

Cabinet Member Responses to Recommendations

Agenda item	Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee recommendations (7 January 2021)	Response
Responses from Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Mrs Jacquie Russell		
Children First Improvement Update	1. Thanks the service for the huge progress made on its improvement journey, as demonstrated by the recent Ofsted visit and pause in the set-up of the Trust.	Noted
	2. Recognises the importance of partnership working to the improvement journey and will forward this to the Business Planning Group to explore a future item on the effectiveness of partnership working.	Noted
	3. Welcomes the update on demand trends as set out in Appendix 1 and request that this information is included in subsequent improvement update reports to Committee.	I welcome the Committee's interest in this data. An update on the demand trends has been included in the Children First Improvement Update report presented to the Committee on 10 March and will be included in subsequent reports to Committee.
	4. Asks the Corporate Parenting Panel to monitor the improvement of Health Assessments for Children Looked After and provide feedback to the Committee on its progress at a future meeting.	The improvement of performance of Initial Health Assessments is a key priority of the Corporate Parenting Panel Health Subgroup, and as Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel, I will continue to update the Committee on the performance of the Initial Health Assessments, especially as the impacts of the pandemic subside in the coming months.
Early Help Redesign	1. Broadly supports the need to investigate an improved and targeted early help offer for vulnerable children and families and	Noted

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	request that work is progressed in order to achieve this.	
	2. Raised concern on the potential implications on the universal offer and how this will impact on future service demand.	In the proposed new model, where limited early help non-targeted services will be provided, the service would support local communities to develop and retain their support to children through enhanced and more effective partnership arrangements. The consultation output will be key to inform this piece of work and will be included in the report that will be considered by the Committee in June 2021.
	3. Request that the following is provided in a further report to the Committee following the consultation and to inform the final proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity on how the proposals will help improve the identification and support of vulnerable children and families to access early help support. • Includes a communication plan on the new proposal and ongoing support for residents on how they will be able to continue to access the services, especially for those areas where delivery points will be withdrawn. • A robust Equality Impact Report. • Clarity on the impact of the proposals on wider services, including partners who use the delivery points to deliver their services. 	These points will be addressed in the report that will be considered by the Committee in June 2021, which will look at the outcome of the consultation and subsequent proposals.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further data and information on usage and services provided in each children and family centre by all partners. • The breakdown of consultation responses by hub area. • How the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on families has been taken into consideration when assessing the proposals and their resilience. • Information on the outcome of early help redesign in other Local Authorities and how this learning is taken into account in the proposals for West Sussex. • More detail around proposals for service delivery to remote service users. 	
	<p>4. Highlights the importance that the consultation proactively approaches service users and stakeholders and requests that the consultation document, including the list of prospective consultees, is shared with the Committee prior to launch so that they can be satisfied that it is fully inclusive.</p>	<p>On 23 February, Cabinet approved the launch of the Early Help Consultation, which will begin in March 2021 for a period of 10 weeks. The consultation is a vital element of the redesign to provide the opportunity for stakeholders and service users to review the proposed offer, raise any concerns or issues and provide feedback. Specific engagement sessions have been arranged for engagement with schools to focus on the school offer and broader sessions for wider partners from the voluntary and community sector and partners who currently deliver services from centres. I welcome the opportunity to share the draft consultation document and list of prospective consultees with the Committee to provide assurance that it is fully inclusive.</p>

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Strategic Budget Savings - Pre decision scrutiny National - House Project	1. Fully supports the implementation of a Local National House Project in West Sussex.	I thank the Committee for their support and endorsement of this project that was agreed by Cabinet on 24 January 2021 for implementation.
	2. Welcomes the enthusiasm and support from District and Borough partners.	Noted
	3. Welcomes the evidence that the enhanced support for care leavers provided by the project improves the quality of their lives, resilience and prospects.	Noted
	4. Given that the service will be constantly reviewing the project, suggests, that a report on the outcomes of the project for West Sussex care leavers is presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel on at least an annual basis.	I can confirm that the Corporate Parenting Panel will receive an Annual Report on Placements and Commissioning, and this will include the progress of the National House Project and the outcomes it is delivering for West Sussex Care Leavers.