

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PEOPLE** held on Wednesday, 28 June 2023 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG.

PRESENT

Councillor K S Athwal (in the Chair)

Councillors R Iliffe, T Kemp, S Burfoot, C Dale, R George, N Gourlay, P Rose and M Ford.

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor J Wharmby.

15/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Richard Iliffe declared a personal interest in item 19/23 as a member of Derbyshire Foster Panel.

16/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Athwal wished to place on record his thanks and appreciation to Councillor Tony Kemp, the outgoing Chairman, for the work he had undertaken for the Authority during his tenure.

17/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

18/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (30 MINUTE MAXIMUM IN TOTAL)

There were no public questions.

19/23 CHILDREN'S STRATEGY UPDATE

Carol Cammiss, Executive Director for Children's Services attended the meeting to update the Committee on the development of the Children's Strategy 2022-25.

The Committee had previously received a progress update on the Children's Services Strategy. This had now been renamed the Children's Strategy to enable wider engagement with partners and stakeholders.

The Strategy was closely aligned to the Council Plan 2022-25 priorities and there were five major strategic areas which were most prevalent to challenges in children's services and government legislation and changes

required by Ofsted. The Strategy would be updated in September and this revised document would be brought back to the Committee in early 2024.

The governance arrangements for the delivery of the Children's Strategy were highlighted and the vision and goals of the Strategy were delivered through three key channels:

- Strategic Partnerships; These included district and borough councils, the Children's Partnership Board and partnerships to deliver 'Big Ticket' strategies.
- Children's Services Strategy Delivery Board; and
- Children's Services Senior Management Team.

The Executive Director for Children's Services provided further detail on the six key workstreams that had been established to deliver the Financial Strategy.

The Committee was also provided with an update on Fostering and Edge of Care and Prevention Service (Stronger Families). This service had been created to specifically focus on delivering edge of care and prevention support, as part of the Council's strategic objective to improve outcomes for children and young people through early intervention and prevention.

This proposed new service would contain three elements; crisis and de-escalation; risk of care identified and reunification. Given the size of Derbyshire and the modelling from other teams, the structure would require two teams, one for the north and one for the south. The caseloads of the team would be between 5 and 7 families to enable officers to work with the family and build up relationships. The proposed structure of the teams was circulated.

The age and profile of the children and young people including those with SEND receiving support from the proposed service would be closely monitored once the service had become operational, and overall responsibility and any impacts would be reported to governance groups such as the Strategy Delivery Board within Children's Services (chaired by the Executive Director – Children's Services). Progress on recruitment and achievements of the service would be reported to the Committee later in the year.

The Committee also requested an update on SEND following the review and a progress report on the Fostering service following the stocktake which had been scheduled for October – December 2023. These items would be added to the work programme 2023-24 for the meeting of the Committee in February 2024.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Carol Cammiss for her most informative and in-depth presentation and looked forward to further

updates.

RESOLVED that the report and presentation be noted.