

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

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Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?	
<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>	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?	
<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"> 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; 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 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. 	

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.)

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

Children's Services

Current service provision, plans for future improvement, case studies

Children and Young People – surveys and structured, including young carers and children with disabilities	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>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</p> <p>Committee meetings, attendance at events facilitated by young people, attendance and feedback from service planning groups</p>	
<p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Giving evidence at Committee</p> <p>Survey</p>	
<p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</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>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</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>Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:</p> <p>This review will support our priority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review how effectively we are seeking and listening to the views of children and young people; - How we analyse and draw intelligence from data to inform strategic decision making - 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 	

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	Prior to tri-partite	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	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
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	11 July 2018	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed		Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	Context and high level summary of methods of engagement	11 July	Select Committee
	Strategic level involvement	12 September	Select Committee
	Service level	24 October	Select Committee
	Individual-level involvement	14 November	Select Committee
	Follow up / Approach of partners	12 December	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	9 January 2019 (Informal)	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report		Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	16 January	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	23 January	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	[19 February]	Executive Scrutiny Committee

Appendix 1

Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	14 February 2019	Cabinet/ Approving Body
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