

# Public Document Pack

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022

### MINUTES

Present: Councillors: A Burrow, Y Clements, B Donnelly, S Gethen, D Gibbin (Chairman), J Hamilton, R Holt (Vice-Chairman), A Mackenzie, A Rebeiro, J Tildesley, S Freeman, S Golby and Cllr L McCarthy (Virtually).

Independent Members: S Freeman, S Golby, B Hall.

Officers: James Hughes, Tim Browne, Julie Hackett, Clair McNeil, Iona Payne, Anthony McGregor, Sarah Cheale, Delyth Berni (Virtually) and Paul Johnson.

### Meeting Opened at 18:00pm

#### 1. APOLOGIES

*Cllr D Gibbin opened the meeting with a minutes silence due to the sad news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and led the Board in a short prayer.*

Anna Stephens sent her apologies.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICTING INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

None declared.

#### 3. MINUTES

The minutes were received as an accurate record of the meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr D Gibbin

**SECONDED:** Cllr A Burrow

#### 4. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were no questions or deputations received.

#### 5. UPDATE REPORT - CORPORATE PARENTING IN SOLIHULL

Iona Payne, Assistant Director for Safeguarding introduced the report (Pages 11-17).

Questions were as follows:

- Cllr R Holt – what is the home set up allowance and what can it be used for? Does a deposit for a property come from the allowance?

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022

- Iona Payne – It currently stands at £2,000 and is used for whitegoods/furnishings. The deposit doesn't normally get used from the allowance and in some cases the Council will act as a guarantor for a child.
- Cllr D Gibbin – Is it correct that the allowance was last reviewed in 2014?
  - Iona Payne – Yes, that is correct.
- Cllr A Rebeiro – How are looked after children doing academically compared to children who aren't looked after?
  - Tim Browne – Results are being verified by exam boards at the moment, once this has been completed the service will bring a report to the board for scrutiny.  
**ACTION: James Hughes to add this to work plan and liaise with directorate.**
- Cllr J Hamilton – How successful has the service been in supporting looked after children in securing dental appointments. This is mentioned in the report but is there any data on success?
  - Iona Payne – I do not have the information on that to hand but would be happy to come back with a written response.  
**ACTION: James Hughes to follow up for a written response.**
- Cllr D Gibbin – Is it still the case that all looked after children are placed into OFSTED rated Good or Outstanding schools?
  - Tim Browne – This is the expectation in the service; however, schools are being inspected all the time and ratings can move up or down.
- Cllr A Wilson – The report references training in relation to Corporate Parenting for staff, is this offered to schools' staff, and can it be offered to Councillors?
  - Iona Payne – Yes this can be offered.  
*Corporate Parenting Training Is Already Offered In Councillor Training.*
- Cllr A Wilson – How many children participated in the Commonwealth Games ticket scheme?
  - Iona Payne – There were 400 tickets available and a substantial number of children took part. The tickets would have also been offered to their carers too.
- Cllr A Burrow – Picking up on the educational outcomes of looked after children, how much effort goes into looking at the full suite of educational outcomes, including trade professions?
  - Iona Payne – All routes are looked at for the children including apprenticeships.
- Cllr A Mackenzie – The number of looked after children has risen over the last few years. Are there enough staff to cope with the increase and ensure the children are getting the best service?
  - Cllr D Gibbin – This is covered in more detail under Item 9 on the agenda.
- Cllr S Gethen – SOLAR is mentioned in this report. What support is offered to children and how long do they have to wait?
  - Julie Hackett – SOLAR has recently gone through reorganisation to ensure the best service is given. Both the number of children waiting and the time they have to wait is increasing. The pandemic has had an impact on this and we are now seeing the long term impact of the pandemic on the service. Staffing in the unit is an issue, despite extra funding, but this remains a national issue and Solihull isn't alone in facing these problems.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022

- Stephanie Freeman (Independent Co-Opted Member) – How are children included in decision making, could we look at including Our Voice, Our Service (OVOS) on more boards?
  - Iona Payne – Yes, we can look at including more children in the decision-making process. However, we must ensure that they have the right support to do so, and it is in the right setting.
- Sajida Golby (Parent Governor Representative) – Picking up the point on ensuring dentists know that looked after children are considered a priority patient, does this extend to other medical professionals?
  - Iona Payne – Yes this does extend to other professionals, and we reiterate it at all levels. The service's job is to advocate on behalf of the child and that is what we do.
- Sajida Golby (Parent Governor Representative) – Christmas is talked about being celebrated in the report, are all other religious celebrations also facilitated?
  - Yes.
- Cllr D Gibbin – In item 3.8 of the report it is stated that children didn't receive vouchers for Christmas last year, what is the cost to provide these?
  - Julie Hackett – In order to fund this scheme fundraising is normally carried out, the pandemic has impacted this in the last few years. The cost to the Council can vary depending on the number of children but it is roughly £7,000.
  - Cllr D Gibbin – I have a charity that can cover the cost of that this year and will be in touch.  
**ACTION:** Cllr Gibbin to follow up with service with charity details.
- Cllr D Gibbin – On page 15 of the pack it is stated that attendance to the Corporate Parenting Board is low and that there is an 'Away Day' planned. Can Councillors in the room please confirm if they would be able to attend the 'Away Day'?
  - Cllrs D Gibbin, S Gethen, A Mackenzie, B Groom, A Wilson and L McCarthy all confirmed they would be happy to attend.

Cllr D Gibbin asked for the Psot-16 Offer and Corporate Parenting Strategy to come to the board in the future.

**ACTION:** James Hughes to add this to the work plan.

The Board considered the Decision(s) recommended and;

- Received the report, were aware of current progress and take relevant actions to support the development of corporate parenting in Solihull.
- Noted the current issues experienced by children looked after and care experienced young people and explored how they may be able to support and find solutions for them.

### 6. UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF THE PLACEMENTS AND SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE 2020-2024

Julie Hackett, Head of Service – Commissioning for Children and Young People, presented the report. This strategy was approved in 2020 and appears before the Scrutiny Board annually, this marks the second review.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022

### Questions included:

- Cllr B Groom – Focusing on Item 4.1.1 (c) and (e) (Pages 22-23) what signals are coming out of the Competition and Market Authority about their solution?
  - Julie Hackett – We know they are looking at a number of options including more of a regional focus, but we are waiting on the final decision to be made by CMA and HM Government. What it does highlight though is the need to have as many in-house Foster Carers as possible so that we are not beholden to the private market.
- Cllr J Tildesley – Focussing on 3.5.2 (c) and (d) (Page 21) where are we at with the Childrens residential homes. I understand each home will only take 3 children, is this really going to be enough?
  - Cllr D Gibbin – I understand the leases on the three homes are to be signed imminently.
  - Julie Hackett – We should get our OFSTED rating in Spring of next year where we will start to see real progress. 9 places are a significant amount for the Council, there are only 24 children in the borough whom are placed in residential care. If we need more then the service will look at that, but the focus is on getting the 3 set up and working well. So far, the children have been heavily involved in the set up of the 3 homes and are excited.
- Cllr J Tildesley – In relation to foster career recruitment, this has been an issue for some while now, is it not the case we have to pay them more money?
  - Julie Hackett – It is true to say we have struggled for a while; we have now employed a marketing agency to help drive up the number of foster carers we have in the borough. On the issue of whether we should be paying our foster carers more, we are on a par with other Local Authorities in the West Midlands, but we are keeping an eye on the level of payment in light of the increase in Cost of Living.
- Cllr A Wilson – What proportion of children are placed outside of the local authority area?
  - Julie Hackett – Currently 11% of Children are placed more than 20 miles away, however this does include those children whom are placed with connected carers so we are looking at how we can better report on the data.
- Cllr A Wilson – In relation to item 3.5 (c) (Page 20) which talks about the struggle of recruiting foster carers. Are there suitable existing foster carers who don't have room in the house but want to take on a child or increase the number of children they look after? If there are what can we do with Solihull Community Housing to secure them the room?
  - Julie Hackett – Discussions with Solihull Community Housing are ongoing on this matter. I know there has previously been support for foster carers who want to extend properties to take on more children.
- Stephanie Freeman (Independent Co-Opted Member) – How many children do we have in settings which have been rated as requiring improvement?
  - Julie Hackett – I don't have that data to hand but would be happy to follow up with it. We always try and place children in Outstanding or Good settings, but sufficiency of these places has been a struggle.
- Cllr J Hamilton – After a foster carer has passed the process, what do we do as an authority to make sure that nothing has changed, and children are safeguarded?
  - Julie Hackett – There is always an annual review that takes place and of course a Social Worker has regular contact with the foster carer and children.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022

- Iona Payne – There is a lot of mandatory training that foster carers have to undertake on a regular basis as well as their DBS checks being regularly renewed. Further to this there are unannounced visits that are performed by social workers.
- Cllr R Holt – In regard to Item 4.1.3 (Page 23) what do activity-based placements look like and are we breaking the law in placing children in them if they are unregulated?
  - Julie Hackett – Activity based placements are permitted by law. These activities might be like Parents Get Lost, and we have used these types of placements in a time of crisis and the maximum length can be 28 days.
- Cllr Y Clements – For those who are undertaking private care arrangements is there somewhere on the Council's website where they can see the support they can access?
  - There are regular communications that go out via a number of channels to reach those who are caring for a child under a private arrangement. They are reminded that if they are doing this, they must report it to the Council so that we can offer them support.
- Cllr A Wilson – Looking at item 6.6 & 6.7.1 (Page 26) how do we ensure the whole family's needs are looked after?
  - Iona Payne – When a social worker makes their assessment, they will look at the whole family needs and take a holistic view at what support should be offered and make referrals if needed.
- Cllr A Wilson – Once the assessment has been made how is the whole families care coordinated?
  - Iona Payne – This would stem from the assessment there are measures we look at to determine how successful an intervention has been. Happy to pick this up further online if you are after specific details.  
**ACTION: James Hughes to facilitate conversation offline.**
- Cllr A Wilson – When looking at potential connected carers how easy is it to have conversations where family communication may have broken down?
  - Iona Payne – Having difficult conversations is a skill of our professionals in the service. It would be clearly communicated that the needs of the child must be put first.
- Cllr A Wilson – Item 4 (Page 22) relates to diversity and inclusion. Are there certain demographics in which we struggle to place children where it would be the most appropriate for the culture?
  - Julie Hackett – We don't tend to struggle in relation to cultural placements as the diversity of the region we are in does help us. Social Workers are always clear in communicating with providers if there are cultural sensitivities with a child. The hardest groups we struggle to place are sibling groups and older teenagers.
- Sajida Golby (Parent Governor Representative) – Are there currently any children awaiting a placement with a foster carer who are still under the care of their parents?
  - Julie Hackett – I don't have the exact figure; I believe it to be 1 or 2 children. This happens when we struggle to find placements or matches may fall through. The length of time they spend with their parents waiting on a placement can vary but if there became a serious safeguarding issue then that child would be removed from the issue.
- Sajida Golby (Parent Governor Representative) – In these circumstances is there sufficient support offered to both the child and parent?

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022

- Julie Hackett – Yes there is a lot of support that goes into these situations and Social Workers would remain in regular contact. A safety plan would also be put into place.
- Cllr D Gibbin – Are the Council looking at how we can use the Household Support Fund to better support foster carers and are we looking at an increase in the payment we pay to foster carers?
  - Tim Browne – This is under review.
- Cllr D Gibbin – How do we look at growing our residential care homes and potentially earning income from them by offering placements to other Local Authorities?
  - Julie Hackett – Recruitment for registered Childrens home managers is hard nationally. Lets get the 3 planned up and running first and then look at what else we can do.

Cllr D Gibbin asked if it was possible for the marketing campaign material produced by the marketing agency to be sent to the members of the board.

**ACTION: James Hughes to secure this for the board.**

The board considered the decisions recommended in the report and;

- Confirmed that the strategy remains relevant, and four key areas of work identified within the strategy continue to be the priority areas for focused activity.
- Reviewed how the delivery of the Strategy supports the fulfilment of the Council's Corporate Parenting priorities.

### 7. SEPTEMBER CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE DATA

Cllr D Gibbin introduced the item and advised members that this would be a document that would come before the committee on a regular basis and the format was a working progress. Cllr D Gibbin advised that he was working with James Hughes to look at what other Childrens Scrutiny Boards at other local authorities, who had received an OFSTED rating of Outstanding, were doing in regard to data reporting.

Questions included:

- Cllr A Burrow – 26% social worker turnover is a scarily high number – can I seek clarity?
  - Tim Browne – This is a market issue nationally; other local authorities are experiencing the same issues as Solihull. There is a piece of work ongoing to improve the retention rate within the authority.
- Stephanie Freeman (Independent Co-Opted Member) – What is the target we are aiming for in relation to completing EHCP plans within the timescales by the end of the year? What are we also doing to learn from the tribunals that we lose?
  - Tim Browne – I don't have the target data to hand, but I know as of last month the rate stood at 89%. In relation to tribunals there is a Quality Assurance process in place so that we can learn from mistakes, but I would be happy to get more data for you to look at in relation to tribunals.

**ACTION: Tribunal data to be added to the next meeting.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022**

- Cllr S Gethen – How many EHCP's go to 20 weeks and then appeal the outcome. Is it possible to get the reasons why they appeal?
  - Tim Browne – We can look at how we present the data in the table to include this.
- Cllr B Groom – I think the data is really useful and I would like to see this on a regular basis. On item for 4 is it possible to get more data on the resolutions that have taken place?
  - Cllr D Gibbin – Yes we can look at securing this data.
- Cllr D Gibbin – Would there be scope to look at a Councillor resolution process for EHCP tribunals?
  - Tim Browne – No there wouldn't be as this is a statutory process.
- Cllr A Wilson – Is it really that low of a number of EHCP's that go to a tribunal process?
  - Tim Browne – Yes, it is a low number in proportion to the amount of EHCP's that we undertake.
- Cllr R Holt – Is it possible to see the number of unallocated cases without social workers?
  - Cllr D Gibbin – We can request the data.
- Cllr S Gethen – Can we see data relating to the annual reviews of EHCP's?
  - Cllr D Gibbin – We can request the data.
- Cllr A Burrow – Can we see data over more of a time period to give more of an overview?
  - Cllr D Gibbin – Yes we can request that.

### **8. NATIONAL EDUCATION CHANGES: SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER & SEND GREEN PAPER**

Tim Browne, Interim Director of Childrens Services, introduced the report. He said it was a report of two halves and that Clair McNeil, Head of Service Education Outcomes & Intervention, would introduce the Schools White Paper and then he would introduce the SEND Green Paper.

Cllr D Gibbin asked the board before they considered the report which members would be in favour of the Local Authority exploring setting up a Multi Academy Trust (MAT), 10 members indicated they would be. Clair McNeil then presented the first half of the report.

Questions and comments included:

- Cllr R Holt – There is a big difference in the sector between the levels of Primary and Secondary schools that were academised; it often tends to be that primary schools are not operated as academies whereas secondary schools were. He aired great reservations in relation to the academisation process and stated if the Local Authority was going to explore setting up a MAT, then the question has to be how to we make good and outstanding schools even better than they already are in the process.
  - Clair McNeil – This is why we want to see the results of the Local Authorities taking part in the pilot trial to see how they set up the process and resource and whether it does make a difference. As things stand there isn't enough detail to make any decisions.
- Cllr J Tildesley – Thanked officers for bringing forward the report. It is my view that this legislation is not for those authorities who have good/outstanding

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022

educational services like Solihull but for authorities where it is failing. There is a concern around who the Regional Improvement Directors will be accountable to, they aren't elected, and they will have oversight of the services instead of the Local Authority. The legislation also alludes to the fact that Local Authorities would be able to create multiple MAT's not just one – is that correct? Finally, the north of the Borough is crying out to be an educational investment area – can we push for it to be created as such?

- Clair McNeil – We have great relationships with all of our educational partners both schools and Department of Education officials and we would seek to build a strong relationship with the Regional Improvement Directors but also continue to have difficult conversations with schools where the Local Authority felt the school wasn't performing to the standards they expected. It is also true to say that under the existing White Paper the Local Authority could set up multiple MAT's not just one.
- Tim Browne – On the point regarding Educational Investment Areas the Department for Education has guidelines on the areas that would qualify, and they remain very clear.
- Cllr B Groom – On Educational Investment Areas do they [Department of Education] take into account the whole borough or just areas of the borough?
  - Tim Browne - Department of Education look at them centrally and it would include the borough as a whole.
- Sajida Golby (Parent Governor Representative) – The white paper references new attendance requirements. In those cases where children don't go to school as they have not been offered suitable places how will this be managed?
  - Tim Browne – The borough has seen a significant increase in demand for school places. They have been working with schools and have created an extra 27 intake forms and are looking at expanding schools to increase capacity. There are also conversations happening around the creation of a new secondary school in the borough, but this is very early on in the process. Despite the increase in demand, every child has been offered a school place in the borough, whilst it may not have been the first preference of place every child was offered a place.
- Sajida Golby (Parent Governor Representative) – For those children who struggle to go to school how do we support them in general to ensure that we aren't just fining parents?
  - Tim Browne – We have reorganised the inclusions team and we actively monitor those children who are struggling to attend school and support them with interventions as and when necessary. Prosecution would always be the last resort.
- Cllr A Wilson – With the new attendance requirements in the white paper would it potentially incentivise schools to exclude children so that the school wasn't penalised?
  - Clair McNeil – I don't think that we would see an increase in exclusions. The intervention team remain across the detail and date of those children who struggle to attend, and we have a great relationship with our schools to support them with these children. The number of exclusions in the borough remains minimal.
- Cllr A Wilson – There is a lot of change put forward in this white paper. What are we doing to support teachers in schools to understand and navigate the change?
  - Clair McNeil – The White Paper does bring about a lot of change and it is absolutely right that we support school leaders, both teaching staff



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022

and governors, wellbeing as the paper proceeds. The support also needs to extend to parents as well as we see the changes begin.

- Stephanie Freeman (Independent Co-opted Member) – The white paper highlights how tutoring, introduced as a way for schools to help children catch up after the COVID-19 pandemic, is now to be a permanent offer. Do the Local Authority have a centralised list of good tutors?
  - Clair McNeil – Most schools will have a list now as they have been offering tutoring for a while, however, if a Local Authority list was sought then they could centralise this and offer it.
- Sajida Golby – If more maintained schools academies have the Local Authority considered the impact of more parents choosing to home school if they do not want their child in an academy?
  - Clair McNeil – We haven't seen a correlation before when a school converts to an academy. It is important that schools that choose to convert take parents with them on the journey.
- Cllr D Gibbin – Is it possible to bring before the Board a report, towards the end of the municipal year, on the progress of those Local Authorities taking part in the MAT Process?
  - Clair McNeil – Yes  
**ACTION: James Hughes to add to work plan.**

Tim Browne introduced the second half of the report which focussed on the SEND Green Paper.

There was one question received which was as follows:

- Cllr Y Clements – Item 4.4 highlights £10,000 in funding for respite placements. Do we struggle to fund and find respite placements?
  - Julie Hackett – Yes we do struggle and we are looking at our short breaks offer at the moment.

### **9. UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES FINANCIAL POSITION FOR 2022/23 (IN YEAR) AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)**

Tim Browne, Interim Director Of Childrens Resources, introduced the report and would be supported by Paul Johnson, Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive, when taking questions. Tim highlighted the financial pressures on the service in the report were not exclusive to Solihull and many other Local Authorities were in the same situations.

Questions and comments were as follows:

- Cllr B Groom – Years 23-26 it looks to be that there are pressures of just shy of £20 million with a number of cells left 'TBC'. It seems to be we have two options in front of; either raise Council Tax or cut services further. Neither of these are appealing with the current rise in the cost of living. My question really is How? How are we going to do this?
  - Tim Browne – We have difficult decisions to make but at the heart of every decision we will make will be ensuring that children remain

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12 September 2022

- safeguarded. The budget strategy is coming up and we will welcome members participation in that process.
- Paul Johnson – This report has been through a number of meetings both with officers, Executive and further Scrutiny Boards. At the end of the budget strategy meetings, which are cross party, this board will receive a recommended budget for Childrens Services. It is important to note thought that these pressures already take into account raising Council Tax.
  - Cllr B Groom – With inflation and issues in retaining and recruiting staff that we have already spoke about this evening are we going to see this number get bigger?
    - Paul Johnson – We will have to look at the number of agency workers we are using and how we can recruit more permanent staff.
  - Alan Rebeiro – I understand that this service area is very hard to predict demand and numbers can fluctuate within the year, so it makes planning services very hard. Have we ever considered looking at a funding precept akin to the Adult Health and Social Care precept we levy?
    - Paul Johnson – This would need a change in national legislation for us to do.
  - Cllr J Tildesley – I wanted to thank officers for their work in putting this report together. It is a very brave and brutally honest report but one we need to see. It shines a light on the difficult situation that Children Services are operating within, and I stand behind the directorate in supporting their work.
  - Cllr M Gough (Portfolio Holder for Children & Education) – This report does show that we have some very difficult political decisions to make about the service and I thank the board for their input in the process ahead.
  - Stephanie Freeman (Independent Co-Opted Member) – When are we going to get better Level 2 Early Help offer in place? We are failing to get the help in early enough and then this is leading to a higher need and ultimately more money.
    - Delyth Berni (Assistant Director Improvement and Partnerships) – We are looking at this issue and the offer we make at Level 2. We are starting to see some progress here.
  - Sajida Golby (Parent Governor Representative) – How are you engaging with children and their families in relation to Early Help?
    - Delyth Berni – We work closely with our public health team and talking directly to families. We also have the family hubs that will support us.
  - Sajida Golby (Parent Governor Representative) – In relation to the Liquid Logic Issues – this is the first time I have heard of an issue with the rollout. Can you update us please?
    - Tony McGregor (Head of Service) – The implementation of the system coincided with the start of lockdown which didn't help. There have been some issues, but we are building fixes for them now. We also now have an individual in place to help train staff on using the system. We could have done with this person 2 years ago, but things have got better. The system is widely used, a number of Local Authorities in the West Midlands use it, we are now getting a better grip of the system.
  - Cllr A Rebeiro – I wanted to thank officers for the report and the honesty within it.
  - Cllr R Holt – I think we are seeing the long-term impact of COVID-19 on the service, and we need to lobby government around long term borrowing to ease the pressure and make long term fixes and solutions viable. There also has to

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12  
September 2022**

be a rethink around the recruitment of staff in this field, Councils can no longer go on stealing staff from each other with money we must all come together to fix this.

- Cllr D Gibbin – Is the Youth Justice System our responsibility?
  - Tim Browne – Yes

**RESOLVED:**

This committee recognises the hugely significant pressures on Solihull Council's budget from Childrens Services and resolves to call upon the Cabinet to ensure resources are fully aligned with the risks as identified in this report.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr D Gibbin

**SECONDED:** Cllr A Burrow

**10. MULTI- LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (LSCP) -  
MULTI-AGENCY AUDITS AND LSCP DATA SET**

The report was presented by Anthony McGregor. He informed the board they are only just looking at Q1 data and the audit work is in the early days.

Comments and questions included:

- Cllr D Gibbin – The report seems to highlight a lot of meetings but we don't have the data in the report to be able to scrutinise. Can the data be brought to the board when it is available.

**11. OVOS VISIT - VERBAL UPDATE**

Cllr D Gibbin thanked officers for facilitating the visit. He informed the board that there was to be another visit. James Hughes informed the board that the next visit date had been set to 5<sup>th</sup> October 16:30-18:30pm and that only three members can attend.

Cllrs D Gibbin, A Mackenzie and Y Clements all said they were able to attend.

**12. WORK PLAN**

The work plan was noted by the board. James Hughes advised the board that the Task and Finish Group they wished to set up looking at the Josh McAllister Report alongside the Looked After Children Service would need terms of reference.

The Terms of Reference were set out as below:

1. To review the Josh McAlister report and its potential impact on Childrens Services in Solihull and make recommendations to the board on action that should be taken.
2. To review the Looked After Children service as is, where the service could be in the future and make recommendations to the board on its future.
3. To present the CSESSB with a report detailing its findings and the recommendations the Task and Finish Group have decided upon.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS SCRUTINY BOARD - 12  
September 2022**

Membership of the group is to include Cllrs D Gibbin, L McCarthy, B Groom, A Burrow, R Holt as well as Independent Co-Opted Member S Golby. Cllr M Gough as the portfolio holder will be invited to attend.

**RESOLVED:** To adopt the Terms of Reference.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr D Gibbin

**SECONDED:** Cllr A Mackenzie.

**Meeting ended at 9.05 pm**