

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Flooding / Planning

May I suggest consideration be given to the council's resilience in terms of resources to deal with drains, gullies etc. in comparison with recent years as well as contingency arrangements for dealing with flooding incidents? I am hearing across the country that local authorities have very restricted and reduced resources to deal with such things adding to the risk of localised and wider flooding. The committee may also like to consider the issues around resilience related to the granting of planning permission for sites which may be at risk to flooding.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The number and level of flooding incidents are increasingly of concern to residents.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Climate change and urban design features can exacerbate the risk of flooding (e.g. reduction in urban green space, increase in hard surfacing, increased density of development and, potentially, increased barriers to flood flows such as road embankments). Because of the density of population if there is a flood it can have serious consequences due to the number of homes in urban areas.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Stockton Borough Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority in its area and therefore has duties and responsibilities relating to flooding from local sources. Local sources include ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater. Stockton Borough Council as LLFA has the duty to investigate flooding events when considered necessary or appropriate under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Tees Valley Strategic Flood Risk Partnership agreed that an investigation for a flood event, is deemed locally significant and considered appropriate, if one or more of the following is affected by flooding: 5 or more residential properties; 2 or more businesses; 1 or more critical services; 1 or more transport links (Impassable for 10 Hours or more) Stockton has suffered from some severe flooding in the last few years.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

A similar suggestion has been made by Councillor Bailey

Signed: Alex Cunningham MP

Date: 4.2.16

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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Becks, Sewers and Waterways

Review of all becks, sewers and waterways in the borough to assess for potential to contribute to localised flooding, including any maintenance regimes.

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Public interest justification:

In the light of the flooding that occurred over Christmas 2015 and other areas, can the council demonstrate a programme of works to reduce obstructions in natural and artificial drainage systems, which could help reduce the impact of heavy rainfall? Many residents were negatively affected by the flooding and are concerned of repeat occurrences.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Flooding causes damage to roads and both public and private properties. Flood risk areas attract higher insurance premiums. Damage is also caused to parks and conservation areas, all of which costs money to repair.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Signed: Sonia Bailey

Date: 27/01/16

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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

DoLS

To establish how the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) principles are embedded in Health & Social Care practice in Stockton-on-Tees.

A focus on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) would provide evidence of the MCA principles in operation.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
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Public interest justification:

Liberty is a fundamental Human Right and people who lack capacity are amongst the most vulnerable in Society. It is in the public interest that the MCA principles are applied and adults at risk are safeguarded.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The MCA and MCA DoLS are in operation across the whole health and social care economy. Aspects of the DoLS affect the wider public and economy, such as the requirement to inform the Coroner when someone dies who is subject to an authorised DoL.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

The MCA DoLS function has been deemed compliant with the Legal framework by the LGA (December 2015). Activity is monitored locally, regionally and nationally. Improvement work is in progress to establish lean processes and to develop technological solutions where appropriate. The significant increase in activity following the MCA DoLS Supreme Court Judgment in 2014 has created workload and cost pressures across Adult & Children's Services. Additional funding has been agreed for 2016-17. Substantive resource requirements need to be determined.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Mental capacity issues are relevant to the Access to Services for People with Learning Disabilities Review, which is in progress.

Signed:

Date: 21 January 2016



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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Educational Psychology

A review of educational psychology services, focusing on

1. statutory and discretionary roles
2. opportunities to support prevention and early help, especially in relation to early years
3. future business models
4. capacity and recruitment issues

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Public interest justification:

1. Increasing and high profile interest in school readiness, and in the management of behaviour in schools.
2. Members will be aware of these issues from their role as Governors
3. Educational psychology services provide statutory role in assessments for SEN, and also have a role to play in earlier identification and support

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Key impacts may include:

1. The extent to which an earlier identification approach can continue to be delivered given the current financial position and future changes to education funding to be consulted on in 2016;
2. The opportunities to develop a sustainable business model for the EPS longer term, including commercial trading

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

1. Services are highly valued by schools
2. Key role in preparation for new SEND Area Inspections
3. Issues on recruitment of qualified EPs

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

- No specific reviews being undertaken
- National consultation on education funding

Signed: Martin Gray

Date: 02/02/2016

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Council's engagement with vulnerable parents to help their child be school-ready

Key concerns are that some children are starting school with limited communication skills, they are not toilet-trained and don't know how to eat with a knife and fork.

Outcome of scrutiny would be to have a more effective policy that helps children be school ready.

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Public interest justification:

Whole classes are being held back educationally because trained teachers have to take time out from teaching to help children on the toilet for example.

Class time is cut because lunchtime for young children has to be extended because some don't know how to eat at a table.

If children are more prepared for school they will be able to progress quicker.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Better life chances for young people if they have a better start to their school career.
If parents are more interested in their child's development from an early age this involvement may continue and help the child throughout their life.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Unknown.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Unknown

Signed: Cllr Lauriane Povey

Date: 27 January 2016

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Availability/ Sustainability of the Market for the Provision of Care

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
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INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

It is in the public interest that the Council discharges its statutory duty to meet the eligible care and support needs of adults in the Borough.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The provision of appropriate care and support is integral to promoting well-being and working effectively as part of the health and social care economy.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

The majority of social care provision for adults is commissioned and is subject to monitoring via the Adult Care Management Team and/ or the Adult Board as relevant.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

The recent review of home care has specific recommendations with respect to models of home care, but a work programme is planned to consider the wider opportunities across adult services.

Signed:

E. Ollarley

Date: 15.2.16

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Asylum Seekers

G4S and Jomast performance in providing adequate accommodation and related support services and also the Council's involvement/input.

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Public interest justification:

Of local and national concern.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Important to ensure asylum seekers are welcomed and assimilated as effectively as possible for themselves and also to ensure social cohesion maintained.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Council has a role in this directly but mostly indirectly if private contractors do not perform well.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Signed: Steve Nelson

Date: 28/1/2016

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Safety of Railway Crossing Points

The safety and general management of railway crossing points (both vehicular and pedestrian).

Likely to include liaison with Network Rail and British Transport Police, as well as Cleveland Police and the Council's Technical Services and Community Protection Services.

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Public interest justification:

Concerns expressed in relation to a range of locations

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Concerns have been expressed about the safety of pedestrians, road users, and train staff and passengers.

In addition, railway crossing points and lines are sometimes the focus of anti-social behaviour.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

No known data.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

None known.

Signed: Councillor Wilburn **Date:** 26 January 2016

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Academies

Scrutinise whether the services provided by the Council to academies are fit for purpose, meet the needs of academies and are cost effective/maximise income for the Council.

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Public interest justification:

Many people have children who attend academies/ensure Council maximises income in order to reduce needs for savings to be made elsewhere.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Maximising income means reduced savings being made elsewhere which could impact on social, economic and environmental well being

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Could help protect council jobs

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Academies currently are able to, and do, buy into a range of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for services such as HR support, Governance Support, Health and Safety services, Educational Psychology Services, Primary Swimming programme, Broadband and Learning Platform, Business Support and Improvement Service (Data).

Signed: Steve Nelson

Date: 28/1/2016

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Scrutinise the Borough's preparation for the introduction of Universal Credit

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Massive change to the benefit system that will have major implications not just for claimants but many organisations including the council

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Expectations by the Government that support will be provided by non central Government agencies will have implications re social and economic well being

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Expectations on the Council/cost to the Council

Universal Credit was rolled out to Stockton single claimants in December 2015.

In October, DWP reported that:

- DWP and Local Authority colleagues have been working together to complete implementation activities across a range of services – Revenues and Benefits – Customer Service – Welfare Rights
- Stockton LA have taken a collaborative and forward looking approach actively seeking out the experience and support of colleagues in other LAs
- This is leading to a Delivery Partnership that will enable residents in Stockton access digital support and personal budgeting support
- DWP and the Local Authority are hosting landlord forums for both the social and private sector to support landlords to support their tenants
- Stockton is in a strong position to support their residents to get the best from their Universal Credit experience

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Following the review of Welfare Reform and Financial Inclusion, the People Committee has been monitoring the impact of Welfare Reform on the Borough. This is primarily through review of the quarterly welfare reform monitoring reports, and discussion on key issues. The DWP attended the meeting in October 2015 to brief the Committee ahead of the introduction of Universal Credit in Stockton (see above).

Signed: Steve Nelson

Date: 28/1/2016

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Membership of Local Government Bodies

To examine the overall spend on Council membership to outside bodies as well as determining value for money.

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Public interest justification:

To ensure Stockton Council provides value for money

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Representation at, and reporting back from, bodies would raise the profile of the Council, thereby improving the quality of outcomes for both the Authority and SBC residents

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Improved information sharing and savings achieved following previous review carried out by the former Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

No

Signed: CEX

Date: 4.2.16

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Locality Forums

The review would seek to understand the accountability of the Forums, how they set their work programme, and how outcomes are demonstrated.

It is important to ensure that they do not duplicate work taking place elsewhere.

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Public interest justification:

Locality Forums provide a method to bring together partners and community and voluntary groups to tackle issues at a local level. This includes SBC, Town and Parish Councils, VCS representation, and public agencies including the police.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Locality Forums should now provide a local focus for the priorities of the Stockton Local Strategic Partnership. The Partnership's strategic document is 'A Brighter Borough for All – Tackling Family Poverty in Stockton-on-Tees'.

A refresh of the Brighter Borough for All document is being reported to Cabinet in February 2016.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

The Borough has four Locality Forums (Central, Eastern, Northern, Western) as part of the Local Strategic Partnership arrangements.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Area Partnerships were a key part of the Stockton Renaissance LSP arrangements. In 2013 a review took place as there was no longer a statutory requirement to have a local strategic partnership or a Sustainable Community Strategy. The review took account of this but also some elements within the LSP infrastructure that remained statutorily required and the role of associated bodies such as the area partnerships.

As part of this review, overall feedback from stakeholders was that they needed to be retained as they often provided a forum through which to effectively deal with issues before they needed to be escalated to senior officials and or politicians. There were also examples quoted of where they had been a successful vehicle to promote democratic involvement.

Following the review they were retained but renamed as Locality Forums. There was to be a renewed focus on joint working through a task and finish approach that looked to tackle local issues. This was to include a strong link to following the priorities of the Brighter Borough for All framework.

Revised terms of reference and training and support were to be provided to support members of the Forums in their role.

The wider structure of the LSP is being kept under review due to the continual rate of change, and structures within the revised LSP – eg.the Communities of Interest Groups – are being reviewed during 2016.

Signed: Cllr Jean O'Donnell

Date: 3 February

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Western Bypass

The need for a western bypass for Stockton from Kirklevington to Wynyard.

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Public interest justification:

To reduce traffic in Yarm (Yarm Back Lane, Harrogate Lane, Junction Road)

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

In London the average commuter has £5,000.00 spent on them. In Stockton it is £200.00

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Poor. At the last meeting I was at with Richard McGuckin I was told the funds were not available.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

The last study I saw said another bridge would be needed to meet the demand of traffic in the area.

Signed: Andrew Stephenson

Date: 14.1.16

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Food Hygiene

In view of a recent issue raised about food and hygiene standards in private eating houses and food takeaway establishments I would like to scrutinise how they are licensed and inspected.

What is the timescale of inspections?

What legal action is taken on reoffenders of such properties?

I would like to see more enforcement on properties selling takeaway food.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
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Public interest justification:

Although I personally do not use them I believe the public would have greater trust in these establishments if establishments displayed a type of certificate (award system) from the local authority guaranteeing the level of hygiene that can be expected in a food provider.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Improved environmental health when guaranteeing hygiene levels.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Signed: Councillor Brown

Date: 15 January 2016

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Street Cleansing

Following the Review of Kerbside Waste Collection I would like to suggest a review of street cleaning services as the service features extensively amongst the concerns raised with me and is related to the state of the environment, a lack of funding, and the service being undermanned. I would like to determine the effectiveness of:

- Residential streets receiving a litter-picking visit every week and a mechanical sweeper every four weeks.
- The cleaning of main shopping areas.
- Weed spraying, strimming overgrown vegetation and clearing becks.
- Removing graffiti
- Fines of £70 to anyone found littering.
- Removing rubbish that is dumped on the public highway, including Parks and Open Spaces.
- Responding to requests for the removal of needles and syringes within two hours.

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Public interest justification:

The quality of the local environment is important to people.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Local environmental quality has several dimensions. These include:

- how places look and are perceived;
- how safe and happy people feel about living in an area; and
- how attractive areas are to workers, visitors and existing and new business investors.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Satisfied with refuse collection	88% Residents Survey 2012	90% Place Survey 2008
Satisfied with doorstep recycling	81% Residents Survey 2012	79% Place Survey 2008

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

A follow-on review after addressing kerbside waste collection

Signed: Councillor Brown

Date: 15 January 2016

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Roundabouts in Stockton

It has come to my notice that roundabouts in the town are getting planted with shrubs and trees which are a danger to road safety i.e. Norton High Street / Junction Road and the one outside Yarm Prison / Green Lane. The trees on that roundabout are dangerous.

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Public interest justification:

Road safety on the roundabout.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The impact or lack of impacts are for the well-being of road users.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Poor as I have contacted the horticultural department but they have been of no help.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

None

Signed: Andrew Stephenson

Date: 14.1.16

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Damage to/maintenance of grass verges

Parking on grass verges is a persistent problem as it can not only reduce a verge to an unsightly state, but it can also obstruct the highway and prevent pedestrians and wheel chair users from accessing roads and footways if there is no other pathway. Verge parking can also cause a hazard to other motorists especially if the vehicle is parked on a bend, narrow road or junction.

A review of Pavement Parking was undertaken by the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee between September 2008 and March 2009. A number of recommendations were agreed including the production of Parking on Pavements: A Residents Guide which states that "Vehicle trespass can also lead to damage to underground services, therefore regular inspections and repairs take place costing the Council £300,000 annually."

As this problem persists it should be revisited to determine whether other actions should be introduced.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
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Public interest justification:

Obstruction can in many cases also lead to road safety issues. Where pedestrians and particularly wheelchair users are forced into the carriageway because the pavement is blocked then this can present an immediate danger, particularly on a busy road. Elderly, disabled and blind or partially sighted people are also presented with problems when this practice occurs.

From - Parking on Pavements: A Residents Guide

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Continual parking on pavements and verges causes problems for maintenance vehicles (grass cutting, sweeping etc.) as well as leading to unsightly damage. It can also detract from the environmental quality of the neighbourhood. Damage to flagstones creates tripping hazards leading to injuries and accident claims.

From - Parking on Pavements: A Residents Guide

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

CEO Parking Enforcement Officers and NEO Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers have various powers:

Enforcement of Parking Regulations - both on-street and in off-street car parks

Decriminalisation of Parking offences 2005

Traffic Management Act 2004

Enforcement of Nuisance Obstructing and Abandoned Vehicles and on-street parking Regulations

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Signed: Councillor Woodhead

Date: 21.1.16

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Adult Social Care Assessments

Scrutinise the adult social care assessment process to establish the most effective/ efficient process and to assess the skill mix of the assessors for the tasks that are performed.

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Public interest justification:

This will contribute to the continual improvement of the assessment process thus ensuring that clients continue to get appropriate assessments in a timely manner and that the process is also cost-effective.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

This will particularly impact on the social well-being of the area as it will contribute to improving the efficiency of services that are under pressure of increasing demands against a backdrop of decreasing resources.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Potential to make effective use of resources thereby freeing social work time for other priorities.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Signed: Jim Beall

Date: 19/2/2016