

Cabinet Member Responses to Recommendations

Agenda item	Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee recommendations (29 September 2021)	Response/Update
Response from Cllr Jacquie Russell – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
Children First Improvement Update - Workforce	<p>1. Welcomes the excellent work of the service in workforce development and would welcome a further report in Summer 2022 to provide an update on the progress and impact of the management and workforce development changes as they become further embedded. The Committee would like this to include the outcomes of any further Staff Surveys, workforce data such as staff turnover, caseloads, agency staffing and the impact the changes are having on the social worker practice for children and young people.</p>	<p>I thank the Committee for their support on the extensive work that has been progressed by the service in this area.</p> <p><i>The impact of the management and workforce development changes has been added to the Committee's work programme as an area of focus for a future Children First Improvement Update report.</i></p>
	<p>2. Recognise that further work is being progressed on Child Protection as part of the improvement journey and would like to continue to be updated on child protection performance as part of the Children First Improvement Updates to provide assurance that improvements are being made.</p>	<p><i>The Child Protection Performance information forms part of the Performance information report which is included with each Children First Improvement Update report presented to the Committee</i></p>
	<p>3. Would welcome an update on the work on the simplification of the IT systems for children and young people directorate to support the workforce</p>	<p>This is a large programme of work and the procurement process is now well underway. The project team have continued to work through the functional, technical and delivery elements of the specification and have produced a</p>

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	and enhance offers to children and young people as part of a future Children First Improvement Update report.	<p>specification document. The specification document has been drafted as an outcome specification – meaning that potential providers will be able to offer a solution that meets the overall business need.</p> <p>Early market engagement and market shaping stage is now complete.</p> <p>Requirement definition is now complete. Procurement delivery strategy has now started and the tendering documents have been published. Tender evaluation is planned for completion by the end of January 2022 when the contract will be awarded. This will mean that the service commencement date is planned for early April 2022 and the anticipated implementation of the changes planned for November 2023.</p>
	4. Asks the Cabinet Member to keep the Committee updated on the progress of work with partners and services who currently work from buildings where early help are withdrawing, to provide some assurance that the impact on the level of services available to children and families is minimal.	<p>Early Help are in the process of withdrawing from non-retained Children and Family Centres and Youth Centres. All partners were notified of vacation dates. The service have worked closely with Health partners, including Healthy Child Programme (HCP), Midwifery, Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Looked After Children (LAC) nurses to deliver from the retained centres. Assets are also working with HCP on the lease of 10 centres to support their continued delivery. Outside of Health there have only been a small number of partners requesting help to find space. This is in part as a number of partners have not delivered in centres since they closed due to the pandemic in March 2020. Where other partners have expressed their requirements, we have been able to accommodate them in the retained centres. Homestart are a good example of this,</p>

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		having increased their offer in our retained centres delivering under 5s group work. The County Council has also connected a number of partners to the Communities Team who are supporting them to find other opportunities in the community. The main outstanding issue is the possible gap between centre withdrawal and new lease arrangements being put in place for HCP