report
- Review and further develop local offer for care leavers
- Further development of House Project

# Quality Assurance, Commissioning and Partnership Priorities 2022/23



- Sufficiency – ongoing work both with developing internal provision and to engage with external providers to develop cost effective good quality placements for our most vulnerable children and young people.
- Coventry Safeguarding Children’s Partnership: - three priorities: Child Sexual abuse, Exploitation and Making the system work.
- Support children & young people, where appropriate, to challenge issues impacting them and to get involved with young people led groups to inform policy and practice.
- Support the involvement of children and young people as trained inspectors of services they access (Young Inspectors).
- Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service – maintain effective relationships with children in care and care leavers; ensuring children in care achieve permanence and have their needs meet.
- Child Protection (CP) Chair Service – establish and embed a restorative/relational model of child protection conference arrangements.
- Family Group Conference Service - further increase and embed Family Group Conference provision and opportunity for families to address unmet need within their extended families and friend networks at the earliest point.
- Risk Management Team – LADO awareness training with partners, Safeguarding in Education (SIE) - development and expansion of training package and safeguarding audit service to schools. Prevent have a clear understanding of current national and local risks regarding extremism and terrorism, partners and LA are clear how to make a referral and how to access support.

# Workforce Priorities 2022/23

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- Explore further innovative recruitment and retention initiatives to increase the supply of experience social workers and additional benefits to retain experienced social workers to address the current workforce issues
- Evaluating the impact of the Social Work Academy has had upon the establishment and workforce position to plan for the future of the Social Work Academy to support the workforce stability through a permanent workforce
- To further assess the impact on retention and quality of practice as student's progress on "grow our own" programmes through their social work career
- Strengthen further the career development pathways from years 2-3 and years 3-4 to further support retention and stabilisation of a more experienced workforce
- Embedding an inclusive and engaging culture alongside Coventry Family Valued
- A robust training offer for all staff and foster carers
- A comprehensive wellbeing offer for all staff



# Coventry Family Valued Priorities 2022/23



- An evaluation took place at the end of year one to inform priorities in year two
- Share and celebrate progress
- Continue to strengthen culture, relationships and joint working
- Improve practice around identifying and engaging families from the earliest contact and in assessment and plans
- Improving use of FGCs and family led decision-making
- Expansion of the reunification project
- Ensuring that we can reach a sustainable position

## Priorities: 2021/22

*Our Coventry Education Partnership Priorities for 2021/22 included the following. These are reviewed every year and will be reviewed moving into 2022/23. For 2022/23 there be a particular focus on behaviour and attendance.*

- Further develop the **Coventry Education Partnership** to enable successful and effective:
  - induction and support for new headteachers
  - succession planning
  - school-to-school support that impacts positively on school improvement
- Using a range of **attendance** strategies ensure all pupils are motivated to achieve high levels of school attendance so that educational inequalities are reduced
- Ensure that **early years** practitioners working with children and professionals supporting families are resilient well trained, knowledgeable and confident to deliver high quality services
- Develop children and young people's **mental and physical health and wellbeing** so that they develop confidence, resilience and independence

# Coventry Education Partnership

## Priorities: 2021/22



- Develop and embed a broad, equitable and well-planned **curriculum** that enables pupils to take advantage of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- Ensure that curriculum planning:
  - accounts for delays and gaps in learning as a result of Covid-19
  - is sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before and towards its clearly defined end points
  - allows reading to be prioritised so that pupils are able to access the full curriculum offer
- Be ambitious for **children and young people with SEND** and effective in the provision that we make for them so that their educational outcomes improve across all key stages, including in the early years
- Develop an environment in which pupils **feel safe**, and in which bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual violence – online or offline – are not accepted and are dealt with quickly, consistently and effectively whenever they occur

- Pandemic recovery
- Continued maintenance and improvement of Ofsted profile
- Early Years – embed 0-5 strategy
- Early Years Quality to impact on Good Level of Development (GLD) and school readiness
- School violence reduction
- SEND strategy – Green paper impact
- Out of sight pupils – focus on attendance
- Development of outcome Education and in-city offer

# Achievements



- Continued strengthening of school to school support, through school improvement partnerships (Primary and Special Networks and Secondary Collaborative)
- Continued maintenance of OFSTED profile
- Return to assessment – Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, 2022
- Post pandemic support for Early Years – school readiness and SEND
- Establishment of the Holiday Activities and Food programme across Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays within a short timeframe
- Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) – cost of the school day
- Extension of Free School Meal (FSM) holiday vouchers to include (Early Years Pupil Premium Plus)
- Sufficiency of additional places in both secondary and specialist sector

# 2022/23 focus



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Our focus will include:

- Services to schools
- Implementation of Schools White Paper (behaviour, attendance, LA-established Multi-Academy Trusts)
- Out of sight children (including attendance, Elective Home Education, Children Missing Education and Exclusions)
- Post-16 destinations and Not in Education Employment and Training (NEETs)
- One Strategic Plan and SEND Strategy
- Developing in-city outdoor education offer
- Integrated services
- AEC (Association of Education Committees) locality pilot

# Potential areas for SB2 consideration



- Out of sight children (including attendance, Electively Home Education, Children Missing Education and Exclusions)
- Education Improvement Area implications for Coventry: opportunities and challenges
- Skills Strategy implementation
- One Strategic Plan and SEND Strategy
- High needs block – distribution and impact

# Potential areas for SB2 consideration



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- Self-assessment and position statement
- Children's services strategic plan and actions following recent Ofsted inspection
- Family Valued
- House Project
- Readiness for significant legislative change



**Thank you**

**Questions and comments**

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Coventry City Council

## Briefing note

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**To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

**Subject: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2022-23**

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### **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To provide committee members an opportunity to discuss potential items for the work programme 2022-23

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) is recommended to:

- 1) Consider the draft work programme attached at Appendix 1
- 2) Support the establishment of a task and finish group on Autism in Schools
- 3) Identify and agree any additional items for the work programme 2022-23

### **3 Background and Information**

- 3.1 The work programme provides a schedule of items for meetings over the coming municipal year. The draft work programme for the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) for 2022-23 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Scrutiny work programmes are working documents and will adapt and change over the year to react to Members' requirements. Any item agreed at this meeting does not preclude any future amendments to the work programme.
- 3.3 At their meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) endorsed the establishment of a task and finish group on Autism in Schools and referred to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) to continue and explore further the work of the Autism task and finish group.

### **4 Health Inequalities Impact**

- 4.1 There is no impact on health inequalities for these recommendations, but Members may want to consider how identified work programme items may impact on health inequalities.

Appendix 1: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2022-23

Gennie Holmes  
Scrutiny Co-ordinator  
[gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk)

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Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

<b>21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b>
Overview of Education and Children's Services Work Programme 2022-23
<b>15<sup>th</sup> September 2022</b> <b>20<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b>
The House Project
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b> <b>Items for 2022-23</b>
Children and Young People Plan (Ofsted) Task and Finish Group – Autism in Schools Library provision Adoption and Fostering Service Annual Reports Family Valued Programme Youth Provision in Coventry SEND, employment and post-16 opportunities (Autumn 2022) School Performance Information – validated data School Readiness Holiday Activity Fund Schools White Paper – Opportunities for All Family Health and Lifestyles Service – health inequalities (March 2023) Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report (January 2023) Cost of the School Day Project

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2022-23

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b>	Overview of Education and Children's Services	An opportunity to consider and identify items for the work programme for the year	John Gregg/Kirston Nelson Cllr Sandhu and Seaman
	Work Programme 2022-23		
<b>15<sup>th</sup> September 2022</b>			
<b>20<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b>			
<b>8<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b>	The House Project	To look in more detail at the House Project to look at how it is improving outcomes for looked after young people	Cllr Seaman John Gregg
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023</b>			
<b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>			
<b>Items for 2022-23</b>	Children and Young People Plan (Ofsted)	An overview of the priorities of Children's Services and potential Ofsted visit	John Gregg Cllr Seaman
	Task and Finish Group – Autism in Schools	Following a T&F group led by SB5, it was agreed that SB2 would undertake a T&F on the in-depth challenges facing schools in providing support to children, young people and their families who are on the autism assessment pathway.	Jeannette Essex Cllr Sandhu
	Library provision	With particular reference to those now being delivered with/by volunteers e.g. Earlsdon and the 'new' library in Holbrooks	Peter Barnett Cllr Sandhu

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme 2022-23

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Adoption and Fostering Service Annual Reports	Annual report – including information about the diversity of the adoption panel and adopters as well as support to birth mothers after their children have been adopted	Cllr Seaman Paul Smith
	Family Valued Programme	To consider progress and impact on families of the programme	John Gregg Cllr Seaman
	Youth Provision in Coventry	How and where we work with outside partners (and specifically the third sector) to deliver it	
	SEND, employment and post-16 opportunities (Autumn 2022)	To consider how children with SEND are supported to access employment and training opportunities post 16	
	School Performance Information – validated data	A report on school performance data using validated data, including LAC and vulnerable groups, as well as gender analysis.	Kirston Nelson/Rachael Sugars Cllr Sandhu
	School Readiness (January 2023)	A follow up item to the item from December 2021 – to include the potential increase in Reception numbers in September 2022 who aren't "school ready"	Rachael Sugars Cllr Sandhu
	Holiday Activity Fund	A delivery progress report	Adrian Coles Cllr Sandhu
	Schools White Paper – Opportunities for All	To look at the implications of the proposals in the white papers and what they mean for Coventry. Potential for an all Members briefing initially.	Kirston Nelson Cllr Sandhu
	Family Health and Lifestyles Service – health inequalities (March 2023)	To looking in more detail at how the service is tackling health inequalities and targeting services at those in need on a localised basis.	Harbir Nagra Cllr Caan
	Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report (January 2023)		

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer</b>
	Cost of the School Day Project	Research done by the Child Poverty Action group which Coventry has participated in. Recommendations in the report are aimed at central government but the Board could consider to what extent this is an issue in the city and whether there are any steps that could be taken locally to address the issues	Cllr Sandhu Kirston Nelson Rachael Sugars