

<b>Children and Young People Select Committee</b>
<b>Review of the Child's Journey - putting children and young people at the heart of assessment, planning and decision making</b>
<b>Outline Scope</b>

<b>Scrutiny Chair (Project Director):</b> Cllr Carol Clark	<b>Contact details:</b> carol.clark@stockton.gov.uk
<b>Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager):</b> Peter Mennear	<b>Contact details:</b> peter.mennear@stockton.gov.uk 01642 528957
<b>Departmental Link Officer:</b> Jackie Ward, Service Manager	<b>Contact details:</b> Jackie.ward@stockton.gov.uk
<b>Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</b>	
<p>The Council Plan 2017-20 includes the key objective for Children's Services of working collaboratively, effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>Children's Services Strategy 2017-2020 includes a specific commitment to listening to the voice of the child and those who we work with, as part of a focus on feedback.</p>	
<b>What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?</b>	
<p>We want to challenge how effectively we plan and deliver services across the whole of Children's Services which re based on the views, and lived experiences of children.</p> <p>We want to test out how effectively we do this at a number of levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the level of individual children and young people – how we involve them in decisions and processes which impact on them – do we seek their views; how effective we are at this; and how effectively we use views as part of assessments planning and decision making;</li> <li>2. At the level of service design and commissioning – how we seek out the views of children and young people about specific services, and whether we could be doing more to support, engage and develop the roll of young people as not simple receivers of a service, but as co designers and commissioners of services</li> <li>3. Strategically – how effectively we engage and involve children and young people in setting strategic direction and priorities for Children's services and for the Council as a whole.</li> </ol>	

**The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:**

At an individual level:

1. What is our current approach, what are we doing well and what areas do we feel we need to improve on?
2. What tool and techniques do we use?
3. How well do we engage?
4. Can we demonstrate the impact on decision making?

At an operational / service level:

1. What do we do now?
2. What else could we do?

At a strategic level:

1. What mechanisms exist?
2. How well are they engaged?
3. How can we ensure that children and young people are at the heart of future strategy and planning?

**Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?**

Cabinet, Children and Young People Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board

**Expected duration of review and key milestones:**

Six Months with a report to Cabinet in November 2018.

**What information do we need?**

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

LSCB Framework

Strategy and commitments

Operating models principles eg. for Signs of safety

Terms of reference for representative groups – eg. Stockton Youth Assembly

Inspection feedback

Case studies tracking the journey of children through a range of services, to assess how consideration was given to the voice of the child in each case

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

Children's Services

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

Current service provision, plans for future improvement

Children and Young People – surveys and structured	Views on services and how they are engaged
Partners	Views on current approach, suggestions and feedback on current plans
Other local authorities	Other models and successes
Charities	Examples of alternative approaches
<p><b>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</b></p> <p>Committee meetings, attendance at events facilitated by young people, attendance and feedback from service planning groups</p>	
<p><b>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</b></p> <p>Giving evidence at Committee</p> <p>Survey</p>	
<p><b>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</b></p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics, including Disability.</p> <p>The focus of the review will be to understand how the Council ensures that the child remains at the centre of the assessment.</p>	
<p><b>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</b></p> <p>The review will challenge our current effectiveness in ensuring that we are consistently placing the child at the centre of our decision making. It will therefore contribute to the strategic objective of enabling children and young people to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.</p>	
<p><b>Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:</b></p> <p>This review will support our priority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review how effectively we are seeking and listening to the views of children and young people;</li> <li>- How we analyse and draw intelligence from data to inform strategic decision making</li> <li>- How we ensure that we always place the views of children and their journey and lived experience at the centre of assessment, planning and decision making</li> </ul>	

## Project Plan

<b>Key Task</b>	<b>Details/Activities</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Scoping of Review</b>	Information gathering	Prior to tri-partite	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	27 June 2018	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Agree Project Plan</b>	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	11 July 2018	Select Committee
<b>Publicity of Review</b>	Determine whether Communications Plan needed		Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
<b>Obtaining Evidence</b>	Context and high level summary of methods of engagement	11 July	Select Committee
	Consideration of Case Studies	12 September	Select Committee
	tbc	24 October	Select Committee
		14 November	
		12 December	
<b>Members decide recommendations and findings</b>	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	23 January 2019	Select Committee
<b>Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders</b>	Circulation of Report		Scrutiny Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations		Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Final Agreement of Report</b>	Approval of final report by Committee	13 February	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
<b>Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny</b>	Consideration of report		Executive Scrutiny Committee

<b>Committee</b>			
<b>Report to Cabinet/Approving Body</b>	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	March 2019	Cabinet/ Approving Body

DRAFT