

**Date:**

Monday 7 July 2025 at 4.00 pm

**Venue:**

Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive; , Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BJ

**Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair)**

**Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair)**

Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Hugo Stratton and Cllr Barry Woodhouse

## Agenda

1. **Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 10)

2. **Apologies for Absence**

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Minutes** (Pages 11 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 June 2025

5. **Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help** (Pages 15 - 38)

To receive evidence from Council Officers as part of the Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help

6. **Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2025-2026**(Pages 39 - 40)

## **Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting**

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

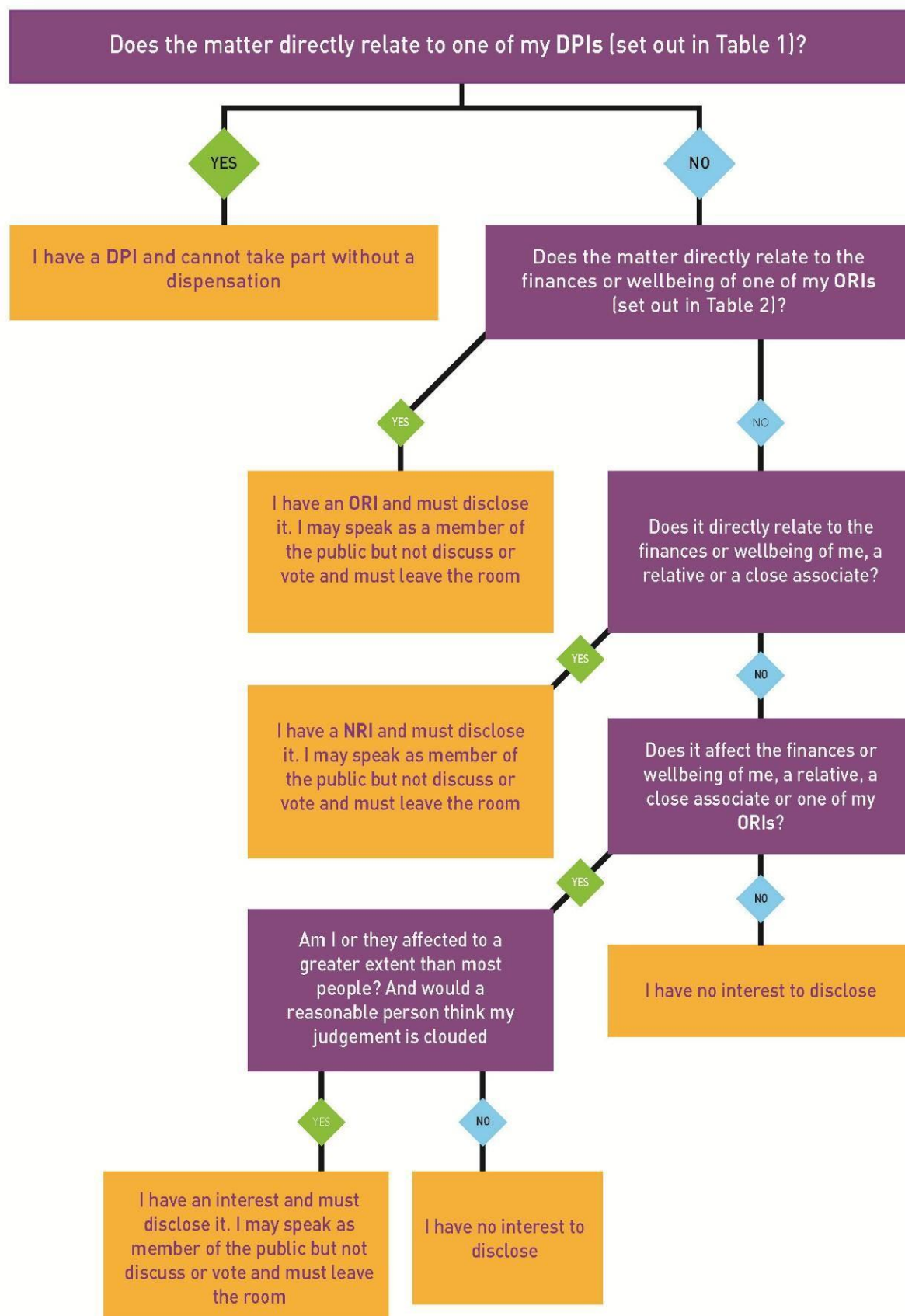
Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please.

Contact: Scrutiny Officer Michelle Gunn on email [michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk)

**Key – Declarable interests are :-**

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

**Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance**



**Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
<b>Contracts</b>	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
<b>Land and property</b>	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
<b>Licences</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
<b>Securities</b>	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

\* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

\* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

## **Table 2 – Other Registrable Interest**

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

a) any unpaid directorships

b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

c) any body

(i) exercising functions of a public nature

(ii) directed to charitable purposes or

(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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## Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

### Entry

Entry to the Council Chamber is via the Council Chamber entrance, indicated on the map below.



In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately start to leave their workspace by the nearest available signed Exit route.

The emergency exits are located via the doors on either side of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber.

Fires, explosions, and bomb threats are among the occurrences that may require the emergency evacuation of Dunedin House. Continuous sounding and flashing of the Fire Alarm is the signal to evacuate the building or upon instruction from a Fire Warden or a Manager.

The Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point is in the overflow car park located across the road from Dunedin House.

**The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2**

Map of the Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point - the overflow car park:



All occupants must respond to the alarm signal by immediately initiating the evacuation procedure.

When the Alarm sounds:

1. **stop all activities immediately.** Even if you believe it is a false alarm or practice drill, you MUST follow procedures to evacuate the building fully.
2. **follow directional EXIT signs** to evacuate via the nearest safe exit in a calm and orderly manner.
  - do not stop to collect your belongings
  - close all doors as you leave
3. **steer clear of hazards.** If evacuation becomes difficult via a chosen route because of smoke, flames or a blockage, re-enter the Chamber (if safe to do so). Continue the evacuation via the nearest safe exit route.
4. **proceed to the Evacuation Assembly Point.** Move away from the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to the main Evacuation Assembly Point immediately - located in the **East Overflow Car Park**.
  - do not assemble directly outside the building or on any main roadway, to ensure access for Emergency Services.



**5. await further instructions.**

- **do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an “all clear”** which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer/Chief Fire Warden, Fire Warden or Manager.
- do not leave the area without permission.
- ensure all colleagues and visitors are accounted for. Notify a Fire Warden or Manager immediately if you have any concerns

**Toilets**

Toilets are located immediately outside the Council Chamber, accessed via the door at the back of the Chamber.

**Water Cooler**

A water cooler is available at the rear of the Council Chamber.

**Microphones**

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when invited to speak by the Chair, to ensure you can be heard by the Committee and those in attendance at the meeting.

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## People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday 2nd June 2025.

**Present:** Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr John Coulson (sub Cllr John Gardner), Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Hugo Stratton and Cllr Barry Woodhouse

**Officers:** Kellie Wigley, John Lathaen, Hazel Clark (Children's Services), Aishah Waithe, and Michelle Gunn (Corporate Services).

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr John Gardner, and Cllr David Reynard

### **PEO/12/25 Evacuation Procedure**

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

### **PEO/13/25 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **PEO/14/25 Minutes**

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **PEO/15/25 Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help**

The Committee received a presentation from the Service Lead for Youth Justice and Youth Support and the Service Lead for Family Support on the Early Help Offer from the Council. The presentation covered:

- Front Door to Early Help
- Family Hubs
- Family Solutions Teams
- Therapeutic Team
- Family Group Conferencing
- Targeted Youth Support
- Youth Support
- Turnaround

The Key issues discussed included:

- The Children's Hub (CHUB), acted as a "front door" to Early Help services, and was a joint service with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Hartlepool Council. Referrals were received via CHUB and could come from a variety of sources including schools and even parents themselves. The referral were triaged and would be passed on to either the Family Hubs or Family Solutions if they needed more support, partner agencies and in some cases advice and guidance was given.

- Family Hubs offered a wide range of support and focussed on prevention to reduce the need for statutory intervention. The programmes available to attend were reviewed six weekly and this enabled them to be assessed to see if they fitted the needs of the community. The Nurturing parent programme was the most popular programme while the Antenatal Nurturing programme was an addition to the antenatal programmes the midwives led, however a midwife would attend the Family Hub session on the final week. Parent volunteers helped to deliver the Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) programme, bringing their personal experiences to the programme. All Together For You, 'one stop shop', was held at the Family Hubs once a month, rotating between the four venues, which all the partners attended to give advice and information to families.
- The number of children being supported was discussed, and it was questioned whether there were particular times of the year when more referrals were received. Officers noted that there were slightly higher requests for support around school holiday times but the number of children being supported was not as many as were screened as it included people who were given simple advice and guidance.
- It was questioned what the average timescale for working with families was in the Family Hubs and the Committee were informed that it was dependent on the family need. It was the case that once a person had attended a programme, e.g. baby massage, they signed up for another programme. Similarly, they may have completed programmes when their child was younger and returned for different support, advice, and programmes when their child was older.
- It was noted that support was provided regarding drugs, alcohol and domestic abuse and Members raised concern that children would be at the risk of danger. Officers assured that risk assessments took place and any situations that were unsafe or risky would not be assigned to Early Help, other services would be involved.
- Targeted Youth Support worked with families to reduce children's vulnerability to harm outside the home, for example exploitation and carrying knives. The team also educated both parents and children on online safety and effective communication.
- Youth Support undertook Missing From Conversations for all children reported missing. They worked with children who required short-term support who were experiencing difficulties such as low self-esteem and peer interactions. They also provided an Appropriate Adult service during office hours.
- The Turnaround programme worked with children who had been arrested but not charged and no other support workers or agencies had been involved in supporting the child. It provided children with better skills to manage problematic situations. Members questioned whether the outcomes from the programme were reported back to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and officers informed that they were required to provide quarterly returns as the MoJ were building an evidence base and evaluation to show the effectiveness of the programme. Officers were also due to take part in a round table discussion the MoJ were hosting.
- Kinship carers were discussed and it was noted that there was a specific team dedicated to supporting them, including accessing help and finance. The Family Hubs also offered a space for Kinship carers to come together.
- Members questioned how officers ensured those children who had been missing from home were going back to a safe environment. The Committee were informed that the children they worked with were missing from home for a short period of time and conversations were held to ensure ascertain whether the home situation was safe. If there were concerns these would be escalated to the

appropriate service, and those children who went missing multiple times had a support worker.

- Officers noted that it was important for staff to build relationships with families, as well as listening to the child's voice and build resilience. When a referral was made a decision was made on who was best to work with the family. Officers further noted that there were lots of different partners working with children and young people and there was a need for all those involved to work together to help the child. They were keen to encourage partners and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector to contribute.

AGREED that the information be noted.

#### **PEO/16/25 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2025 - 2026**

Consideration was given to the Work Programme. The next meeting would be held on Monday 7 July 2025 and will be the second evidence session for the Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help. Education and Social Care would be giving evidence on the Early Help services they provided.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

Chair: .....

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People Select Committee

7 July 2025

## SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN EARLY HELP

### Summary

The second evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Partnership Working in Early Help will focus on the Children Response and Assessment team and the School Support offer.

### Detail

1. As part of the scoping process for this review the Committee identified several teams within the Council to give an overview of the services and help currently on offer. The Service Lead - School Support and Sufficiency has therefore been invited to present the school support offer and Team Around the School Service. A copy of the presentation is attached.
2. The Service Lead for Children's Response and Assessment team has also been invited to the July meeting to discuss referral rates to Social Care Assessments, the number of referrals that result in No Further Action, and what this data indicates. A copy of the presentation is also attached.
3. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is also included for information.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Michelle Gunn

**Post Title:** Scrutiny Officer

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**Email Address:** [michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk)

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# Education, Inclusion and Achievement Service School Support



**Mandie Rowlands – Service Lead School Support and Sufficiency**

# School Support & Sufficiency Structure

## School Support and Sufficiency

**Assistant Director – Education, Inclusion and  
Achievement Service**

**Eddie Huntington**

**Service Lead – School Support and Sufficiency**

**Mandie Rowlands**

**Team Manager**

**Early Years & Childcare  
Sufficiency and School  
Service Planning**

**Cheryl Azam**

**Team Manager**

**Sufficiency Schools  
and SEND**

**Darren Coulton**

**Team Manager**

**Health Education and  
Relationship**

**Eve Conner-McGill**

**Team Manager**

**Careers**

**Ian Caley**

**Team Manager**

**Schools Support**

**Jane Williams**

# School Support – The Team

## School Support

### Team Manager

Jane Williams

### School Support Adviser

Emma Hayes  
Katy Rafferty  
Richard Ferry  
Shelley Latham  
Tanya Adams

### Co-ordinator – School Support

Vikki Meynell

### Co-ordinator - Holidays are Fun (HAF)

Katie Newton

### School Support Worker

Kayleigh Johnston  
Lily Hawkes  
Mandy Hill  
Mel Atkinson  
Molly Kelsey  
Kerri Bingham  
Ruby Malcolm (Trainee)

### HAF Admin Support

Lily Gordon  
Matthew Christie

# School Support Team

## Current Offer

The School Support team has 5 Advisers who work across 5 cluster areas, and work with all schools within the borough. Advisers offer a range of services including facilitating TAF's, hosting solution circles, information, advice and signposting services, acting as Lead Professional on complex cases and case reviews for 'stuck' families. The team has two main functions when supporting schools:

### School Support Adviser role

Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for key school staff offering advice and support on emerging issues or concerns  
 Support in initiating Involvement Forms (also known as Early Help Assessments)  
 Half Termly solution circles to discuss low level cases and challenges  
 Introduce and promote the use of the School Support Worker role  
 Strengthen links with key school staff when children and young people have in-year transfers  
 Bring services to schools – links with the community, HAF providers and Family HUBS

### School Support Worker role

Delivering low level interventions to children who need extra support either 1:1 or in group work on topics:

- ✓ Friendships
- ✓ Healthy Relationships
- ✓ Online Safety
- ✓ Raising Aspirations
- ✓ School Life

Allocation of work from solution circles or School Support Advisers to address concerns or challenges

Plan and deliver the summer transition programme "Be Kind to Your Mind"

Support children and young people with in-year transfers

# Data

Based on the 31,817 school aged children from reception to Year 11 across the borough, the cluster split is:

Cluster	Pupil on roll	FSM	%
Billingham	6323	1735	27
North Stockton	4651	2027	44
Central Stockton	8132	2558	31
Thornaby	3509	1719	49
IB, Eaglescliffe & Yarm	9202	1126	12

## Social Care Referrals

In the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 we received:

1768 contacts into the Children's HUB from Schools; this was 13.4% of all contacts received

758 contacts converted to a referral into the Assessment Team; this was 42.8% of the total SAFERs submitted to the CHUB

The number of contacts can represent individual children referred multiple times

## External Early Help Assessments

We have 83 **active** external EHA's – it is difficult to determine if these are open to schools. EHA's are monitored by the cluster School Support Adviser

We are currently developing a portal to allow all external episodes to be recorded into the system which will develop reporting and dashboards

# Team around the School Service (TASS)

## What we want to achieve in TASS:

- Early identification, intervention and access to services for pupils who need support
- whole system and or cross-organisational change through workforce development for school staff
- collaboration and partnership working across the organisation and with communities
- data and intelligence for planning and targeting those children at Risk of.....

## Other areas of work to be developed:

Further development of the FOCUS dashboard (formally VCD) to include additional data:

- Pupils with attendance levels of less than 95% and not known to services
- Gender versus year group
- Free school meals/Pupil Premium
- Year 6 admissions and their attendance
- Involvement with other internal services inc. Careers and Youth Justice Team
- Destination data from post 16

# Team around the School Service (TASS)

## **The outcomes we want to achieve for children:**

- ✓ children attend school and are ready to learn
- ✓ children who need help receive the right support at the right place and time
- ✓ improved communication with school staff
- ✓ children feel supported and able to ask for help
- ✓ children tell us they feel heard and part of the plans to support them
- ✓ improved knowledge, access and participation in community-based activities

# Team around the School Service (TASS)

## The outcomes we want to achieve for school:

- ✓ improved attendance
- ✓ reduced suspension and permanent exclusion
- ✓ improved communication with pupils and their parents/carers
- ✓ staff feel empower and are in receipt of the right training giving them the tools to respond
- ✓ staff are informed about who else can help outside of the school
- ✓ reduction in the number of conversations taking place about children in need of help



# Team around the School Service (TASS)

## Levels of Support

Our graduated offer enables resources to be deployed to schools based upon needs and therefore providing a responsive approach. The offer range is universal to targeted, and the level will be agreed with schools based on the intelligence and ongoing conversations:

Level	Resource deployed to school
Targeted	Adviser based in school 1-2 days per week
Preventative	Adviser based in school up to ½-1 day per week
Universal	Duty Adviser available to guide professional

## How will we know we have made a difference:

- Improved school attendance
- Reduced school-based suspensions and permanent exclusions.
- Reduced demand and escalation into statutory services.
- Improved emotional wellbeing of children and families living in Stockton.
- Children and young people will thrive, achieve and be in employment, education or training at end of Year 14

# School Support Team

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

[Mandie.rowlands@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Mandie.rowlands@stockton.gov.uk)

# Assessment & Response Team - Stockton On Tees – Louise Nixon



# The role and remit of the team

Meet the assessment teams.

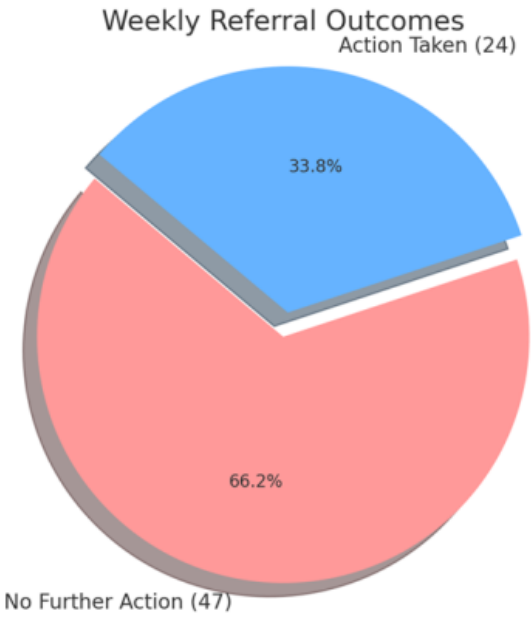
Introduction to the  
assessment teams

Number of  
referrals that come  
into the CHUB

Types of referrals  
and potential  
outcomes

Who are our  
primary referrers

# What the data tells us:



Total Referrals Received: 71  
Referrals with No Further Action (NFA): 47 (66.2%)  
Referrals Proceeding to Action: 24 (33.8%)

# Insights

## Key Insight

## Possible Implications

-High proportion of referrals (66.2%) result in no further action

Many referrals may be considered inappropriate for assessment, or not meeting the threshold for assessment.

We know the majority of the referrals are from police these often come through with no consent.

Suggests need to improve referral quality or criteria

We see a high number of referrals coming through with no consent, the CHUB have not been able to contact parents but send through for assessment, which are then often refused consent by parents.

# Hypothesis

Thresholds for action might be too high, or the bar for referral too low.

There might be a misunderstanding between referral expectations and actual outcomes.

Identifying and filtering out these to Early Help could improve efficiency and ensure families get timely support with the right service.

# Recommendations

1

Review and  
refine referral  
criteria

2

Train, guide and  
support frequent  
referrers

3

Implement triage  
or screening  
steps

4

Track data  
weekly for  
trends and  
improvement



<b>People Select Committee</b>
<b>Review of Partnership Working in Early Help</b>
<b>Outline Scope</b>

<b>Scrutiny Chair (Project Director):</b> Cllr Marilyn Surtees	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:m.surtees@stockton.gov.uk">m.surtees@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager):</b> Michelle Gunn	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:Michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk">Michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Departmental Link Officer:</b> Kellie Wigley	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:Kellie.wigley@stockton.gov.uk">Kellie.wigley@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<b>PMO Link</b> Aishah Waithe	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:Aishah.waithe@stockton.gov.uk">Aishah.waithe@stockton.gov.uk</a>

**Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?**

Early Help focusses on support and interventions for children and their families when needed most therefore this review will contribute to priority one – the best start in life to achieve big ambition. In particular it will contribute to the following key moves:

- Giving children and young people the best possible start, in an inclusive community where everyone can thrive
- A safe community for all children and young people

The review will also contribute to priority two – health and resilient communities, key move ensuring happy and healthy lives for all.

**What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?**

Early Help (EH) offers support to children and their families who require help with a range of presenting issues including behaviour, family relationships, problems at school, budgets or debt, children's routine or other difficulties they may be experiencing.

The Department for Education have recently published Families First Partnership Programme (FFP), which is the start of the National reforms and expectations on Local Authorities.

**The vision of the programme**

The FFP programme will support safeguarding partners to bring together targeted early help, child in need, and multi-agency child protection into a seamless system of help, support and protection. This includes services and workforces, such as family support workers, social workers and other specialist and alternatively qualified practitioners, coming together to support families.

By targeted early help, child in need and child protection, we mean:

- Targeted early help: children and families with multiple and/or complex needs that require a plan to be in place and a lead practitioner appointed;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in Need (Section 17, Children Act 1989): a general duty for local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need or are disabled, and promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs;</li> <li>• Child protection (Section 47): the duty on the local authorities to investigate where they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.</li> </ul> <p>This review will aim to gain a greater understanding of the effectiveness of the partnership and early help offer across the partners.</p>
<p><b>The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are families getting the right support at the right time to prevent escalation of needs?</li> <li>• Consideration of No Further Action (NFA) rate from Statutory Assessment</li> <li>• What is the local authority's and partnership offer across EH?</li> <li>• What is the demand on external partnerships to deliver EH interventions?</li> <li>• How effective and strong is the partnership offer?</li> <li>• How accessible are services?</li> <li>• How clear is the offer for both professionals and families, and how easy is it to navigate?</li> <li>• How effective are information sharing protocols across the partnership?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</b></p> <p>Cabinet, Council, partners</p>
<p><b>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</b></p> <p>7 months (reporting to Cabinet in January)</p> <p>Approve scope and project plan – May 2025          Receive evidence – June 2025 – October 2025          Draft recommendations – November 2025          Final report – December 2025          Report to Cabinet – January 2025</p>
<p><b>What information do we need?</b></p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Help System Guide <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-families-early-help-system-guide">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-families-early-help-system-guide</a></li> <li>• Families First Partnership Programme <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/families-first-partnership-programme">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/families-first-partnership-programme</a></li> <li>• Scrutiny review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment chrome-  <a href="https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s8755/Select%20Committee%20Report.pdf">https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s8755/Select%20Committee%20Report.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p>New information:</p>

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?
<p>SBC Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Care</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• School Support</li> <li>• Family Hubs</li> <li>• Early Help Teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background information</li> <li>• Feedback from Early Help Strategy workstreams</li> <li>• The offer of support/what services are they offering?</li> <li>• How many families are working with partners?</li> <li>• How many families re-referrals are received?</li> <li>• NFA rate with Social Care Assessments</li> </ul>
<p>Partners including those on the Children &amp; Young People Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated Care Board</li> <li>• Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Police</li> <li>• Catalyst</li> <li>• Family Action</li> <li>• HDFT 0-19</li> <li>• Stockton Parent Carer Forum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data regarding number of families partners are working with &amp; how many they refer to LA</li> <li>• Data regarding the number of families returning to partners for early help services</li> <li>• Partners experience of the partnership and how it works for them</li> <li>• Partners views on partnership</li> </ul>
Other Local Authorities including pathfinder LA for the new reforms, Lincolnshire and Sunderland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice examples of how other LA's deliver Early Help with their partners</li> </ul>
Service users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service users experience of accessing and navigating the most service</li> <li>• Service users experience of the online offer</li> </ul>
<p><b>How will this information be gathered? (e.g. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</b></p> <p>Committee meetings, reports, case studies, desk based research, focus group of service user</p>	
<p><b>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</b></p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions, focus group of service users</p>	

**How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?**

The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics (including – but not limited to – age, gender, disability, ethnicity), and advance equality of opportunity for those with Protected Characteristics.

Public bodies must have due regard for advancing equality which includes:

- removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people

The review will contribute towards meeting the Council's requirements under this Duty, particularly in relation to the outcomes for more vulnerable children.

**How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?**

Early Help ensures that children and their families have access to support and interventions when they are needed therefore the review will directly contribute to Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030: Focus Area 1: All children and families have the best start in life

**Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:**

This review will contribute to greater understanding of interventions and approaches which are effective at supporting children and families at the earliest opportunity. The review will also identify where partnership working can be improved.

<b>Project Plan</b>
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Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
<b>Scoping of Review</b>	Information gathering	April 2025	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	22.04.25	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	12.05.25	Select Committee
<b>Publicity of Review</b>	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBD	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
<b>Obtaining Evidence</b>	Evidence SBC services/officers  Service User Focus Groups  Feedback from Focus Groups and best practice from LA's  Evidence from Partners	02.06.25  07.07.25  August 2025 TBD  08.09.25  06.10.25	Select Committee
<b>Members decide recommendations and findings</b>	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	03.11.25	Select Committee
<b>Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders</b>	Circulation of Report	November	Scrutiny Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBD	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	08.12.25	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
<b>Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee</b>	Consideration of report	20.01.26	Executive Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report to Cabinet/Approving Body</b>	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	15.01.26	Cabinet / Approving Body



## People Select Committee – Work Programme 2025- 2026

<b>Date (4pm unless stated)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Monday 7 April 2025</b>	Monitoring: Action Plan Scrutiny Review of Disabled Facilities Grant	Sam Dixon
<b>Monday 12 May 2025</b>	Monitoring: Progress Update – Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response  Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Draft) Scope and Project Plan</li> <li>• Background Presentation</li> </ul>	Haleem Ghafoor  Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite
<b>Monday 2 June 2025</b>	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Help &amp; Family Hubs</li> </ul>	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite Hazel Clark and John Lathaem
<b>Monday 7 July 2025</b>	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Care</li> <li>• School Support</li> </ul>	John Lathaem & Aishah Waite Louise Nixon Mandie Rowlands
<b>Monday 8 September 2025</b>	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PITSTOP</li> <li>• HDFT</li> <li>• Family Action</li> </ul>	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite Cheryl Hall Sarah Massiter Emma Crawford
<b>Monday 6 October 2025</b>	Monitoring: Progress Update – Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response  Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help	Rebecca Saunders- Thompson TBC  Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite
<b>Monday 3 November 2025</b>	Monitoring: Initial Update Scrutiny Review of Disabled Facility Grant	Sam Dixon
<b>Monday 3 November 2025 (informal)</b>	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite

## People Select Committee – Work Programme 2025- 2026

<b>Date (<u>4pm unless stated</u>)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Monday 8 December 2025</b>	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help – Final Report	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite
<b>Monday 5 January 2026</b>		
<b>Monday 2 February 2026</b>		
<b>Monday 2 March 2026</b>		