

SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR on
Wednesday, 8th March, 2023 at 10.00 am
(A pre-meeting will take place for ALL Members of the Board at 9.45 a.m.)

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

H Bithell	-	Kirkstall;
J Bowden	-	Roundhay;
E Bromley	-	Horsforth;
A Forsaith	-	Farnley and Wortley;
J Heselwood	-	Bramley and Stanningley;
C Howley	-	Weetwood;
Z Hussain	-	Roundhay;
A Lamb (Chair)	-	Wetherby;
L Martin	-	Roundhay;
D Ragan	-	Burmantofts and Richmond Hill;
K Renshaw	-	Ardsley and Robin Hood;
L Richards	-	Wetherby;
J Senior	-	Morley South;
R. Stephenson	-	Harewood;

Co-opted Members (Voting)

Mr E A Britten	-	Church Representative (Catholic)
Mr A Graham	-	Church Representative (Church of England)
Vacancy	-	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Ms J Ward	-	Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

Mr N Tones	-	School Staff Representative
Ms H Bellamy	-	School Staff Representative
Ms L Whitaker	-	Young Lives Leeds
Mrs K Blacker		

Please Note: Please do not attend the meeting in person if you have symptoms of Covid-19 and please follow current public health advice to avoid passing the virus onto other people.

Principal Scrutiny Adviser:
Angela Brogden
Tel: (0113) 37 88661

Produced on Recycled Paper

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A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25* of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded).</p> <p>(* In accordance with Procedure Rule 25, notice of an appeal must be received in writing by the Head of Governance Services at least 24 hours before the meeting).</p>	
2			<p>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To highlight reports or appendices which officers have identified as containing exempt information, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report. 2. To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information. 3. If so, to formally pass the following resolution:- <p>RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows:</p> <p>No exempt items have been identified.</p>	

3

LATE ITEMS

To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.

(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes.)

4

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To disclose or draw attention to any interests in accordance with Leeds City Council's 'Councillor Code of Conduct'.

5

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.

6

MINUTES - 25 JANUARY 2023

7 - 14

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2023

7

LEEDS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE

15 - 34

To receive a report from the Head of Democratic Services which provides an update on recent Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) activity. This includes progress following the review of the notification process commissioned by the LSCP Executive and key cross cutting themes identified through LSCP review processes including: rapid reviews, child safeguarding practice reviews, local review processes and auditing work.

8

WORK SCHEDULE

35 - 60

To consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2022/23 municipal year.

9

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 29th March 2023 at 10.00 am (pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.45 am)

THIRD PARTY RECORDING

Recording of this meeting is allowed to enable those not present to see or hear the proceedings either as they take place (or later) and to enable the reporting of those proceedings. A copy of the recording protocol is available from the contacts on the front of this agenda.

Use of Recordings by Third Parties – code of practice

- a) Any published recording should be accompanied by a statement of when and where the recording was made, the context of the discussion that took place, and a clear identification of the main speakers and their role or title.
- b) Those making recordings must not edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or comments made by attendees. In particular there should be no internal editing of published extracts; recordings may start at any point and end at any point but the material between those points must be complete.

Webcasting

Please note – the publicly accessible parts of this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the City Council's website. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed.

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SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

WEDNESDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2023

PRESENT: Councillor A Lamb in the Chair

Councillors J Bowden, E Bromley, B Flynn,
A Forsaith, N Harrington, Z Hussain,
J Lennox, A Maloney, L Martin, D Ragan,
K Renshaw and J Senior

CO-OPTED MEMBER (VOTING)

Mr E A Britten - Church Representative
(Catholic)
Mrs K Blacker – Parent Governor
Representative (Primary)
Ms J Ward – Parent Governor
Representative (Secondary)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

Ms H Bellamy – School Staff
Representative
Mr N Tones – School Staff Representative
Ms L Whitaker - Young Lives Leeds

46 Election of Chair

Councillor Lamb advised the Board that he would need to leave the meeting before its conclusion, and as such, nominated Councillor Flynn to assume the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting following his departure.

RESOLVED: That, at the point at which Councillor Lamb leaves the meeting, Councillor Flynn be appointed as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

47 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

48 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

49 Late Items

There no late items.

50 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

51 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 8th March, 2023

The Board received apologies from Councillor Howley, Councillor Stephenson, Councillor Richards, Councillor Bithell, Councillor Ragan, Councillor Heselwood and Andrew Graham.

In attendance as substitute members were Councillor Flynn for Councillor Stephenson, Councillor Harrington for Councillor Richards, Councillor Lennox for Councillor Bithell and Councillor Maloney for Councillor Heselwood.

52 Minutes - 30th November 2022

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th November 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record.

53 Children and Young People's Plan refresh: summary of consultation

The Board received the report from the Director of Children and Families on the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan and were invited to give views on the recently completed consultation recently completed.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education
- Julie Longworth, Director of Children and Families
- Ruth Terry, Chief Officer for Social Work
- Tim Pouncey, Chief Officer Resources & Strategy
- Val White, Chief Officer Learning Inclusion
- Peter Storrie, Head of Service (Children / Adults lead), Intelligence & Policy Service
- Chris Hudson, Performance Programme Manager, Intelligence & Policy Service

The following issues were raised during the Board's discussion:

- In regard to the numbers of obsessions, and whether adding health as one would minimise the impact of the obsession framework, the consultation has suggested that consolidating the educational obsessions of attainment, attendance and achievement (the three A's) and supporting those Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET) into one and creating health as an obsession is the preferred option.
- It was noted that the Consultation was shared with school governors, including at a governor focused event and in governor newsletters, however statistics on their engagement with the consultation were not gathered.
- The impact of school journeys on the climate emergency were noted.

In conclusion, it was noted that the Plan would be presented to Full Council in the summer, and would be launched subject to such formal approval.

RESOLVED: That the views of the Board on the response to comments received from the consultation (within appendix 1 to the submitted report), as expressed during the meeting, be noted;

That the route to the Plan's adoption by Full Council in the summer, be noted.

54 Best City Ambition Update

The Chief Officer, Strategy and Improvement submitted a report which updated the Board on the Council's Best City Ambition.

In attendance for the item:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education
- Julie Longworth, Director of Children and Families
- Ruth Terry, Chief Officer for Social Work
- Tim Pouncey, Chief Officer Resources & Strategy
- Val White, Chief Officer Learning Inclusion
- Peter Storrie, Head of Service (Children / Adults lead), Intelligence & Policy Service
- Chris Hudson, Performance Programme Manager, Intelligence & Policy Service
- Mike Eakins Acting Head of Intelligence and Policy

It was noted that the Ambition would be reviewed in full in 2023, to take account of the outcome of the recent Local Government Association peer review, as well as the refreshed Health and Wellbeing and Inclusive Growth strategies which were due to be published in spring/summer 2023.

The Board discussed the following:

The Ambition is a city-wide initiative which Leeds City Council is a part of, and provides an internal steer to strategies, with a view to reduce the number of strategies the Council uses. It was noted that the positive ownership of the Ambition both within the Council and with partner organisations has exceeded expectations and will be integrated back into the Ambition.

The Board noted that the recently developed Social Progress Index (SPI) will be used to monitor the performance, alongside the conventional performance monitoring with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). As more data is integrated into the SPI it may become the primary method of measuring the Ambition's impact.

It was highlighted that the KPI's will prioritise children and young people's mental health, which includes a targeted programme working with GP's. Reading is also a considered KPI

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 8th March, 2023

The Board noted that the SPI will assist Councillors in their work.

RESOLVED: That the content of the submitted report, together with the comments made by Members, be noted.

55 Performance report for the financial year 2022/23

The Board received the Performance Report for the financial year 2022/23 from the Director of Children & Families.

In attendance for this item were;

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education
- Julie Longworth, Director of Children and Families
- Ruth Terry, Chief Officer for Social Work
- Tim Pouncey, Chief Officer Resources & Strategy
- Val White, Chief Officer Learning Inclusion
- Peter Storrie, Head of Service (Children / Adults lead), Intelligence & Policy Service
- Chris Hudson, Performance Programme Manager, Intelligence & Policy Service
- Erica Hiorns, Leadership and Management Lead

The performance report, provided twice a year, presented Scrutiny with the latest available data related to delivering council and city priorities in line with the council's performance management framework, including offering assurance around the health of the social care system in Leeds. The performance data also included some refreshed measures for monitoring performance against the Best City Ambition, though this work is still ongoing. It was noted that national comparator information was included where appropriate.

The Board discussed the following:

Children Looked After

- The Board was informed that there is an increase in the number of looked after children in the city, and the Board noted that some of the factors for this include poverty and the cost-of-living crisis. There is a significant number of asylum-seeking children, which the city is supportive of as a Sanctuary City, and this has a notable impact on the figures.
- There is an objective to reduce the number of looked after children, particularly adolescents with complex needs and high degrees of trauma.
- Where possible, children are placed under kinship fostering arrangements, with an offer being developed for those families
- The breakdown of the CLA figures in terms of those in kinship care and those with foster carers. A key area of interest being whether the

current economic climate has impacted on kinship carers due to rising costs. It was noted that the offer in Leeds to kinship and foster carers is substantial both in terms of finance and support and the centrality of family in the ethos of the service was also highlighted.

- The challenge around care and support for adolescents was also discussed with a similar focus on emphasising family and ongoing work to enhance support to this age group.

Attainment

- Improved attainment at Key Stage 4 was noted for the city and the recent results were the first set of statistics produced since COVID-19. The Progress 8 figures at KS4 were particularly noteworthy being above national average, statistical neighbours, core cities and the Yorkshire and Humber average.
- There is work required to capture data about young people who leave the Leeds city area by working with other Local Authorities.
- There has been partnership work with Nesta and two other local authorities to transform the early years offer with a focus on language and speech. This work will include working with libraries and early years providers, including Little Owls, to upskill the workforce across the city. This multi-disciplinary approach will prioritise the local geographic footprint.
- Reading attainment was noted as being a key part of achieving the Best City Ambition.

Clusters and Partnerships

- The Cluster programme of developing partnership working within specific localities was noted as having a positive impact on children's lives. This work will cut across the Social Progress Index agenda to further develop local partnerships by utilising data.
- Engagement continues to be developed for the Clusters, such as a planned Cluster celebration event.
- The Board requested that in future reports it would be helpful if the cluster partnerships were easier to identify in terms of where they are located geographically in the city. This was accepted and will be acted upon in future reports.
- The Board also noted the potential for a future update on clusters later in 2023 following interest and work carried out by the Board in the past.

The Director assured the Board that both numbers of looked after children and attainment are priorities for the Directorate.

The Board also discussed phonics data and improved performance in this area having previously been below average in some of the age groups.

RESOLVED:

- The Board noted the progress and performance presented in this report, and the wider context of other papers on the agenda in terms of budgets and priorities for the year.
- The Board noted the inclusion of two children's measures in the Best City Ambition dashboard. A tailored version will be included in future reports; the full set of measures have been provided to all Scrutiny Boards in the current reporting cycle.
- The Board reviewed the attainment data, which is included for the first time since the 2018/19 academic year.

(At the conclusion of this Agenda Item Councillor Lamb left the meeting and Councillor Flynn assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting).

56 Financial Health Monitoring 2022/23 - October (Month 7)

The Committee received the Financial Health Monitoring 2022/23 report from the Head of Democratic Services.

In December 2022 the Executive Board received an update from the Chief Officer Financial Services about the financial health of the Authority in respect of the General Fund revenue budget and the Housing Revenue Account at month 7 of the financial year.

The Board discussed the following:

- Councillor Venner informed the Board that many care leavers within Leeds are supported by GIPSIL housing association, meaning they can move into their own tenancies, which thus rereleases their space on the Our Way Leeds (OWL) programme for another vulnerable young person. This has produced a council saving of around £1million.
- In addition to the above, Councillor Venner outlined the cost of privately run children and young people's accommodation for local authorities across the country, and the Board noted that Leeds City Council is limited in its ability to tackle this issue without a government steer on policy. In the meantime, a focus on council run facilities is the most financially healthy approach.
- The Board noted the memorandum of understanding between Directors of Children's Services on a regional level, through the Regional Care Co-Operative, to try to limit the cost of care in this area by preventing Local Authorities from outbidding one another for agency staff.
- The Director of Children and Families advised the Board that the decision has been taken to amalgamate some of the Little Owls nurseries due to declining numbers of children in the city impacting their financial sustainability.

- The Board discussed the financial impact of rising fuel costs and a decrease in private hire taxi provision has impacted the cost of providing transportation for SEND children.
- The Board enquired about the increased legal costs and were advised that they have risen due to the increasingly complex nature of court cases.

RESOLVED:

That the relevant information as detailed within the submitted Executive Board report, be noted together with the comments provided in relation to those service areas that fall within the Board's remit.

57 Initial Budget Proposals for 2023/24

The Board received the report of the Head of Democratic Services which provided the context for formal consultation on the initial budget proposals that fall within the remit of the Board.

In attendance for item were;

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education
- Julie Longworth, Director of Children and Families
- Ruth Terry, Chief Officer for Social Work
- Tim Pouncey, Chief Officer Resources & Strategy
- Lucie McAulay, Head of Finance (Children and Families)

The Board noted that the Council has experienced significant financial challenges, which are projected to continue into the next financial year.

The Board noted the following proposals to minimise costs within the Children and Families Directorate to improve the financial health of the overall Council. These included;

- Proposed work with adolescents who are on the edge of the care system to prevent them being taken into care.
- An additional £1.6m to meet demand and demography pressures and £2m to manage budget pressures within transport services. This additional funding will be used to meet existing pressure and also address inflationary pressure.
- £11.5m of savings proposals for 2023/24 through Business As Usual practice and Service Reviews. The latter require additional consultation before they are implemented. In total the Children and Families budget represents 25% of the Council's net managed budget.
- Partnership learning with Adults Social Care, where there is expertise in capacity and commissioning, and with negotiation. This produces more competitive pricing, which due to the high costs involve will be cost efficient work.

- The Transformation Team agenda was discussed as an important council-wide initiative to drive savings. This has improved collaborative working with colleagues from transport, residential care and housing which has produced transformational system improvement of the council. This has a quality-of-life impact for children in semi-independent living and for supporting them into their own tenancies.
- The work involved in developing partnerships, cross-directorate workstreams, data analysis was noted as requiring capacity with an approach of secondment being proposed.
- The cost of the pay award to the Directorate along with inflation will cost around £8.3million.
- The Board noted the financial impact that the cost of living and pandemic have had on children and families and this will be noted in the composite statement that will go to Executive Board on 8 February.
- The Board commented on the transformation agenda within Children's Services, mental health services for young people and the impact Covid has had on the mental health of young people, care leavers also unfortunately having children who require care, continuing development of preventative approaches and assurances around services to prevent teenage conception.

RESOLVED:

The Chair noted that the pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on Children and Families, and that this shall be noted in the Board's recommendations.

That having noted and considered the relevant information provided within the submitted report on the proposed budget for 2023/24 and provisional budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26, the comments made by the Board be taken into consideration as part of the Scrutiny Boards' submission to Executive Board as it prepares its final proposals for consideration by full Council on 22nd February 2023.

58 Work Schedule

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that presented the Board's latest work schedule for the forthcoming municipal year.

The Principal Scrutiny Advisor noted that the 1st February 2023 meeting of the Board may be cancelled or rescheduled based on feedback on board member availability for the date.

RESOLVED: That the work schedule, as presented, be noted, together with the current position regarding the currently scheduled additional meeting of 1st February 2023.

59 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 8th March 2023 at 10.00 am (pre-meeting for Board Members at 9.45 am).

Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership - Update

Date: 8th March 2023

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

- In February 2022, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board learned that the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Executive had commissioned a review of the processes supporting the Notification of Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents, which was being undertaken by a group consisting of representatives from each of the three key statutory partner agencies and led by West Yorkshire Police.
- In May 2022, the LSCP Executive updated the Scrutiny Board on the notifications review and discussed the key issue of decision making in relation to Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents. The LSCP Executive gave a commitment to return to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Board to provide a further progress update reflective of the review findings.
- During the Scrutiny Board's meeting in November 2022, Members agreed to hold a formal meeting dedicated to the issue of safeguarding, which would involve receiving an update on the review of the notification process while also providing an opportunity for the LSCP Executive to discuss its general priorities, with particular reference to key cross cutting themes identified through the LSCP review processes.
- The LSCP Executive has provided relevant background reports which are appended for the Board's consideration.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider the content of the attached reports by the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive and determine appropriate next steps.

What is this report about?

1. In February 2022, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board considered an urgent matter of business relating to an issue which had been brought to the attention of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board Chair in respect of the processes supporting the Notification of Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents.
2. The Scrutiny Board was advised that the Chair had been made aware of instances where differing views were evident within the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) in relation to whether or not to categorise a case as a notifiable Serious Child Safeguarding Incident. The Board also learned that the LSCP Independent Chair had recommended a review of the notification process, which was approved by the LSCP Executive and was being undertaken by a group consisting of representatives from each of the three key statutory partner agencies and led by West Yorkshire Police.
3. The Scrutiny Board had agreed to maintain a watching brief and in May 2022, the LSCP Executive updated the Scrutiny Board on the progress of the review and the key issue of decision making in relation to Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents. The LSCP Executive also gave a commitment to return to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Board to provide a further progress update reflective of the review findings.
4. During the Scrutiny Board's meeting in November 2022, Members agreed to hold a formal meeting dedicated to the issue of safeguarding, which would involve receiving an update on the review of the notification process while also providing an opportunity for the LSCP Executive to discuss its general priorities, with particular reference to key cross cutting themes identified through the LSCP review processes.
5. The LSCP Executive has provided relevant background reports which are appended for the Board's consideration.

What impact will this proposal have?

6. The information presented to the Scrutiny Board will assist Members in determining appropriate next steps.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

7. One of the eleven priorities set out within the existing Leeds Children and Young People's Plan is ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

8. The Director and Deputy Director of Children and Families; the Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP); the Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships; and the legal adviser to the LSCP had attended the Scrutiny Board's meeting in February 2022 to contribute to the discussion and address any questions from Board Members.

9. In May 2022, the Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership was joined by other partner members of the LSCP Executive in providing an update to the Scrutiny Board.
10. All partner members of the LSCP Executive have again been invited to today's meeting to present the appended reports and address any questions from Board Members.

What are the resource implications?

11. This report has no specific resource implications.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

12. Details of any associated risk management implications will be reflected as part of the appended reports from the LSCP Executive.

What are the legal implications?

13. The Wood Review of 2016 led to an amendment of The Children's Act 2004, resulting in the removal of the statutory requirement of local authorities to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board and placed the responsibility for safeguarding equally with local authorities namely children and family services, police and health (Clinical Commissioning Groups).
14. The Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017), the associated regulations and statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' set out the duties placed on the three agencies to work in partnership and to define the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. It also places a duty on other partner agencies to co-operate with the new arrangements albeit the local authority is designated as the accountable body for the Notification arrangements.
15. Members are requested to note that given the legal restrictions it will not be appropriate for there to be any discussion of and/or reference to individual cases which fall within the notification arrangements.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Report of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive on the LSCP Notifications Process (March 2023)
- Appendix 2 – Report of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive on Cross Cutting Themes from Review Processes (March 2023)
- Appendix 3 – LSCP Annual Report Overview

Background papers

- None.

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Report to: Leeds Children and Families Scrutiny Board
Report from: Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive
Title of Report: LSCP Notification Process
Date: 8 March 2022

1. Purpose of report

1.1. This report sets out to update the Children and Families Scrutiny Board, on progress following the review of the notification process commissioned by the LSCP Executive, and the collective decisions reached with regards to decision making in relation to Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents (SCSI).

2. Introduction

2.1. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WTSC) Guidance, which underpins the legislative framework of the Children Act 2004 and the associated regulations, states that *safeguarding partners must make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. They must commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken*¹

2.2. The guidance also adds that *the duty to notify events to the Panel rests with the local authority*² and the LSCP Executive have sought legal advice on this position. By way of confirmation the legal advisor to the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (who is employed by the local authority) has advised that the Children Act 2004 confers upon a local authority the function of making a notification. This function is a duty rather than a power, and in exercising this function a local authority is required to determine whether a case meets the statutory criteria for a notification³, or not. In doing so it has to make a decision, having regard to public law principles including, but not limited to, applying the statutory criteria, taking into account all relevant information, and ignoring irrelevant considerations.

2.3. Furthermore, that in making that decision it is an integral part of the decision-making process that they are informed and guided by the views of statutory partners. However, the ultimate responsibility to notify, or not to notify, lies with the local authority, as set out in legislation. There are no provisions within the legislation which permit a local authority to delegate this statutory duty to partners. The local authority remains accountable in law for the decisions made.

2.4. The LSCP Independent Chair informed the LSCP Executive in July 2021 that she was not assured about the notification systems in Leeds, this was informed by a serious case raised to the Review Advisory Group (RAG)⁴ that had not been notified to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. This led the LSCP Independent

¹ Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Chapter 4.7

² Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Chapter 4.14

³ A serious child safeguarding case as defined by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 is one whereby abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has died or been seriously harmed.

⁴ The LSCP RAG is composed of representatives for the three key Statutory Safeguarding Partners Local Authority, Health, and Police.

Chair to recommend a review of this process which was approved by the LSCP Executive and was undertaken by a group consisting of representatives from each of the three key statutory partner agencies and led by West Yorkshire Police.

2.5. The LSCP Executive has provided an overview with regards to the progress of the Review and the key issue of decision making in relation to a SCSi to the Leeds Children and Families Scrutiny Board, with the last being in May 2022.

3. Summary of progress since May 2022 and decisions made

3.1. The Review identified areas of improvement in relation to the forms and templates used when considering a potential SCSi and made further recommendations relating to the SCSi review process.

3.2. These recommendations and improvements have been accepted by the LSCP Executive and are now being embedded into practice:

- A Partnership Serious Child Safeguarding Incident Notification Discussion form has been developed to allow all partner agencies to raise cases with the RAG which it believes may meet the criteria for notification in a consistent way. The RAG has representatives from the three key statutory partners, health, police, local authority, alongside the Independent Chair of the LSCP and LSCP Business Unit Managers. The form, which is submitted to the LSCP Business Unit, ensures that cases which are raised are done so in line with the notification criteria and that partners are able to provide their rationale for referral. The form allows identification that the referral has been undertaken in discussion and agreement with the referrer's agency safeguarding lead (or RAG representative where applicable)
- The form has a section to record the RAG's discussion in relation to whether or not the criteria for notification is met, including the outcome of the discussion, any areas of disagreement and next steps. If a notification is to be made there is a section to record that this has occurred.
- A system has been developed within the LSCP Business Unit which records all referrals for consideration of a notification, key details of the incident, outcome, and next steps.
- On receipt of each referral the LSCP Business Unit circulates the Partnership Serious Child Safeguarding Incident Notification Discussion form to the RAG and an Extraordinary RAG meeting is held to consider the information known to all agencies at that point in time. This is an opportunity for RAG members to share information and provide their professional views with regards to the notification criteria.
- Where a child has died the LSCP Business Manager will attend the statutory Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood⁵ (SUDIC) meeting and feed any additional or relevant information into the RAG meeting for consideration.
- When the decision of the Children and Families directorate is not to notify, and there is disagreement with one or more RAG partners, the rationale for this is provided by the Children and Families directorate in writing to all RAG members within the 5-day notification timescale⁶. This is then shared with the LSCP Executive for noting.

⁵ The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health-Sudden unexpected death in infancy and childhood - 2016

⁶ Working Together 2018 states that all notifications to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel must be made within 5 working days of the local authority being made aware of the incident

- If a notification is made and a Rapid Review⁷ held, partner agency scoping authors⁸ have been invited to participate within the Rapid Review, presenting their reports and considering learning. This has led to richer conversations and extraction of learning due to representation from those agencies working closely with the child / family. In some instances this has avoided the need for a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) as the Rapid Review has led to robust and timely learning.

3.3. This has effectively simplified the process to support any partner agency wishing to refer a potential SCSi to the LSCP RAG and enhanced the process which ensures all referrals are carefully considered in a multi-agency forum with decision making being informed by information, knowledge, and professional expertise from all three statutory partners. This process has been rigorously tested using cases referred into the RAG and agencies have expressed their full confidence that this process is robust.

3.4. With respect to the decision as to whether a SCSi is notified to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, the Executive have considered the options presented within the paper to the Leeds Children and Families Scrutiny Board in May 2022, namely:

Option 1

To continue following the current process where, the Local Authority has the duty to consider and decide whether a case meets the criteria for notification to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, even if there are differences of opinion amongst partners.

Option 2

To consider a system whereby if the LSCP Executive cannot agree whether a case meets the criteria for notification to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel then the LSCP Independent Chair will request the LSCP Executive to vote. The Local Authority will then take forward the majority view to notify a case to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. This option goes against the legal advice given by the LSCP Legal Advisor, that this is unlawful, and that the LSCP Executive may wish to seek further independent legal advice.

Option 3

If no consensus, then the Local Authority maintain their position on notification but write to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, LSCP Exec, Exec Lead for Children and Families and Scrutiny Chair with a rationale for the decision and commitment to initiate a learning process agreed by the LSCP Executive. The Local Authority recognises that there may be cases where a consensus is not reached by the Review Advisory Group and LSCP Executive as regards significant or serious harm. Where this decision is very finely balanced there may be cases where the Local Authority will take account of the majority views of the other two statutory partners and make the decision to notify however, this cannot be a blanket approach.

3.5. In July 2022 the LSCP Executive agreed that it will not seek further legal advice with regards to this matter⁹, and acknowledged that the legal advice from the LSCP legal

⁷ The statutory multi-agency review process following a notification of a SCSi. All partner agencies are scoped with regards to their contact with the child and family and this information is reviewed in order to identify areas of good practice and learning. Following a Rapid Review a decision is made as to whether a Child Safeguarding Practice Review is required to further extrapolate learning, and an Action Plan developed with regards to any identified learning.

⁸ Scoping authors are senior safeguarding leads in partner agencies who have responsibility to provide information on their agency involvement on each case

⁹ Legal advice has been provided by the LSCP Legal Advisor (LCC Legal and Democratic Services legal representative) and West Yorkshire Police Legal Services

advisor meant that Option 2 is not a possibility for the Local Authority. Police and Health partners are not in agreement with Working Together 2018 placing the duty to notify with a single agency, as this does not represent a position of equal decision making. However on the basis of the improvements in discussions and the wish not to seek further legal advice the LSCP Executive have agreed to adopt Option 1.

- 3.6. The LSCP Executive have acknowledged that the changes in processes as described above have resulted in a more equitable approach to decision making and partners report that they are able to more effectively contribute to the decision-making process. Notifications to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel have increased and decisions made in relation to 100% of cases have been unanimously agreed by RAG members. This enhanced process of open, honest, and robust discussions along with appropriate challenge is now recognised by all partners.
- 3.7. It has been agreed that where there is disagreement in relation to decision making, the rationale for the decision will be provided in writing to all RAG members by the Local Authority within the five-day notification timescale. This will then be provided to the LSCP Executive for noting.
- 3.8. A workshop with the LSCP Executive, the Chair of the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the three National Safeguarding Reforms Facilitators for Health, Police and Local Authorities took place in May 2022. It was highlighted at this meeting that Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 will be updated within the next 12-18 months and that it would be beneficial to share our journey in Leeds in order to feed into the update with respect to guidance around SCSIs and associated review processes.
- 3.9. Feedback based on the Leeds journey has been fed into a recent consultation on the update of the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel guidance which was updated in September 2022¹⁰.
- 3.10. The updated process has been shared with partner agencies.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1. This interim process in line with Option 1 will be monitored by the LSCP Executive and reviewed after 12 months (July 2023).
- 4.2. The LSCP Executive are considering how to feed their experience and views into the anticipated update of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The LSCP Independent Chair has written to Brendan Clarke-Smith MP with regards to this matter and offered to share her views as to how the guidance could be strengthened in relation to this area.
- 4.3. In addition to the area of decision making in relation to SCSi notifications, the review has identified further areas of learning and enhancements, namely:
 - Enhancing the dissemination of learning both multi-agency and internally within partner agencies
 - Enhancing oversight and quality assurance of action plans resulting from Rapid Review or Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in order to identify impact on practice and outcomes for children and young people

¹⁰ [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel guidance for safeguarding partners](#)

- Considering capacity within the LSCP Business Unit in relation to Rapid Reviews, learning and monitoring the implementation and impact from all local learning.

A work plan is being developed to address these and will be implemented and monitored through the Leeds Children and Young People Partnership.

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Report to: Leeds Children and Families Scrutiny Board
Report from: Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive
Title of Report: Cross Cutting themes from Review Processes
Date: 8 March 2023

1. Purpose of report

1.1. This report sets out to update the Children and Families Scrutiny Board on key cross cutting themes identified through Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) review processes including:

- Rapid Reviews
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Local review processes
- Auditing work

2. Introduction

2.1. The LSCP is a multi-agency partnership which supports the implementation of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the city. The LSCP is led by the LSCP Executive which comprises the key statutory safeguarding partners who have responsibility for safeguarding as outlined within Working Together 2018 (Local Authority through Children and Families Directorate, Health through the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board Leeds and West Yorkshire Police Leeds District). They are responsible for the city's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and ensuring these are robust. An Independent Chair is appointed to provide oversight and scrutiny of the arrangements.

2.2. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 states that "Locally, safeguarding partners must make arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. They must commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken".

2.3. A serious child safeguarding case as defined by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 is one whereby abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has died or been seriously harmed. It goes on to clarify that serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and / or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It should also cover impairment of physical health.

2.4. Serious child safeguarding cases are initially reviewed by the Rapid Review process which seeks to identify learning in a timely way¹, whilst considering if there is further learning to be identified and explored through a Child Safeguarding Practice Review. In addition to the statutory requirement to review serious child safeguarding

¹ Statutory timescale for a Rapid review is 15 working days

cases the LSCP, as part of its commitment to learning and improvement, also reviews other cases from which learning can be identified through local review processes and auditing.

2.5. The fundamental purpose of reviewing incidents is to learn from those cases to help make improvements to the systems that protect children and to prevent other children from being harmed

2.6. Working Together 2018 states that

“the purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Learning is relevant locally, but it has a wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families and for the government and policy-makers. Understanding whether there are systemic issues, and whether and how policy and practice need to change, is critical to the system being dynamic and self-improving.

Reviews should seek to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents. They are not conducted to hold individuals, organisations or agencies to account, as there are other processes for that purpose, including through employment law and disciplinary procedures, professional regulation and, in exceptional cases, criminal proceedings.”²

2.7. The LSCP strongly believes learning is obtained by considering what worked well and associated good practice, as well as areas for improvement, and therefore always starts from a strength-based approach when considering learning.

2.8. The implementation of review processes and the consideration of subsequently identified learning is the responsibility of the LSCP Review Advisory Group (RAG)³.

3. Review processes May 2021 to December 2022

3.1. Between 01 May 2021 and 31 December 2022, the LSCP have undertaken 11 Rapid Reviews. Of the cases reviewed:

- 2 were under 1 year old
- 5 were aged 1-4 years
- 3 were aged 5-11 years
- 1 was 12 years or older
- 5 were male
- 6 were female
- 3 were in relation to a child who had passed away
- 8 were in relation to a child who had suffered serious harm

3.2. Four Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews were commissioned.

3.3. In addition local learning review processes were initiated for a further three cases.

3.4. Identified good practice and learning in relation to where practice could be improved for all reviews is disseminated through the LSCP Business Unit to the partnership in a variety of ways including:

² Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 P84

³ A sub-group of the LSCP with member representatives from the three statutory safeguarding partners

- The production of learning briefs which summarise the incident which has been reviewed and the key good practice and learning – this is also provided to partner agency training leads to support them in reflecting lessons within single agency training
 - Updating training to reflect learning, including a section in relation to learning from reviews within the LSCP Refresher Training
 - Presentation to the Leeds Children and Young People Partnership meeting including requests for partners to disseminate and embed learning internally
 - Inclusion in any learning from reviews presentations for example at the Leeds Children and Young People Partnership Bi-Annual Meetings
 - Consideration of practitioner presentations based on the review and identified learning – consideration is also undertaken with regards to capacity in relation to the number of sessions required to reach the workforce within Leeds.
- 3.5. It is acknowledged that although the LSCP has a strong system of gathering learning there is a need for greater assurance with regards to the dissemination of learning by and within partner agencies, how learning is implemented and subsequent changes to practice, and the outcomes for children and young people. The monitoring and evidencing of this will be a focus for the LSCP Business Unit and RAG going forward.

4. Cross Cutting Themes from Reviews and Partnership Response

- 4.1. From the reviews undertaken in 2021/22 the following cross cutting themes, and the response of the partnership, has been identified:

Professional curiosity – Although there were some examples of excellent practice in relation to the application of professional curiosity, a lack of professional curiosity, or the recording of where a practitioner has been professionally curious has been evident within a number of reviews. This has potentially meant that practitioners haven't had a full understanding of a situation or what life is like for a child or family potentially resulting in responses that do not always fully address the concerns or issues or what might be needed to support a child / family.

Partnership discussions have been held in relation to professional curiosity to consider good practice, barriers and support required, along with a partner agency survey in relation to how professional curiosity is promoted and supported (including within supervision) by partner agencies. The findings have been fed into an ongoing piece of work with Safer Stronger Communities and the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board to develop consistent city-wide resources around professional curiosity.

A Yorkshire and Humber Masterclass series in Spring 2023 will focus on professional curiosity with the findings of the above work influencing the choice of topics and speakers.

Disguised compliance – Reviews have demonstrated how individuals were able to divert attention from what was happening within the family through appearing co-operative, providing practitioners and agencies with the information requested, and this was not further pursued regarding assurances in relation to how the family were undertaking what was asked of them. It was acknowledged that this was closely associated with the need for professional curiosity.

This learning has been fed through to the LSCP Training and Development Officer and the work being undertaken in relation to professional curiosity due to the links between

disguised compliance and professional curiosity, as well as being referenced in the joint work outlined above.

Escalation processes – Within some reviews a lack of escalation of concerns regarding the risk to a child has been highlighted, and occasionally where professionals have attempted to escalate concern have not always been resolved as expected. This has led to ongoing work across the Partnership to understand barriers to implementing the LSCP multi-agency Concerns Resolution Process which supports the escalation and resolution of concerns. It was determined that the process was widely known across the Partnership with some good examples of how it is implemented. However issues of confidence and power differentials were identified, and these issues are being taken forward through both training and specific guidance and messages for practitioners across the Partnership. It was also identified that it is not always consistently recorded where the process is implemented in the early stages of a concern, making it difficult to identify where it has worked effectively. This is being reiterated within the guidance.

Individual partners have also identified single agency actions to ensure the Concerns Resolution Policy is widely promoted and imbedded in practice.

Death of a significant family member – A number of reviews identified families who had recently experienced the death of a significant family member which understandably had an impact. Good practice was identified in relation to how families were supported, and where appropriate signposted to bereavement support. However the reviews also identified the need to ensure a sensitive balance between supporting families in relation to the grieving process alongside the need to monitor plans and assess risk. It was acknowledged that the impact of a bereavement needs to be considered in all assessments, including the impact on accessing services or progression of a safeguarding plan.

This learning will be shared with the Partnership as part of the presentation of learning from reviews and will be a specific discussion at a Leeds Children and Young People Partnership bi-annual meeting in Spring 2023. It will also be fed into the LSCP Learning and Development subgroup

Domestic abuse – The majority of cases identified domestic abuse either historically or in the present. Reviews identified good practice in relation to consideration of domestic abuse including identifying and recording children within the family, and appropriate referrals to Children's Social Care; the use of Routine Enquiry⁴ and information sharing in relation to domestic incidents, MARAC⁵ and DRAMM⁶ meetings and the associated outcomes including flags on individual's records.

Reviews have identified in some instances a need to improve how consideration of domestic abuse, including further enquiries is recorded by practitioners, along with outcomes of any enquires. In addition there is an identified need to improve how risks and / or impact for children is assessed, including how historical abuse is considered and assessed in relation a first-time pregnancy or the birth of a first child based on the research in relation to pregnancy being a time of heightened risk in relation to domestic abuse. This learning was shared as part of the LSCP Domestic Abuse Review and provides recommendations for the Partnership.

⁴ Routine Enquiry is a proactive screening tool used within health settings to enquire about experiences of domestic abuse with a female patient

⁵ MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference considering high-risk domestic violence incidents

⁶ DRAMM – Daily Risk Assessment Management Meetings discuss discusses police domestic abuse incidents and MARAC referrals from the previous 24 hours, or the previous 72 hours when held on a Monday

Different agencies risk assessment processes – Good practice was evident in relation to single agency and multi-agency assessment processes, information sharing and partnership engagement in processes. However it was identified through reviews that practitioners are not always fully aware of / fully understand the risk assessment processes used by different agencies or what the identified risk levels / assessment outcomes mean. This was particularly evident in relation to the assessment and management of Registered Sex Offenders.

The Partnership is considering broader discussions to develop work in this area including a workshop to consider improved multi-agency oversight and management of Registered Sex Offenders currently being developed by police colleagues.

Impact of Covid Pandemic – The impact of the Covid Pandemic on how services operated was evident in the majority of the reviews. Some excellent practice was demonstrated from staff going above and beyond to ensure services were offered and provided, through to the provision of food parcels, regular visits and contact with families and services adapting in order to continue to operate within the required guidelines.

Reviews also identified specific impacts of the Pandemic from which learning has been taken; reduced agency capacity and staffing levels which resulted in a lack of consistency of allocated workers for families; differing ways of working which reduced face to face visits and contact; isolation for children from services, schools, and peers; the cancellation of appointments both by agencies and families due to either ways of working or illness (positive Covid test) resulting in longer periods of time between an agency's contact with a family.

Complex health needs – Two reviews considered children with complex health needs, and although good practice was identified in relation to services and support provided, the reviews identified the impact for a family of the numerous services and agencies that were involved, along with the co-ordination of numerous medical appointments. In addition, the potential to normalise a child or family's presentation was acknowledged and that a child's needs should always be assessed and considered.

In addition, the need for assurance in relation to access of appropriate medical support when a child is staying out of area was identified, resulting in the LSCP Policy for Children with Complex Health Needs Travelling Abroad being updated in November 2022 to include traveling out of area.

Consistent application of safeguarding approaches – Throughout reviews the impact of the consistent application of core safeguarding approaches including the Think Family Work Family approach, Was Not Brought Approach, Early Help Approach and Safeguarding being everybody's responsibility was evident for improving outcomes for children and young people. There have been examples of excellent practice whereby these approaches have been considered and applied, however it was recognised that these approaches were not always consistently applied across the Partnership resulting in the potential for differing responses to situations.

These approaches are continually being promoted across the partnership, and where appropriate reviewed and updated to reflect specific learning.

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Report to: Leeds Children and Families Scrutiny Board
Report from: Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive
Title of Report: LSCP Annual Report Update
Date: 8th March 2023

1.0 Purpose of report

This report sets out to update the Children and Families Scrutiny Board, on the key headlines from the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Annual Report. The full report will be published in March 2023.

2.0 Summary

The LSCP Annual Report provides an objective analysis of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the city. The Report considers activity over an 18-month period between 2021-2022 and relates to the LSCP priorities, leadership, progress, and the impact this activity has towards improvements. It also includes identified learning from reviews, including child safeguarding practice reviews, undertaken by the partnership and their impact to support improvements in practice.

The LSCP Executive, in their leadership role have sought opportunities to reflect on the current safeguarding partnership arrangements. It is three years since the last review of the city's Local Children's Safeguarding Partnership infrastructure, and it is recognised how the policy direction is changing. The national facilitators, brought in by the LSCP Executive to support and diagnosis future planning, confirmed that the safeguarding arrangements in Leeds are good and advised against any whole scale change that could destabilise this. As a result, the LSCP Executive have committed to 'reset' some of the safeguarding arrangements in collaboration with the wider partnership and will be finalising the details of this over the next few months.

Child protection systems remain strong despite the challenges of a national pandemic in 2020. Effective Front Door arrangements ensure that children's and family's needs are responded to appropriately. Families are encouraged to lead, own, and contribute to plans with Family Group Conferences offered to families where safe and appropriate to do so. The restorative approach of 'doing with, not to' in Leeds encourages families to remain central in undertaking a pro-active role in contributing better outcomes. Data shows that overall the timeliness of statutory safeguarding functions is good. Qualitative assurance is also explored through a range of multi-agency audits which brings together joint learning experiences.

Two external reviews from Ofsted over the past five years have supported and endorsed the initial findings of the LSCP Annual Report confirming innovative

and outstanding practice and leadership. This year's Annual Report acknowledges the latest OfSTED report in that this continues to be a strong reflection of the effective protection, safety and wellbeing of children and young people by the safeguarding partnership. The Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection undertaken on West Yorkshire Police in 2021 also reflects good standards of protecting vulnerable people such as those experiencing exploitation and families where domestic abuse is a feature.

The LSCP Annual Report highlights ongoing responses within the city to key areas impacting on children's safety and welfare:

- Poverty remains a key area that can impact on outcomes of children and families. The Social Gradient in English Child Welfare Services, a study by Kingston University academics and Ofsted analysts, said that children from the poorest neighbourhoods in England were almost fourteen times more likely to be referred to social care services than those from the richest areas. The latest estimates from HM Revenue and Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions estimate that 36,496 children under 16 were in poverty in 2019/20 with 74% of these children living in a household where one person was in work. In response to this challenge, the city is currently reviewing the 'Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds. Within this strategy is a workstream called 'Empowering Families & Safeguarding' led by Head of Service / Principal Social Worker, Children and Families Service. As well as reviewing the strategy a key area that will contribute to this work is seeking the views of children and families who are experiencing poverty.
- Leeds Early Help approach has ensured that the number of children requiring statutory intervention has remained relatively stable over the years despite increases seen across the country. Some children come to the attention of Social Care in crisis with sometimes little evidence of their need being identified earlier. A review of the city's Early Help system is being undertaken by the Local Authority will be both supported and monitored by the Safeguarding Partnership.
- The city's focus on children experiencing adverse childhood experiences through the development of its Trauma Informed Strategy and the drive to make Leeds a Trauma Informed City is a welcome development in the city. This strategy combines resources from both the Integrated Care Board and the Children and Families Service to reduce the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences as well as respond to trauma that young people may experience. This is a positive step forward in breaking intergenerational cycles of abuse and provide children who have experienced trauma appropriate support.

There is a consistency of approach in responding to safeguarding or child protection concerns by partners across Leeds. Multi-agency policies and

procedures provide professionals with clear guidance on how to protect children and when to report any concerns about their welfare to the appropriate agencies. These policies and procedures are developed and agreed by a range of local safeguarding experts which are then adopted and integrated into practice.

The Chairs of the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership, the Adults Safeguarding Board and Safer Leeds Executive continue to meet throughout the year to identify opportunities for closer strategic partnership working where cross cutting learning is identified. This has included increased focus of the 'Think Family Work Family' way of working, recognition of neglect and self-neglect and domestic abuse.

3.0 Key Points going Forward

Overall, the safeguarding system appears to be strong and senior leaders continue to be fully committed to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in the city. Stimulating discussions continue to take place when identifying areas for improvement and partners are open and responsive to challenge within their own agencies as well as offering challenge to partner agencies.

New priorities for the LSCP will be developed as part of the reset of the LSCP arrangements and are considering the evidence and learning from the Annual Report. This will allow a focussed approach to the areas of most significance.

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care was published on 23rd May 2022 with the government's response consultation (Stable Homes; Built on Love) published in February 2023. The safeguarding partnership will be required to support and monitor the implementation of any recommendations taken forward by the Government.

The LSCP will continue to promote, embed, and monitor the impact of learning from all reviews that are undertaken by the Partnership and be assured that it improves the safety and welfare of children and families

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Work Schedule

Date: 8th March 2023

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

- All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. In doing so, the work schedule should not be considered a fixed and rigid schedule, it should be recognised as a document that can be adapted and changed to reflect any new and emerging issues throughout the year; and also reflect any timetable issues that might occur from time to time.
- The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules also state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include 'to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.
- The latest iteration of the Board's work schedule is attached to this report for the Board's consideration.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2022/23 municipal year.

What is this report about?

1. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year and therefore the latest iteration of the Board's work schedule for the remainder of the municipal year is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
2. The latest Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 8th February 2023 are also attached as Appendix 2. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and note the Executive Board minutes, insofar as they relate to the remit of the Scrutiny Board; and consider any matter where specific scrutiny activity may also be warranted.

Developing the work schedule

3. When considering any developments and/or modifications to the work schedule, effort should be undertaken to:
 - Avoid unnecessary duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue.
 - Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.
 - Avoid pure "information items" except where that information is being received as part of a policy/scrutiny review.
 - Seek advice about available resources and relevant timings, taking into consideration the workload across the Scrutiny Boards and the type of Scrutiny taking place.
 - Build in sufficient flexibility to enable the consideration of urgent matters that may arise during the year.
4. In addition, in order to deliver the work schedule, the Board may need to take a flexible approach and undertake activities outside the formal schedule of meetings – such as working groups and site visits, where necessary and appropriate. This flexible approach may also require additional formal meetings of the Scrutiny Board.

Developments since the previous Scrutiny Board meeting

Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Update

5. A decision was made by the Chair to utilise the Scrutiny Board's planned meeting on 8th March 2023 to focus on safeguarding matters and receive an update from the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive. As a result of this, the Board will now be receiving an update report on the Leeds Child Poverty Strategy during its meeting on 29th March 2023.

Work items to be deferred to the next municipal year

6. It is now proposed that the following work items be deferred to the next municipal year:
 - **Youth Justice Plan progress update** – The Children and Families Directorate is expected to review the Youth Justice Plan in late spring (April/May) ready for submission to the Youth Justice Board in late June. It is therefore proposed that a progress update is reported to the successor Scrutiny Board in early June as this will enable the directorate to share a full year of data (April to April), along with details of their submission to the Youth Justice Board.
 - **Future In Mind Strategy update** – The Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles (AHAL) Scrutiny Board is expecting to undertake an in-depth piece of work on mental health provision to commence early in the new municipal year. The AHAL Scrutiny Board will be holding a working group meeting during March to discuss progress with the all-age Leeds Mental Health Strategy 2020-2025 while also considering how scrutiny can add value to the

delivery of this and other related strategies, including the Future In Mind Strategy, that will inform its inquiry work for next year. Linked to this, there is potential for such inquiry work to be undertaken jointly with the Children and Families Scrutiny Board. In awaiting the outcome of the AHAL Scrutiny Board's deliberations on its future inquiry work, it is proposed that an update on the Future In Mind Strategy now be deferred into the next municipal year to avoid any potential duplication of effort.

What impact will this proposal have?

7. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

8. The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the Best City Ambition.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

9. The Vision for Scrutiny states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources prior to agreeing items of work.

What are the resource implications?

10. Experience has shown that the Scrutiny process is more effective and adds greater value if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time and focus its resources on one key issue at a time.
11. The Vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council also recognises that like all other Council functions, resources to support the Scrutiny function are under considerable pressure and that requests from Scrutiny Boards cannot always be met.
12. Consequently, when establishing their work programmes Scrutiny Boards should:
- Seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources;
 - Avoid duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue;
 - Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

13. There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

What are the legal implications?

14. This report has no specific legal implications.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Latest work schedule of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board for the 2022/23 municipal year.
- Appendix 2 – Minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 8th February 2023.

Background papers

- None.



Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Work Schedule for 2022/2023 Municipal Year

June	July	August
<u>Meeting Agenda for 8th June 2022 at 10 am</u>	<u>Meeting Agenda for 6th July 2022 at 10 am</u>	No Scrutiny Board meeting
Co-opted Members (DB) Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference (DB) Scrutiny Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling – Statement of Progress (PSR) Potential Sources of Work (DB) Performance Update (PM)	Improvement Plan stemming from the 2022 Ofsted Inspection (PSR) Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan – initial consultation (PDS)	
Working Group Meetings		
Site Visits		

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Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Work Schedule for 2022/2023 Municipal Year

September	October	November
Meeting Agenda for 7th September 2022 at 10 am	Meeting Agenda for 12th October 2022 at 10 am	Meeting Agenda for 30th November 2022 at 10 am
<p>The Schools Bill 2022-23 - Update (PSR)</p> <p>Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan – update (PDS)</p>	<p>Meeting Cancelled</p> <p>Notification of Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents – update (PSR) – <i>deferred to a future meeting</i></p> <p>Children and Families Workforce Recruitment and Retention in Leeds (PSR) – <i>deferred to November meeting</i></p>	<p>Children and Families Workforce Recruitment and Retention in Leeds (PSR)</p> <p>Leeds SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2022 to 2027 – update (PSR)</p>
Working Group Meetings		
Children's Services Workforce Planning (PSR) – 28 th September 2022 @ 10 am		

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Work Schedule for 2022/2023 Municipal Year

December	January	February
No Scrutiny Board meeting.	Meeting Agenda for 25th January 2023 at 10 am	No Scrutiny Board meeting.
	Performance report (PM) Financial Health Monitoring (PSR) 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals (PDS) Best City Ambition – Update (PSR) Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan – summary of consultation (PDS)	
Working Group Meetings		
2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals (PDS) – 13/12/22 @ 4pm		
Site Visits		

Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Work Schedule for 2022/2023 Municipal Year

March	April	May
Meeting Agenda for 8th March 2023	No Scrutiny Board meeting	No Scrutiny Board meeting
Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Update (PSR)		
Meeting Agenda for 29th March 2023		
Leeds 3As Plan 2021-2023 – review of progress, including an update on the Schools Bill 2022-2023 (PSR)		
Leeds Child Poverty Strategy – Update (PSR)		
Youth Services – impact of new model (PSR)		
End of Year Scrutiny Board Statement.		
Working Group Meetings		
Site Visits		

Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response

EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2023

PRESENT: Councillor J Lewis in the Chair

Councillors S Arif, A Carter, D Coupar,
S Golton, M Harland, H Hayden, J Pryor,
M Rafique and F Venner

100 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public
RESOLVED – That, in accordance with Regulation 4 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as exempt from publication on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:-

(A) That appendix B to the report entitled, ‘Capital Receipts Programme Update’, referred to in Minute No. 107 be designated as being exempt from publication in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 and considered in private on the grounds that this appendix contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council. It is considered that the release of such information would, or would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests in relation to property transactions. It is therefore considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from publication outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information at this point in time.

101 Late Items

There were no late items of business submitted to the Board for consideration.

102 Declaration of Interests

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

103 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

104 Director of Adults and Health

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chair, on behalf of the Board paid tribute to Cath Roff, Director of Adults and Health, given that this marked her final Executive Board meeting in her role as Director.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 15th March, 2023

RESOURCES

105 Safer Leeds Executive Annual Report 2021/22

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report presenting the Annual Report of the Safer Leeds Executive (SLE) for 2021/22 and which provided an update on the progress being made in relation to the Safer Leeds Executive's current 3 year plan and the 9 key priorities within it regarding the promotion of community safety in Leeds.

By way of introduction to the annual report, the Executive Member for Resources highlighted that this was the first Safer Leeds Executive annual report to be submitted to the Board and that the intention was to submit a report to Executive Board on an annual basis moving forward. As part of the introductory comments, Members received an overview of the SLE's key areas of work and achievements to date, whilst the importance of continued partnership working in this area was emphasised in order to ensure that progress continued.

Members welcomed Chief Superintendent Steve Dodds, West Yorkshire Police to the meeting, who provided the Board with information regarding key trends and challenges being experienced from a Police perspective across the city and a summary of the actions being taken to prioritise and address such challenges.

Responding to a Member's enquiry regarding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) levels in the city, the Board received further detail on how such incidents were recorded and the approach taken to tackle the issue of ASB in communities. In addition, assurance was provided that addressing ASB remained a priority in Leeds.

Also in response to Members' enquiries, emphasis was placed upon West Yorkshire Police's commitment to neighbourhood policing and as part of that, the provision of PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers), given the key role that they played in this area. Separately, it was noted that the resourcing of neighbourhood policing continued to be a priority.

Further to this, and in response to specific enquiries, the Board received updates and reassurance from a West Yorkshire Police perspective on the effective processes in place regarding the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Regarding the Leeds Festival, assurance was provided on the Police's role in ensuring that the festival was delivered in line with all relevant requirements, with the multi-agency approach that continued to be taken in relation to such matters also being noted.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Board, the Chair extended his thanks to Chief Superintendent Dodds and the West Yorkshire Police for the service they provided across the city.

RESOLVED – That the content of the Safer Leeds Executive Annual Report for 2021/22, as appended to the submitted report, be noted.

106 Core Business Transformation Programme Phase 2: HR and Payroll Technology

Further to Minute No. 65, 19 October 2022, the Director of Resources submitted a report which sought the Board's agreement to proceed with Phase 2 of the Core Business Transformation (CBT) programme, together with the necessary approvals required to facilitate this.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received information on how the CBT programme would not only establish new technology, but would also look to ensure the effective delivery of the new processes and that the benefits from them were maximised by the Council.

Also in response to a Member's enquiry, reassurance was provided that in procuring the solution, the issue of security and the mitigation of risk from cyber attacks would be taken into account, with further explanation being given that systems were being replaced on a regular basis to ensure that they remained secure.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That approval be given for the Core Business Transformation Programme to proceed with Phase 2 of delivery requiring additional Authority to Spend of £8.0m funded from Capital Receipts in accordance with the Government's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts statutory guidance (updated August 2022) and issued under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003, with this forming part of a wider programme of works estimated to cost a total of £18.5m (Phase 1 of which (£10.48m) was approved by the Executive Board on 19th October 2022, Minute No. 65 refers);
- (b) That it be noted that Phase 2 of the programme will initially replace the Council's core HR and Payroll systems, followed by the replacement of related Health and Safety, Learning and Development, Occupational Health and Job Search, Recruitment, Selection, On-Boarding and Induction applications;
- (c) That authority be given to procure the new core HR and Payroll system(s) via an open procedure process, providing the award remains within the margins of the indicative costs; and also to waive Contract Procedure Rule (CPR) 15.2(c) in respect of the minimum points for price, with the evaluation criteria being: 60% quality, 30% price and 10% social value;
- (d) That it be noted that subsequent procurement and implementation of the related Health and Safety, Learning and Development, Occupational Health, Job Search, Recruitment, Selection, Onboarding and Induction applications will be undertaken by the Director of Resources, the Chief Officer Human Resources and Chief Officer

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 15th March, 2023

Strategy and Policy, with the project sponsor being the Chief Officer Financial Services.

107 Capital Receipts Programme Update

Further to Minute No. 113, 9th February 2022, the Director of City Development submitted a report presenting an update and overview of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme and which recommended to the Board a number of related approvals with regard to the programme.

It was noted that a footnote, as referenced in Appendices A and B, relating to Otley Lido had been included in error and therefore should be disregarded, with it being noted that the current position in relation to Otley Lido remained as reported to the Board in the Capital Receipts Programme report last year.

Following consideration of Appendix B to the submitted report designated as being exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the public part of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) That subject to the correction regarding Otley Lido as detailed above, the contents of the submitted report, together with the details of the previous Key Decisions which have been taken in relation to the disposal of assets, as set out at paragraph 4, be noted;
- (b) That the progress which has been made and the successes achieved since Executive Board considered the last report on 9 February 2022, be noted;
- (c) That those assets identified in Appendix A and exempt Appendix B to the submitted report as "Proposed for Inclusion" be declared as surplus and that approval be given to the disposal of those assets; with approval also being given to their addition to the Council's Capital Receipts Programme of surplus properties for disposal;
- (d) That the withdrawal of properties from the Capital Receipts Programme, as set out in Appendix A and exempt Appendix B to the submitted report, be approved, with such matters being implemented by the Director of City Development.

108 Financial Health Monitoring 2022/23 – Month 9 (December 2022)

The Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a report presenting an update on the financial health of the Authority in respect of both the General Fund revenue budget and the Housing Revenue Account, as at the end of Month 9 of the 2022/23 financial year.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member for Resources provided an overview of the key information within it, which included reference to the fact that an overspend of £13.4m was projected for the Authority's General Fund services, as at month 9 of 2022/23.

In noting that the intention was to utilise the Council's strategic contingency reserve to deliver a balanced budget, a Member highlighted the impact that this would have on the Council's strategic contingency reserve levels, and emphasised the need for that to be taken into consideration as part of any budget preparation processes moving forward.

Also, responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received an update on the reasons for the improved position regarding the projected overspend, when compared to the previous month's financial health monitoring report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That it be noted that at Month 9 of the financial year (December 2022) the Authority's General Fund services are forecasting an overspend of £13.4m and that the Housing Revenue Account is forecasting a balanced position;
- (b) That it be noted, that where an overspend is projected, directorates, including the Housing Revenue Account, are required to present action plans to mitigate their reported pressures, in line with the Revenue Principles agreed by Executive Board in 2019; with it also being noted that proposals received to date are included in the submitted report, as at Appendix 4, and that further action plans will be received at the March 2023 meeting of Executive Board;
- (c) That it be noted that known increased inflation and known impacts of the rising cost of living, including the agreed 2022/23 pay award, have been incorporated into this reported financial position, with it also being noted that these pressures will continue to be assessed, with the latest position being incorporated into future reports to be received by Executive Board.

ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

109 Annual Report of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board for 2021-22

The Director of Adults and Health submitted a report that presented the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board's (LSAB) Annual Report for 2021/22, which summarised the Board's achievements and ongoing areas of work over the relevant 12 month period and provided an update on the intended plans moving forward, in line with the Board's strategic plan.

By way of introduction to the annual report, the Executive Member highlighted the key areas which had been focussed upon during 2021/22, including the launch of a cross-cutting strategy to tackle the issue of self-neglect and promoting the accessibility of safeguarding across the diverse communities of Leeds.

The Board welcomed Richard Jones CBE, Independent Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board to the meeting, who was in attendance in order to introduce the key points of the annual report, the objectives of the Board and

to highlight key priorities moving forward. Concluding, the Independent Chair extended his thanks to his Board colleagues, all frontline staff for their contribution in this area and also to the Director of Adults and Health, given that this was her final Board meeting.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information on the role of the LSAB and its sub group in considering safeguarding concerns raised, and the process and criteria by which a Safeguarding Adult Review, arising from such a concern, could be initiated. Further to this discussion, it was suggested that future LSAB annual reports could make reference to such matters moving forward, including the number of concerns considered and the resulting actions taken.

In acknowledging the challenges that continued to be faced in the area of safeguarding, the importance of the partnership approach being taken was emphasised, together with the focus that the LSAB was placing upon equality and diversity.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2021/22, as appended to the submitted report, together with the comments made during the discussion, be noted;
- (b) That the strategic aims and ambitions of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board, as set out in the accompanying Strategic Plan, as appended and linked to the submitted report, be supported;
- (c) That it be noted that the Safeguarding Board will develop an action plan in response to the Peer Challenge which will be set out in the Annual Report for 2022/23.

(Councillor Coupar left the meeting at the conclusion of this agenda item)

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

110 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Council Tax report including reports on the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy

Further to Minute No. 91, 14th December 2022, the Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a suite of reports regarding: proposals for the City Council's Revenue Budget for 2023/24 and the Leeds element of the Council Tax to be levied during the same period; proposals regarding an updated Capital Programme for 2023 – 2027 and also a proposed updated Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24.

The Board was advised that the budget proposals as detailed within the submitted report were based upon the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. However, it was noted that following the publication of the submitted agenda papers, the final Local Government Finance Settlement had been received, which was consistent with the initial Settlement in all but two areas:

- 1) Regarding the Services Grant, it was noted that the Council would be in receipt of a further £253,000 in 2023/24, and that the intention was for this sum be allocated to the Strategic Contingency Reserve balance; and
- 2) Regarding the surplus on the Business Rates Levy Account, it was noted that the surplus was to be allocated to Local Authorities, and as a result, Leeds would receive £1.3m in the current financial year which would therefore contribute towards the currently projected overspend. It was also noted that the next financial health monitoring report would reflect the updated position.

In addition, it was noted that a correction was required within the submitted 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Council Tax cover report, specifically section 3(j) (page 241 of the agenda pack) should read: *'Looking ahead, Appendix 1 presents Provisional Revenue Budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26. These update the position set out in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy received in September 2022, with latest forecast gaps of £43.0m in 2024/25 and £28.7m in 2025/26'*.

(A) 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Council Tax

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Council be recommended to note the recommendation of the Council's statutory officer (the Chief Officer – Financial Services) that the Budget proposals for 2023/24 are robust and that the proposed level of reserves is adequate, as set out at Part 7 of Appendix 1 to the submitted report;
- (b) That, subject to the inclusion of the updated position and correction as referenced above, the Council be recommend to adopt the following:-
 - (i) That the revenue budget for 2023/24 totalling £573.4m be approved. This means that the Leeds element of Council Tax for 2023/24 will increase by 2.99% plus the Adult Social Care precept of 2.00%. This excludes the police and fire precepts which will be incorporated into the Council Tax report to be submitted to Council on 22nd February 2023;
 - (ii) That approval be given to grants totalling £69.6k to be allocated to parishes, as shown at Appendix 5 to the submitted report;
 - (iii) That approval be given to the strategy at Appendix 9 of the submitted report in respect of the flexible use of capital receipts - specifically the additional planned use in 2022/23 of £2.7m and planned use in 2023/24 of £19.0m;
 - (iv) That in respect of the Housing Revenue Account, the budget be approved with:-
 - An increase of 7% in dwelling rents;
 - An increase of 7% in garage and travellers site rent;
 - An increase of 12.6% (RPI) for the standing charges in district heating schemes and the district heating unit rate will increase to 10p per kwh;

- A 30% increase in heat consumption charges in sheltered complexes;
 - An increase in service charges for low/medium rise flats to £4.83 per week and for multi-storey flats £11.40 per week;
 - A decrease in the charge for tenants who benefit from the sheltered support service to £8.51 per week;
 - An increase in the Retirement Life charge for the provision of additional community facilities to £11.40 per week for services within complexes and £4.83 per week where they are within a standalone community centre;
 - An increase in the service charges for Wharfedale extra care scheme to £47.41 per week, in addition the support charge will increase by 9%.
- (v) That in respect of the Schools' Budget, the High Needs Block budget for 2023/24, as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the Schools' Budget Report at Appendix 8 to the submitted report, be approved, with specific reference to the table at paragraph 4.4.6 of the submitted report;
- (c) That Executive Board approval be given to the updated Revenue and Capital Principles, as detailed at Appendix 11 to the submitted report;
- (d) That Executive Board's thanks be conveyed to Scrutiny Boards and all those who took part in the public consultation for their comments and the observations made in consideration of the Council's Proposed Budget for 2023/24.

(B) Capital Programme Update 2023 – 2027

RESOLVED –

- (a) That Executive Board recommends to Council:-
- (i) the approval of the Capital Programme for 2023-2027, totalling £1,978.5m, including the revised projected position for 2022/23, as presented in Appendix A to the submitted report;
 - (ii) the approval of the MRP policy statements for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix C to the submitted report; and
 - (iii) the approval of the Capital and Investment Strategy, as set out in Appendix D to the submitted report; with it being noted that as part of the Capital and Investment Strategy, the Council is required to set prudential limits for the total value of its non-treasury investments and, specifically, limits for the total value of service investments and the total value of commercial investments that it holds; and as such, Council be recommended to approve, as detailed within Appendix D, that:-
 - the prudential limit for service investments be set at £80m; and
 - that a limit of £200m should be set for the carrying value of assets which are classed as commercial investments.

- (b) That Executive Board approval be given to the following net injections totalling £420.7m into the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A(iii) to the submitted report:-
- £95.6m of Corporate Borrowing to address Capital Programme Review budget pressures as listed at Appendix A(iv) to the submitted report;
 - £92.5m of annual programme injections (£45.4m of Corporate Borrowing, £11.9m of Flexible Use of Capital Receipts and £35.2m of External Funding) as listed at Appendix A(v) to the submitted report;
 - £9.8m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Strategic Fund monies;
 - £7.8m of Flexible Use of Capital Receipts injection for the Core Business Transformation Programme; and
 - £215.0m of other injections, primarily relating to the roll forward of the HRA Programme, annual capital grant allocations and other secured external grant funding.
- (c) That it be noted that the above resolutions to inject funding of £420.7m will be implemented by the Chief Officer (Financial Services).

(C) Treasury Management Strategy 2022/2023

Thanks was extended to those in the Treasury Management team for the effective way in which such matters continued to be managed.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Treasury Strategy for 2023/24, as set out in Section 8.5 of the submitted report, be approved by Executive Board and that the review of the 2022/23 strategy and operations, as set out in Sections 8.3 and 8.4 of the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That full Council be recommended to approve that the borrowing limits for the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 be confirmed as set in February 2022; and that new limits for 2025/26 be approved at £3,200m for Borrowing and £530m for other Long term liabilities for the Authorised limit. For 2025/26, full Council be recommended to approve that the Operational Boundary be set at £2,950m for Borrowing and £510m for Other Long-term Liabilities, as detailed at Section 8.6 of the submitted report;
- (c) That full Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Management indicator for the maturity structure of the Council's borrowing as detailed in Section 8.7 and Appendix B to the submitted report; with the only change to this Indicator being to increase the maximum percentage of debt maturing within 12 months from the previous 15% to 25% in response to the change required to the underlying calculation of this indicator from fixed rate debt only to include all debt including short term and variable rate debt;

- (d) That full Council be recommended to set the investment limits for periods greater than 364 days for 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 at £150m, and that a new limit for 2025/26 be set at £150m. Also, full Council be recommended to approve that the limit of £15m which can be placed with the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) be removed. (The DMADF is an arm of the Debt Management office of HM Treasury). Finally, full Council be recommended to agree that all other Investment limits remain as set in February 2022, which are explained in Section 8.8.9 of the submitted report;
- (e) That full Council be recommended to approve that the Treasury Management Policy Statement be updated in line with the revised codes of practice, as shown at Appendix E to the submitted report; and that full Council be recommended to note that updated Treasury Management Practices and new Investment Management Practices (a new requirement, relating to non-treasury management investments), which are detailed operational documents, will be approved before the start of the 2023/24 financial year by the Chief Officer Financial Services, as required under the CIPFA Codes.

(The matters referred to in Minute Nos. 110 (A)(a) – 110(A)(b)(v) and 110 (A)(d) (Revenue Budget and Council Tax); 110(B)(a)(i) – 110(B)(a)(iii) (Capital Programme) and 110(C)(b) – 110(C)(e) (Treasury Management Strategy), given that they were decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, were not eligible for Call In)

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillors Carter and Golton required it to be recorded that they both respectively abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

111 Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge – Initial Action Plan

Further to Minute No. 90, 14 December 2022, the Chief Executive submitted a report presenting for consideration the initial Action Plan which had been drawn up in response to the findings and recommendations arising from recent the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge which took place in November 2022.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the progress made in developing the LGA Peer Challenge Action Plan (as presented at Appendix 1 to the submitted report) in response to the findings and recommendations of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge, be noted;
- (b) That it be noted that the initial Action Plan, alongside the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge final report will be considered by Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board at their February 2023 meeting, in line with the Executive Board resolution of 14 December 2022 (Minute No. 90(c) refers);

- (c) That it be noted that the Peer Challenge Action Plan will inform organisational and financial planning as well as the Best City Ambition refresh, and that monitoring and reporting will be undertaken through existing routes, such as the Annual Performance Report.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE

112 Initial Public Consultation on the Proposed Scope of the Leeds Local Plan 2040

The Director of City Development submitted a report which set out the proposed consultation material regarding the update to the Leeds Local Plan. Specifically, the report sought approval to the proposed initial scope of the Leeds Local Plan 2040, to the commencement of a consultation exercise for a period of six weeks and to refer the consultation documentation to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board for consideration as part of such consultation.

A Member highlighted the importance of ensuring that the consultation was comprehensive and that the level of response was monitored, with a request that action be taken to ensure an appropriate level of response was achieved, if necessary. In response, assurance was provided that the consultation response would be monitored to ensure that the process was consistent with the established Statement of Community Involvement.

The Board acknowledged a Member's comments regarding the need to ensure that the approach being taken in relation to the role of town and local centres was widened to consider social, cultural and wellbeing aspects, with it being undertaken that such matters would be taken into consideration as the consultation process progressed.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the proposed initial scope of the Leeds Local Plan 2040 be agreed as follows:-
- Update by deleting, creating or amending policies within the Local Plan for Leeds (namely the Adopted Leeds Core Strategy (amended 2019), the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013), Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan (2017), Site Allocations Plan (2019) and Unitary Development Plan (2006)) that relate to the spatial strategy, housing, economic development, the role of centres, minerals and waste, transport and accessibility and 'other' topics areas (including heritage, landscape, rural development, community facilities, contaminated land and hazardous substances, and open land and green corridors in urban areas);
- (b) That the commencement of a consultation exercise on the scope, as presented to the Board, for a period of six weeks using supporting topic paper (as detailed at appendix 1 to the submitted report), be agreed;

- (c) That the consultation documentation (as detailed at appendix 1 to the submitted report) be referred to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board for consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Budget and Policy Framework;
- (d) That the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (as detailed at Appendix 2 to the submitted report) be published for comment as part of the consultation;
- (e) That it be noted that a 'Call for Sites' will be undertaken alongside the consultation process;
- (f) That the necessary authority be provided to the Chief Planning Officer, in order to enable the Chief Planning Officer, in liaison with the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate, to approve any amendments to the consultation material in advance of public consultation;
- (g) That it be noted that the Chief Planning Officer is responsible for the implementation of the resolutions above.

(The matters referred to within this minute, given that they were decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, were not eligible for Call In, as Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.2 states that the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules)

113 Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy - Action Plan Annual Update 2022

The Director of City Development submitted a report which outlined the annual progress which continued to be made in relation to the Connecting Leeds, Transport Strategy Action Plan, following the Board's approval of the Action Plan in October 2021.

In presenting the report, the challenges that continued to be faced in relation to longer term planning and ambitions in this area were highlighted, with the Executive Member emphasising the impact of the current national funding model on such matters.

In response to a Member's comments regarding the impact of development works whilst they were being carried out, the Board was advised that whilst works were planned as much in advance as possible and in a co-ordinated a way as possible, there were a number of external factors, such as the timeframe by which funding needed to be spent and emergency utility works, that often influenced the approach taken.

Members received an update on footfall statistics for the city centre together with bus and rail patronage levels, with it being noted that current levels in Leeds were approaching, or in some cases equal to that of 2019. It was also

noted that the rate of the increase being experienced in Leeds was faster than in a number of other areas in the country.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received an update regarding the '20 Minute Neighbourhood' initiative and how that connected with such matters, with it being noted that there was expected to be further reference to the provision of '20 Minute Neighbourhoods' in next year's annual update report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy annual progress report, together with the associated Action Plan 2021-2024, as presented, be noted;
- (b) That the progress made and successes achieved against the key measures outlined in the Action Plan and the submitted report, be noted, together with how these impact on the wider context of the Leeds City Council Best City Ambition;
- (c) That the progress made against the interim datasets and associated key performance indicators which are used to develop the Connecting Leeds Action Plan that support the aims and objectives of the Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy, be noted.

114 Connecting Leeds - Public Transport Investment Programme - Completion Update

The Director of City Development submitted a report presenting an update on the progress made in relation to the Connecting Leeds, Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme (LPTIP), which covered the period between the last update presented to the Board in November 2020 up to the completion of the majority of all construction and project delivery, as at November 2022.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member extended her thanks to all of those involved in the delivery of this very significant programme of works, which it was noted was undertaken within a very challenging timescale. The Executive Member also provided an overview of the programme's key achievements.

Responding to a Member's specific enquiry questioning the reference in the report on the undertaking of schemes to improve neighbourhood transport hubs at Rothwell and Robin Hood, it was undertaken that such references would be checked with a response being provided to the Member in question.

There was a discussion regarding the recent scheme inflation review which had been undertaken by the Combined Authority and, in response to Members' enquiries, a brief update was provided on the latest position of a scheme within a specific Member's area.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the completion of the majority of construction/project delivery work undertaken on the Connecting Leeds Programme (Bus Infrastructure, Rail and Bus Delivery packages) to ensure the realisation of the outcomes, as set out in the strategic outline business case to the Department for Transport (DfT), be noted;
- (b) That the latest financial position of the programme, be noted; and that agreement be given for the Chief Officer Highways and Transportation, in conjunction with the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate, to make any further residual movements within budget, which are needed on completion of the programme between packages and taking account of all the additional external funding opportunities secured since the last update report.

COMMUNITIES

115 A Refreshed Approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment and the Director of Resources submitted a joint report which presented a refreshed approach towards Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, including a Vision Statement and Action Plan for consideration and adoption.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member emphasised the partnership approach which had been taken in compiling this refreshed approach and thanked those who had been involved in the engagement process. In addition, the 5 priorities across each of the 3 strands were highlighted, with it being noted that the refreshed approach would support rather than replace existing arrangements.

Members supported the proposals detailed within the submitted report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Vision and Action Plan for 2023 – 2025, as appended to the submitted report, be adopted;
- (b) That the proposals for new performance reporting against the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion agenda, be noted;
- (c) That it be noted that the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment and the Director of Resources are responsible for leading this work through the Council's Safer Stronger Communities and Human Resources teams.

ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING

116 Damp and Mould

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report providing an update and assurances to the Board regarding the current position in respect of damp and mould within Council managed homes,

together with the approach being taken to tackle such matters and ensure that robust measures were in place. The report also provided an update on the actions being taken by the Council with regard to the private rented sector.

Responding to a Member's enquiry regarding a press release from the Housing Ombudsman, the Board received further information and context in relation to that specific case, with it being noted that the Ombudsman's findings had been accepted, that the Council had apologised to the individual concerned and that lessons had been learned and were being acted upon.

Also in response to a Member's enquiries and concerns, assurance was provided on the actions that were being taken to address this issue within the level of resource and regulatory framework available to the Authority. It was noted that this included the widening of training across a range of teams in the service, increased communications with residents, the provision of increased resource specifically to address this issue and working with energy suppliers to help tenants heat their homes more effectively. In addition, the Board received an update on the proactive work which was taking place in the private rented sector and in terms of housing associations.

Members received clarification on the resourcing of inspection works carried out by the Council within the private rented sector.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the measures which have been put in place to reduce damp and mould in tenants' homes and to improve how reports of damp and mould in tenants' homes are managed, be supported.

ECONOMY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION

117 Leeds Kirkgate Open Market Future Opportunities - Consultation Response and Next Steps

Further to Minute No. 96, 14 December 2022, the Director of City Development submitted a report which presented the findings from the consultation exercise undertaken on the potential introduction of a new container food, beverage and entertainment offer on part of the Open Market at Leeds Kirkgate Market and which set out a series of proposed 'next steps' for consideration.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the support which had been provided to the market in recent years, with it being highlighted that the aim of the submitted proposals was to secure the long term future of the market. Members also received an overview of the findings from the consultation exercise, with it being noted that there had been over 2,000 responses to the online survey with 71.5% being generally supportive of the proposals. Finally, it was noted that assurance had been provided to traders that where detail on the proposals was yet to be confirmed, this would be undertaken in consultation with traders.

In considering the report, a Member highlighted that whilst he thought there had been a lack of response to the consultation from traders, he was supportive of the proposals.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the findings from the approved consultation exercise regarding the introduction of a new container food, beverage and entertainment offer on part of the Open Market at Leeds Kirkgate Market, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That in noting the outcome of the agreed consultation exercise, it be noted that the overall findings can be broadly categorised as:-
- Trader Consultation Outcome;
 - Public/Shopper Outcome;
 - Partner/Stakeholder Outcome.
- (c) That in taking into account resolutions (a) and (b) above, the following next steps be approved:-
- To continue to engage with market traders around the concerns some of them have with the proposal, specifically around the need for any development to be as complementary as possible to the market;
 - To delegate approval to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education, to market the site as a suitable location for a potential container led food, beverage and entertainment offer;
 - To delegate approval to the Director of City Development, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education, for the selection of a potential operator;
 - To progress the potential delivery of the proposal in accordance with the Council's standard processes for a land and property transaction.
- (d) That it be noted that the Director of City Development is responsible for the implementation of such matters.

118 Determination of School Admission Arrangements for 2024/25

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report which sought approval of the proposed Leeds City Council admission arrangements (admission policy) for September 2024, with it being noted that the admission policy applied to all Leeds community and voluntary controlled maintained schools (100 schools) in the city.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member highlighted that, in response to the reduced birth rate in Leeds, the submitted report did contain proposals to reduce the published admission number (PAN) in 3 primary schools, with it

being noted that each of the Governing Bodies had given majority support for the proposals concerning their school.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That in determining the school admissions arrangements for the academic year 2024/25, the admissions policies for the Leeds Community and Voluntary Controlled maintained Primary and Secondary schools (as detailed at Appendices A, B and C to the submitted report), be approved;
- (b) That the resolutions within this minute be exempted from Call In for the reasons of urgency, as set out in paragraphs 46 and 47 of the submitted report;
- (c) That the necessary authority be provided to the Lead for Admissions and Family Information Service, to enable that officer to take any actions should there be a need to revise these arrangements after they have been determined, where this revision is necessary to give effect to a mandatory requirement of the Admission Code, admissions law, a determination of the Schools Adjudicator or any misprint in the admission arrangements, under regulation 19 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012;
- (d) That the following be noted:-
 - (i) The Coordinated scheme for admissions arrangements for entry in September 2024 (as detailed in Appendix D to the submitted report) has been set;
 - (ii) That the officer responsible for this work is the Lead for Admissions and Family Information Service;
 - (iii) That the statutory date for implementation (i.e. determination of the policies) is no later than 28 February 2023, with the arrangements being published by 15 March 2023.

(The Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that a decision may be declared as being exempt from the Call In process by the decision taker if it is considered that the matter is urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's, or the public's interests. In line with this, the resolutions contained within this minute were exempted from the Call In process, as per resolution (b) above, and for the reasons as detailed above and as set out within sections 46 - 47 of the submitted report)

DATE OF PUBLICATION: FRIDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2023

LAST DATE FOR CALL IN OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS: 5.00 P.M., FRIDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 2023

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