

## **CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **AGENDA**

**Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 1) on  
Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018 at 5.30 p.m.**

#### **Membership**

Cllr Bell, Elliott, Foster, Francis (Vice-Chairman), Hunt, Jackson, F. Miller, O'Neil, Scullion, P. Smith (Chairman), Stewart and Tye

Coopted Members – Mrs A Blakey and Mr S Williamson

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3.	<b>Together for Children - Update – Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council to be in attendance</b>  Report of the Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships (copy attached)	1
4.	<b>Minutes of the last ordinary meetings of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 and 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 (copy attached)</b>	3

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Report of the Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships (copy attached)

E. WAUGH,  
Head of Law and Governance,  
Civic Centre,  
SUNDERLAND.

24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

## CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 FEBRUARY 2018

### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

#### TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN - UPDATE

##### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to receive an update on the current position of Together for Children.

##### **2. Background Information**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 30 November 2017, the Committee requested that the Chief Executive be invited to a future meeting in order to discuss the current position with regard to the operation of Together for Children.
- 2.2 Established on 1 April 2017, Together for Children delivers children's services on behalf of Sunderland City Council.
- 2.3 Together for Children is owned by Sunderland City Council but controlled by an independent board to ensure operational independence.

##### **3. Current Position**

- 3.1 Sunderland City Council's Chief Executive, Irene Lucas (CBE) will be in attendance at this meeting to provide an update with regard to the operation of Together for Children and to answer questions from Members of the Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 The Committee's work programme for the remainder of 2017 / 18 will then be reviewed and revised as necessary to address any subsequent issues raised.

##### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is requested:
  - (a) To consider the update of the Chief Executive; and
  - (b) To review and revise the Committee's work programme for the remainder of the 2017/18 Municipal Year in light of the discussions.

##### **5. Background Papers**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (a) Agenda and minutes of the meeting of the Children Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 30 November 2017.

Contact Officer : Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer  
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**At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Smith in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Francis, Hunt, Jackson, O'Neil and Tye together with Mrs. A. Blakey

**Also in attendance:-**

Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council  
Mr. Simon Marshall, Director of Education, Together for Children  
Ms. Elaine Matterson, Attendance Manager, Sunderland City Council  
Mr. Thomas Newton, Sunderland Youth Parliament  
Ms. Annette Parr, Support and Intervention Officer, Together for Children  
Mr. Liam Ritchie, Sunderland Youth Parliament  
Ms. Gillian Robinson, Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council  
Mr. Alan Rowan, Business Relationships and Governance Manager, Sunderland City Council  
Ms. Joanne Stewart, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Elliott, Foster, Miller, F. and Stewart and on behalf of Mr. S. Williamson.

**Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as correct record.

**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**Compliments, Complaints and Feedback**

The Chairman advised that personal circumstances had meant that there was not an Officer available to attend the meeting to present the report this evening, and as such it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

## **Education Fixed Penalty Notices**

The Executive Director of People Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on Fixed Penalty Notices for primary and secondary schools in Sunderland.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Elaine Matterson, Attendance Manager, presented the report advising that it set out for Members information further detail on the current policy around Fixed Penalty Notices together with the current data.

Ms. Matterson referred to requests from the last time she had attended the Committee to review the current policy in relation to Fixed Penalty Notices and advised that legal services had advised the department not to proceed with the review until the findings of the High Court, and then the Supreme Court case, regarding Mr Platt's case had been given.

The Department for Education had since advised that they were to offer new guidance to local authorities and the local authority would proceed to review the policy in its entirety once this was published.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the information contained within the report in relation to the Council's current method of operation in regard to the issue of fixed penalty notices be received and noted.

## **Elective Home Education**

The Executive Director of Peoples Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an overview of the statutory requirements regarding elective home education and also contained information on the number of children who were home educated in Sunderland.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Matterson, Attendance Manager and Mr. Rowan, Business Relationships and Governance Manager, presented the report advising that the law states that the responsibility for a child's education rests with their parents and whilst education is compulsory, attending school is not.

Members were provided with information on the current legal position and on the current data in relation to children who were electively home educated as of 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. Ms. Matterson advised that the data in Sunderland, as in other Councils, may not demonstrate the full cohort of children home educated, as children of parents who had never applied for a school place may not be known to the local authority and parents were under no duty to inform the Council if their children were being home educated.

Mr. Marshall, Director of Education, Together for Children, informed the Committee that they were working closely with Ms. Matterson around the lack of control the authority has. Together for Children were also looking to commission an Independent Advocacy Service who could look to provide independent advice to parents considering elective home education and inform them of the legalities and what was expected from them, so that they could be clear that parents were making the right and informed decision for themselves and their child. He also added that the Council could not force parents to interact with the service at all if they did not wish to. Ms. Matterson advised that as a rule of thumb at present a letter would be sent to parents asking them to share their reasons as to why they opt to home educate but parents did not always respond.

Ms. Matterson advised that Lord Soley had presented a bill to the House of Lords to make provision for local authorities to monitor the educational, physical and emotional development of children receiving elective home education which would only be of benefit for local authorities and she explained that this was out for consultation at present.

Mr. Marshall commented that there were some occasions where it may be right for the child and the family to home educate but the concerns of Officers lay where a parent may be choosing to electively home educate because of an issue they may have with the school their child attends or that the child is at threat of permanent exclusion; and the service wanted to differentiate and separate the genuine cases and those where it is not necessarily the right route for the child.

Councillor Hunt commented that she would have liked to have seen the breakdown of reasons as to why the children were home educated; the report explained the reasons but did not detail how many young people fell into which criteria. She commented that it may be down to the particular school failing to meet the needs of the child and it would be good to have the information as to why children were home educated, especially those with special educational needs.

Mr. Marshall explained that it tended to be in exam years where the greatest numbers of young people were seen to withdraw from schools for home education and they had challenged Headteachers over this issue. There were processes in place if relationships broke down between families and schools to ensure that a young person remains in education in a way that suits all parties and the introduction of the advocacy service would enhance this.

Councillor Hunt went on to comment on the dramatic increase of the number of young people being home educated since 2015/16 and Mr. Rowan explained that parents appeared to be much more aware of the right to electively home educated their children but that they were unsure as to where this new awareness was coming from.

In relation to Councillor Hunt's concerns around the numbers of young people who may not be known to the local authority as they had never registered for a school place and therefore were not in the system, Mr. Marshall advised that there was a piece of work to be undertaken around that particular issue but explained that this was a national phenomenon. Work was being carried out with health visitors and medical staff to join up information sharing around children and young people in the city and raise concerns where they may not be in education.

Councillor Hunt commented that the young people were recorded when born but that they appeared to be lost following that and Mr. Marshall stated that there was a statutory visit which had to be undertaken with the child at the age of two but that there was a gap between then and the child attending a nursery/school unit which needed to be addressed.

When asked by Councillor Smith who needed to be involved to ensure this gap closes and young children are not lost from the system, Mr. Marshall advised that as many agencies as possible needed to be involved including Early Help, the Health Visitor Service and external partners such as housing providers who could share information to identify these young people. Councillor Smith asked if representatives from Early Help and the Health Visitor Service could be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the concerns Members had around children and young people who may not be known to the local authority and what was being done in relation to the matter.

Councillor O'Neil asked what happened in relation to older children who were home educated and moved into the city from other areas and was informed that the Local Authority the family were moving from would contact the Local Authority they were moving to and advise them of the family and the children within it who were home educated.

Mr. Rowan informed the Committee that there were some really positive examples of elective home educating so it did have value for some families and young people when used in the correct manner. They were looking to engage a network of parents to meet and share their experiences of successful home educating, which the advocacy service could look to feed into and meet with on a regular basis as it could provide an example to other parents considering the home education route.

Members having no further questions and having fully considered the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) The information provided within the report be received and noted; and
- ii) The Scrutiny Officer be asked to invite a representative from Early Help and the Health Visitor Service to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss their concerns around children and young people not in education and not known to the local authority.

### **Schools Exclusions and Levels of Attendance in Schools**

The Director of Education submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members of the Committee of the current schools exclusions and attendance data.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Marshall, Director of Education and Ms. Parr, Support and Intervention Officer, presented the report which provided an overview of information relating to referrals for placements, fixed term and permanent exclusions, managed moves and in year fair access requests.



Mr. Marshall advised that they had met with all of the Secondary Headteachers recently to discuss the introduction and use of the mental health Charter Mark for young people in the city. He advised they had also discussed what schools could do to manage the curriculum to ensure they were meeting the needs of their pupils and adapting it where possible to best suit the individual, particularly in relation to the challenges around the Key Stage 3 curriculum. All secondary schools had a representative present at the meeting and had given positive feedback on the introduction of the mental health Charter Mark.

In response to a question from Councillor Jackson around the pressure put upon schools to produce results and those pupils who the traditional curriculum is not working for and how to bring change to the curriculum to support those pupils, Mr. Marshall advised that they had to work to empower and support schools, Headteachers and Governing Bodies. In relation to permanent exclusions they had to ensure that the Governor's were asking all of the relevant questions at the disciplinary panels and ensuring that all the other options available to the school had been looked into prior to the decision being made to permanently exclude a child.

Councillor Jackson went on to comment that she was aware that teachers were, at times, blamed for pupils not getting the results they should and it needed a change in the culture so that this was not the case. Mr. Marshall advised that he could see why these issues occurred as schools and teachers were penalised when it was seen that pupils were not hitting their targets and that there was work to be done around the training of Governors to ensure they took the position of an independent advocate when considering pupils who had been permanently excluded. The Governor's role was not just about supporting the Headteacher in their decision but in about challenging them to ensure the correct decision had been made and it was the right thing for the pupil and that they were looking at putting together a training package for Governing Bodies to help instil this.

Ms. Parr advised that the earlier prevention could begin in schools, the more difference it could make to a pupil's journey and therefore it was about having a significant impact at the early stages, in Key Stage 1, so that behaviours were stopped and not seen returning when the pupils were older and in Key Stages 3 or 4.

Councillor Tye raised serious concerns over the levels of pupils with special educational needs that were being permanently excluded and the variations in numbers between maintained schools and faith schools and asked what the reasons were for permanently excluding pupils who may be some of the most vulnerable. He understood that cohorts of pupils between schools would vary but commented that he would like to understand what the tolerance levels of schools were before permanent exclusions were considered appropriate. He stated that it may be beneficial for the Scrutiny Committee to invite Headteachers to a future meeting so they could discuss their issues and concerns and gain a better understanding.

Mr. Marshall advised that the concern was as more multi-academy trusts were developed around the country and schools converted to academy status, they then could act completely independent of the local authority and Together for Children and their policies. Officers spend a substantial amount of time going out to Headteachers and going into the details and reasoning's behind permanent exclusions and the questions raised from Members today around the equity and being fair to all children across the city were pertinent. He advised that some schools in the city chose rarely, if at all, to permanently exclude pupils but this could

then have an impact upon the targeted results they set to achieve. Mr. Marshall advised that with Ms. Parr they could come up with a set of criteria which could show what could trigger a Headteacher to reach the decision to permanently exclude a pupil and bring it back to a future meeting of the Committee for their consideration.

Ms. Blakey commented that it was fair to say there were some issues around the numbers of permanent exclusions of pupils but added that there were some cases of extremely good practice within schools in the city and it was not always just down to how the pupil may affect the outcome of results for a school. She stated that at times she could appreciate how Headteacher's could really struggle with the decision to permanently exclude a pupil when they can be faced with a vulnerable pupil with obvious needs but then also they have a tight budget to manage and the duty of care to other very young pupils in the school and to members of staff. As a Headteacher she would always go to local authority Officers for support and guidance when considering the options available to her. Ultimately, she believed that the majority of Headteachers did not want to permanently exclude any pupils from their school but that they were put in very difficult positions, especially when they had to consider the health and safety of the rest of the school as a whole.

Mr. Marshall agreed that there was a finite and limited amount of resource available and that when schools permanently exclude pupils for small incidents, which may not warrant it, it would drain resources which were required for more serious examples and that this fed back to the varying levels of threshold between schools in the city and what warrants the action of permanently excluding a pupil. Ms. Blakey concurred that there was no apparent joined up thinking between schools in relation to thresholds as each school worked independently and Mr. Marshall commented that this could be where a training package developed around this area for Headteachers and Governing Bodies alike could help in addressing these issues.

Mr. Newton commented that children and young people learn behaviours from the home environment in the first instance and in some cases permanently excluding a young person would only increase the pressure on the family life and possibly see a continuance of bad behaviour continue to spiral out of control. He felt that there were so many social factors that could feed into inappropriate behaviour from a young person and that they needed to look at ways to prevent the behaviour and educate children to help improve the wellbeing of themselves, the family unit and the communities around them.

Mr. Marshall advised that he could go back to the behaviour partnership and take with him the threshold document that was currently used in relation to social care, with a look to draw up a similar document in relation to thresholds for permanent exclusions. A conversation could then be held with Governing Bodies and Trust Boards around how they could look to approach some of the issues that had been identified so that a level of consistency around the threshold criteria could be set through an engaged dialogue. Ms. Parr commented that Ms. Michelle Burlinson, Inclusion and Access Officer for Together for Children, had already had conversations with Headteachers around the city investigating undertaking a similar procedure for primary schools, and had received positive feedback from all Headteachers to want to be involved.

Ms. Parr advised the Committee that the In Year Fair Access Panel met to consider cases for young people in the city who had not been in any form of education for at least two months or children moving into the area, with a look to identifying the most

appropriate route for them to take. She informed Members that during the last academic year the panel had considered eighteen cases in total, with thirteen of them being eligible for the panel to direct the young person into education. This term the panel had considered nineteen cases already, with seventeen of those being eligible for direction to place in education. The panel had picked up from those cases that a number of parents were being given the impression, from their current school, that it would be better for their child to remove them from the school and a tutor would be provided for them which was most definitely not the case.

Councillor Hunt stated that it was imperative that actions were put in place to address some of the issues and concerns that had been raised during the discussion as the report was obviously highlighting that there was a rising trend in permanent exclusions and early intervention had to be the key.

Mr. Marshall commented that schools had to be seen to be taking the responsibility for their pupils and not putting undue pressures on already limited resources. Ms. Parr advised that there had been nineteen permanent exclusions since September, 2017 and that a high percentage of these had been from one Academy. Members felt it may be beneficial that the Headteacher of the Academy be one of those invited to attend a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

There being no further questions for the Officers, the Chairman thanked the Officer for her attendance, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- i) The information provided within the report be received and noted;
- ii) The Director of Education continue to provide data in relation to permanent exclusions to the Scrutiny Committee on a more frequent basis for their consideration;
- iii) The Scrutiny Officer be asked to work with the Director of Education to identify and invite Headteachers from schools around the city to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the issues and concerns around permanent exclusions and the reasons for them; and
- iv) The Director of Education submit to a future meeting of the Committee threshold criteria by which a Headteacher may consider permanent exclusion of a pupil appropriate and example questions the Governing Body should be asking at the disciplinary panel.

### **Consultation with Social Work Staff – Permanence Team**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with feedback from the Committee's visit to meet social work staff based in the Permanence Team.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report advising that it set out feedback from the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 between Committee Members and social work staff based in the Permanence Team based at the Sandhill Centre.

There being no further comments or questions, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the feedback contained within the report be received and noted.

### **Annual Work Programme 2017/18**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information, the work programme for the Committee's work being undertaken for the 2017/18 municipal year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report advising that he had been informed that the Youth Justice Plan was to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration at a later date than expected and therefore it would be necessary to move the item on the Committee's work plan from the January meeting to the meeting scheduled for February, 2018.

Members discussed the recent resignation of Mr. A. Hopkins, Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive of Together for Children and asked that the Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council be invited to a future meeting of the Committee as soon as possible. It was suggested that, if diaries allowed it, the Scrutiny Committee look to hold an extraordinary meeting in December to discuss the recruitment process of the Chief Executive of Together for Children.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the information contained in the work programme be received and noted;
- b) the Youth Justice Plan be deferred to the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to be held in February, 2018; and
- c) the Scrutiny Officer request that the Chief Executive be invited to a future meeting of the Committee; or an extraordinary meeting to be arranged in December, 2017, should diary availability allow it.

### **Notice of Key Decisions**

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the Notices of Key Decisions be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) P. SMITH,  
Chairman.

**At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2018 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor B. Francis in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Elliott, Francis, Jackson, F. Miller, Scullion, Stewart and Tye

**Also in attendance:-**

Ms. Sue Carty, Director of Quality and Performance, Together for Children  
Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council  
Sir Paul Ennals, Independent Chairman of Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board  
Mr. Thomas Newton, Sunderland Youth Parliament  
Ms. Gillian Robinson, Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council  
Ms. Joanne Stewart, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council  
Ms. Jane Wheeler, Participation and Engagement Lead, Together for Children

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Foster, Hunt and P. Smith and on behalf of Ms. A. Blakey and Mr. S. Williamson.

The Chairman announced that Councillor Pat Smith had submitted her apologies as she was due to go into hospital soon and that he would look to send a card and well wishes on behalf of the Committee to her.

**Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**

Councillor Tye commented that he did not feel that the minutes of the Committee adequately captured how strongly Members felt about performance levels of the Together for Children company. He stated that within the minutes of the last meeting the Committee had requested that the Chief Executive either attend this meeting or an extraordinary meeting to be arranged in December, 2017 to discuss their concerns and yet she was not in attendance.

The Committee had raised concerns around thresholds increasing, hence the number of referrals reducing and yet professionals were telling individual Members of the Committee that areas of concern were not being progressed in the same way as they were being reported to the Committee. Together for Children were reporting a huge deficit and there was no explanation as to how this had occurred so quickly since the creation of the company, or any explanation around the resignation of and recruitment to the Chief Executive post.

Ms. Robinson, Scrutiny Officer, explained that in terms of the Chief Executive's attendance, she had unfortunately been unavailable to attend this Committee due to prior commitments but had advised that she would be more than happy to attend the next meeting. She was aware that the Chief Executive had circulated an email to all Members advising that under the conditions of the contract with Together for Children and agreement with the Department of Education, a tripartite recruitment process involving representation from the three organisations would commence in January 2018.

Councillor Tye asked how and why the Committee were expected to scrutinise events after they had occurred. Members had been involved as part of the recruitment process of the previous Chief Executive of Together for Children and he expected that they would be included this time also and he did not think a 'round robin' email was adequate enough nor acceptable.

He advised that once he had finished addressing the Committee with his concerns he would be leaving and did not intend to come back until he had assurances that the Committee and Members requests were to be taken seriously.

By example, Councillor Tye referred to the topic of the Youth Offer and how it was on the work plan and discussed at almost every meeting yet he found it astounding that the last email he had received from the Director of Early Help had indicated that as there was no budget within the city towards commissioning youth services contracts she would not be attending a meeting of the Committee to discuss the issue. Councillor Tye accepted that there was no budget towards commissioned youth contracts within the city but youth services and provision for youths was still under the remit and accountability of Children's Services and the authority.

He reminded Officers and the Committee that they had been criticised by Ofsted for the scrutiny function in relation to Children's Services and stated that he did not feel like they were getting any further forward. He expressed that he would make his comments today and then make a stand by leaving the meeting, as well as making a further statement in relation to the matter at the next meeting of the full Council and he would expect that the Chief Executive would provide answers to the Committee as to what was happening within the Together for Children company, which was working as an arms-length company from the local authority.

Councillor Bell fully supported Councillor Tye's comments advising that he was finding out that services were being transferred to other parties away from the Together for Children company, and he had concerns that other areas of Children's Services were looking to go the same way, having recently found out about the transfer of the Sea View Road facility and asking if all of the children's homes were expected to go the same route.

Ms. Carty, Director of Quality and Performance, addressed the Committee advising that in relation to the previous Chief Executive's resignation there was no further information available to give Members. With regards to the recruitment and appointment of the position she informed Members that the process had not yet begun. A meeting was to be held with the Department for Education in January when the recruitment process could commence. In relation to Members' involvement in the process, the Scrutiny Officer could look to take Members' comments back and feed into the process and look to set up a meeting to get the ball rolling in that context.

Ms. Carty went on to say she was disappointed to hear Members say they were not happy with the performance information presented to the Committee and that they were hearing conflicting information, as they were continually looking at the evidence of what performance figures were telling them and not just the quality of the performance at face value. She explained that performance and evidence were consistently being validated externally by partners and other agencies and that these were the same which were being reported to Committee.

In relation to the commissioning of the facilities at Sea View Road, Ms. Carty advised that it had been the plan for some time to transfer those services and that they had been quite transparent about the process. She advised that the Company had a business plan in place which had been approved by the Council and that there were no plans set out within that to transfer any of the children's homes. She explained that Grace House was a similar provision to that of Sea View Road, offering short break and respite facilities for children with disabilities and special needs and that the two should sit together as it was within their interests to do so and the best way to provide the local offer.

Ms. Carty went on to address the comments around Youth Services and advised that she would pick up the issue with the Director of Early Help and look to bring a report back to the Committee should they wish to discuss this further but that in relation to the commissioning of youth contracts there was no further answer to that which had been discussed with the Scrutiny Committee at the time of the budget changes.

In relation to the financial situation at Together for Children, Ms. Carty advised that demand was increasing on services and thresholds were checked internally and by Ofsted and they would pick up individual cases and check them within the whole system to ensure that young people and families were receiving the right services for them in the most appropriate of places. Equally, there were a number of quality assurances in place which should offer some reassurances to the threshold levels. At the moment they were looking at fifty-six individual cases which had been identified as part of a thorough review taken over nine months, to ensure that those children were getting access to the right services and she was disappointed if that was the feeling of the Committee that performance was not as being reported.

Councillor Tye commented that the participation at Scrutiny was where he genuinely felt that they had continued to bring up issues month after month, asking for information and nothing they requested was being fed back to them and that this had been previously criticised by Ofsted in their findings. He commented that the Committee had requested the regional commissioner from the Department for Education to come to a meeting of the Committee and speak to them about their concerns in relation to the number of exclusions from a local academy and Members had no explanation as to when this was coming to the Committee. At this juncture, the Scrutiny Officer advised that there was to be a meeting with the Academy in question in the next few weeks and that the Director of Education had advised he would feedback to the Committee following this meeting.

In closing, Councillor Francis commented that he was sorry to hear Councillor Tye's concerns and stated that his input was valued as a Scrutiny Committee Member. He asked that Councillor Tye forward his availability to himself and the Chairman so that they could meet to discuss his concerns further; and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that further consideration of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 (copy circulated), be deferred to the next meeting.

Councillor Tye then left the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **Together for Children Performance Update**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with performance information in relation to Together for Children and the commissioning arrangement in the Council, offering assurance over progress and any issues that have arose, in the context of the scope of service and performance indicators as set out in the service contract.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Sue Carty, Director of Quality and Performance, Together for Children, presented the report advising that the Operational Commissioning Group and Chief Executives Clinic met on a monthly basis to consider information and progress made and the information contained within the report included all nine of the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's), the supporting measures that were not meeting target and some areas of management information. The tolerance level for each of the measures was also included in the report as previously requested by the Committee. The performance information contained within the report submitted at this meeting related to the period April – October, 2017.

Ms. Carty advised the Committee that they were seeing an increase in demand on children's services at the moment and took Members through key issues set out in the report. She referred to paragraph 3.7 of the report, the rate of children and young people subject to Child Protection Plans per 10k of the population and advised that this figure had increased and was outside of the target and tolerance levels and that in recent months there had been a significant number of sibling groups of four or more. She also informed the Committee that the majority of Child Protection cases now had durations of between 12 and 18 months, with only one having gone longer than two years. Ms. Carty advised the Committee that the number of Looked after Children was currently 577 and this was the highest it had been and the trend continued to increase.

In relation to those figures, Councillor Stewart noted that both sets of data showed Sunderland performing significantly worse than the North East and national averages and commented that the report set out that an investigation and analysis of findings was underway but felt that this would be restricted as they were limiting the data source only to the last three months. Traditionally, this had been an issue and therefore how could Officers be confident they were getting the right information if they were limiting the review to only figures within the last three months. Ms. Carty explained that the reason for using the data from the last three months was that this



was when they had recognised the demand for services had increased. National figures were comparing data from 2015/16 and the gap between Sunderland and those figures had closed since then but in the last few months they had noticed that the figures were creeping back up and they were looking at this data range in particular to establish any reason for the increase.

In relation to children who were already subject to a child protection plan, Ms. Carty advised that they would continue to be reviewed at the relevant stages to make sure they should remain on the plan.

In response to a further query from Councillor Stewart, Ms. Carty advised that a child could be on a protection plan for a number of reasons and the question she preferred to be answered was 'is the child appropriately on the correct plan and was there anything that could have been put in place to have stopped it getting to that stage?' Another area Officers were seeing reductions was in the number of children in need which was a good thing, as either they were stepping down to engage with Early Help Services or stepping up to receive a child protection plan.

Councillor Stewart thanked the Officer and looked forward to the full outcome of the review.

Members drew the Officers' attention to the keys used within the charts, whereby the colour reference alternated between charts and asked if they may be universal in future, e.g. National average would always be shown in blue throughout the report and statistical neighbours in red, etc.

Councillor Elliott referred to paragraph 3.16 of the report and asked if there were timescales in place for the review that was to be undertaken and asked if the Committee could be assured that the findings would come back for their consideration. Ms. Carty advised that the timescales for the investigation would be set through the Operational Commissioning Group but that the findings would be submitted to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and once the timescales were known she could email the relevant Scrutiny Officer that information.

Councillor Bell commented that he was a Governor at a Nursery School and was aware that there were more referrals of children and young people being made from discussions he had with the Head Teacher and stated that he had concerns around the welfare system and in particular the move over to Universal Credit, which he understood was expected to be July, 2018 in Sunderland. He commented that this move would see even more increases in the demand on services within Together for Children and that any problems families may have now with their benefits may worsen on the introduction of the Universal Credit system and he could foresee a difficult twelve months ahead for the services.

Sir Ennals informed the Committee that discussions had been held around the increase of referrals at a regional level and reminded Members that figures did vary month to month and that there were times of the year when sudden increases could be noted, such as during January and September. Almost every area was seeing an increase in children and young people subject to child protection plans and each authority were monitoring their situation.

In relation to comments made by Councillor Bell around the introduction of Universal Credit, Sir Ennals stated that in Newcastle and Gateshead they had seen a rise in

cases of domestic violence and it was a real risk when changes were made in the payment of benefits from being given to both partners to only be given to one adult in the family home. The introduction had also seen some issues in schools, whereby young people were not awarded free school meals during the transition of their benefits and schools had had to continue to provide the free school meals to cover the period until Universal Credits were paid to the family. He stated that the points raised were very valid ones of concern and the Council had to have plans in place and the Committee may want to ask relevant Officers what was expected to help families during these times.

Mr. Newton referred to paragraph 3.12 of the report and highlighted that the data went from a year's cohort to three monthly figures and commented that this may see the rate reduce because of the methodology used rather than being a true reduction. Ms. Carty commented that she understood how it may change the data but explained that they would still be able to compare figures on both sets of data if it was necessary.

In response to a question from Councillor Miller as to why it was so difficult to recruit and retain Social Workers, and if discussions had been held with the University of Sunderland to look to engage with newly qualified social workers sooner, Ms. Carty explained that the service had no problem in recruiting newly qualified social workers but that they could not look to have a full workforce of them. To have a successful workforce they needed more experienced social workers to be mentors to the newer qualified worker and offer a more experienced infrastructure to keep the workforce balanced. Equally, she advised that they had issues recruiting to certain teams within the service, as some were harder to recruit to, for instance recruiting to the adoption team in comparison to the assessment team. Some Managers had brought in team members from their previous roles to fill vacancies but there were still agency workers within the service, although they continued to work to attract the right people to those roles in a permanent position.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the information contained within the report in relation to the Together for Children performances be received and noted.

### **Compliments, Complaints and Feedback**

The Director of Quality and Performance submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with information regarding complaints and feedback received by Together for Children.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Jane Wheeler, Participation and Engagement Lead, Together for Children, presented the report advising that it presented an overview of complaints and feedback received by the Council for the quarters 1 and 2, April – September, 2017.

Councillor Stewart referred to the complaint outcomes and pointed out that around fifty percent of complaints investigated were either upheld or partially upheld, or at least had elements of the complaints which were, and commented that this would be of a significant cost to the company, specifically in relation to the stage two and three

complaints. He asked what kinds of decisions were being made at Stage 1 and if the outcomes of complaints were being monitored to ensure that any trends were being picked up and not missed, as although the numbers of complaints were small, when they were moving through to the next stages almost half were being upheld, or at least elements of them were.

The Officer advised that Ombudsman training had been offered to managers within the social work teams and advice and guidance shared on how to deal with and respond to complaints at stage 1 as it had been recognised that this was an area which could be improved. There was a direct team to deal with complaints now within the Together for Children company who were on hand to support staff and also work alongside them so that staff morale was not damaged by complaints that were lodged.

Ms. Wheeler felt that they were moving forward in dealing with complaints in a timely manner but that the very nature of the services would always mean that there would be those who were not happy with elements of the service and would already be focussed on taking their complaint through all stages of the process regardless of the responses they may receive.

Councillor Stewart commented that it would be helpful to have the previous years' trends for comparison so that Members could see that the number of complaints being lodged and investigated were reducing between comparative quarters. Ms. Wheeler commented that in future the reports would contain comparative data for Members' information as this was already an area which had been discussed to be included.

In closing, the Committee were informed that Officers were meeting with complainants to try and help build relationships with those complainants who had significant areas of concern and to help them understand that their complaints were taken very seriously within the services and that they were being listened to and their concerns being addressed.

Members having no further questions and having fully considered the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) The information provided within the report be received and noted; and
- ii) The Director of Quality and Performance include comparative data from previous years in future reports to the Committee.

**Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report - April, 2016 – March, 2017**

The Chair of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2016-2017 to provide assurance on the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements for children in Sunderland.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Sir Paul Ennals, Independent Chairman of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board, presented the report advising that an annual report must be published in the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. Submissions of the annual report to the Committee should provide assurance that the SSCB is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities.

Sir Ennals introduced himself to the Committee advising that he had been appointed Independent Chairman of the Safeguarding Children Board at about the same time as Together for Children had been established and gave Members a brief overview of some of the key points which had been identified within the Annual Report and what actions had been undertaken since its publication.

Mr. Newton referred to the issue of domestic violence and commented that it was clearly a very serious issue in Sunderland and the North East and a current hot topic of discussion. He commented that it was a difficult issue to discuss and that it was important to deal with the issues that may cause extra pressure on families and with the introduction of Universal Credit he could not see how improvements were realistically possible during this time. Sir Ennals stated that there was never a bad time to try and tackle the issue of domestic violence but that sometimes it was best to try a different approach when other changes were being introduced. He commented that it was a difficult issue to address as improvements would only be made when people were being honest and could admit that there were problems and issues and that it was very much a cultural issue around victims of domestic abuse admitting that the problem existed and not just covering it up.

Councillor Miller advised that she was very optimistic following the presentation from Sir Ennals and although challenges ahead were evident it looked as though processes were being put in place to address them and move forward. Sir Ennals commented that Together for Children were scrutinised by many groups of people, and rightly so, but that the balance needed to be right to effectively scrutinise the work they were undertaking whilst still allowing them to get on with the job at hand.

Councillor Francis commented that it needed to be recognised that domestic violence was not always actual acts of violence and that it could be in many forms and just as harrowing.

Councillor Stewart commented that he was really encouraged by the comments from Sir Ennals and the reflections made on where the service was, particularly with regards to the agencies that were involved. In the past it had been raised that some agencies had had zero involvement and attendance at meetings of the Safeguarding Children Board and it had not been acceptable but had been the norm, and it was now encouraging to see that the structure had changed and as such, was much more strategic and improved at engaging with and bringing on board key stakeholders.

Sir Ennals commented that in the past there had been too many meetings held and often agency representatives had not been able to attend them all. The structure of the meetings now were to keep them short and focussed, ensuring that all participants had had sight of the papers for consideration beforehand. There were 10-12 bodies at the senior level, and not the 26-28 representatives that had been previously, and they came together on a regular basis and were used to being clear and decisive in their discussions. He advised that the Board would look to pull together groups of any further representatives and agencies that were needed to

contribute to more focussed areas as and when they were required. Should there be any concerns around non-attendance of representatives then the Chief Executives would be contacted to address the issue.

Sir Ennals stated that it was difficult as during times of austerity there had been a lot of change in staff resources and members of middle management who used to attend were not in post now, so they had to time manage the meetings much better to ensure their time was used wisely.

Councillor Bell commented that a lot of members of middle management with the knowledge and experience had been lost during staff cuts which had been budget led.

In relation to the introduction of Universal Credit he commented that families in receipt of these benefits could already be unstable family groups and when circumstances change it could upset the norm and see families self destruct and it was important to have support in place for them.

Councillor Stewart referred to the neglect toolkit and asked what was involved and if there would be anything within it which school governors could learn from. Sir Ennals advised that there would be information of use to Governors as well as training which was to be rolled out, but in the first instance all of the information was available on the website, [www.sunderlandscb.com](http://www.sunderlandscb.com), which would be updated as work progressed.

Councillor Bell referred to his role as Governor of a Nursery School and the difference that was made through the introduction of two year olds into the nursery provision and raised concerns over how some nursery provision may not be adequate. Sir Ennals commented that he had been involved in the starting up of the Sure Start provisions and how it was disappointing that the provision was removed as he felt it had been one of the most important social innovations since the 1960's.

There being no further questions for Sir Ennals, the Chairman thanked him for his report which provided hope and positive expectations and he looked forward to further reports being submitted to the Committee for consideration, and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the information provided within the annual report be received and noted and accepted as assurance of the current effectiveness of the local safeguarding children arrangements.

### **Annual Work Programme 2017/18**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information, the work programme for the Committee's work being undertaken for the 2017/18 municipal year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, reminded Members that at their meeting in October they had agreed to consider the Committee's involvement in the formation of a working group to be established to overview the preparations for a local area inspection of special educational needs provision across the city. Following consultation with the Chairman it was suggested that up to two Members of the

Committee be nominated to the working group which would also include senior officers from the Together for Children Company, partner organisations and the Lead Member for Children's Services.

Councillors Bell and Miller expressed their interest in being involved with the working group, dependant upon the particular dates and times of meetings and Mr. Diamond advised he would email all Members of the Committee for expressions of interest and with further information.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the information contained in the work programme be received and noted;
- b) the Scrutiny Officer email Members of the Committee for nominations to the working group to overview special educational needs provision across the city.

### **Notice of Key Decisions**

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

6. RESOLVED that the Notices of Key Decisions be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) B.FRANCIS,  
Chairman.

## **CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**1 FEBRUARY 2018**

### **REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 10 JANUARY 2018**

### **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2017/2018**

#### **Report of the Head of Law and Governance**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To seek the advice and consideration of this Committee on a report considered by Cabinet on 10 January 2018 on the Youth Justice Plan 2017/2018 and outlining the background, purpose and intentions of the Plan.
- 1.2 Members' views will contribute to the consultation process.

#### **2. Background and Current Position**

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 10 January 2018 gave consideration to the attached report of the Executive Director of People Services. The report outlines the background, purpose and intentions of the Plan and provides the Plan intended for publication. The Plan is the primary document for the Youth Offending Team Partnerships to set out how they will deliver against the Youth Justice Board's Performance Management Framework for Youth Offending Teams and is a key source for local youth justice planning.
- 2.2 Copies of the 10 January 2018 Cabinet Agenda have been made available to all Members of the Council.
- 2.3 The Cabinet noted the contents of the report and the Youth Justice Plan 2017/2018 (attached) and agreed that the plan be referred to the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee for further advice and consideration. In addition the Cabinet gave delegated authority to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, to accept any amendments to the plan prior to being referred to Council for final approval.

#### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 The report is referred to this Committee for advice and consideration in accordance with Article 4 of the Council's Constitution. The views of this Committee will be reported to Cabinet and then Council on .

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee is invited to give advice and consideration and, if appropriate, make comment to Cabinet on the Youth Justice Plan 2017/2018.

#### **5. Background Papers**

- 5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 19 October 2016.
- 5.2 A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from the Head of Law and Governance or can be viewed on-line at:-

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/8901/Committee/1953/Default.aspx>

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## CABINET MEETING –10 JANUARY 2018

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

**Title of Report:**

Youth Justice Plan 2017/18

**Author(s):**

Executive Director of People Services

**Purpose of Report:**

The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan which requires full Council approval.

The report informs Cabinet of the background, purpose and intentions of the plan and seeks to consult with and gain approval from Cabinet and to refer to Scrutiny Committee for comment.

**Description of Decision:**

Cabinet is recommended to provide comment on the Youth Justice Plan 2017/18 (attached) and recommend that it is referred to Scrutiny Committee for their consideration and comment.

Cabinet are further requested to authorise the Executive Director of People Services in consultation with the portfolio holder for Childrens Services to accept any amendments to the plan being referred to Council for final approval.

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?**      **Yes**

**If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework**

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan under the Constitution of the Council and is the primary document for YOT partnerships to set out how they will deliver against Youth Justice Board (YJB) performance management framework for Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and is a key source for local youth justice planning.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

The alternative option is not to submit the Youth Plan to full Council; however this would have a negative impact on local youth justice planning and the services' ability to deliver against its action plans.

<b>Impacts analysed:</b>	
Equality	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
Privacy	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
Sustainability	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
Crime and Disorder	<input type="text"/>
<b>Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?</b>	
<b>Yes</b>	
<b>Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?</b>	
<b>Yes</b>	
<b>Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?</b>	
<b>Yes</b>	

**YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2017/18**

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE SERVICES**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan which requires full Council approval.
- 1.2 The report informs Cabinet of the background, purpose and intentions of the plan and seeks to consult with and gain approval from Cabinet and to refer to Scrutiny Committee for comment.

**2. Description of Decision.**

- 2.1 Following consultation with the Youth Offending Service (YOS) Board partners, Cabinet is recommended to provide comment on the Youth Justice Plan 2017-2018 (attached) and recommend that it is referred to Scrutiny Committee for their advice and consideration.
- 2.2 Cabinet are further requested to authorise the Executive Director of People Services in consultation with the portfolio holder for Childrens Services to accept any amendments to the plan being referred to Council for final approval.

**3. Introduction/Background**

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 required the Chief Executive of each local authority area to set up a multi-agency Youth Offending Team / Service (YOT / YOS) governed by a multi-agency Management Board. The act required that each Team / Service produce an annual Youth Justice Plan.
- 3.2 The Sunderland YOS Management Board comprises the four statutory agencies of the Local Authority, Police, Probation and Health as well as the area courts as a local partner. The attached Youth Justice Plan 2017/18 was considered by the multi-agency YOS Management Board on 13 September 2017.
- 3.3 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) oversees the youth justice system in England and Wales. The YJB is required to monitor performance of the youth justice system and report to the Secretary of State for Justice. The YJB does this through the collection of performance data and annual Youth Justice Plans.
- 3.4 Each year the YJB issues guidance on the required content for the annual Youth Justice Plan and sets out the required submission date. The YOS partnership is therefore given a defined period for the development of the Youth Justice Plan and for the relevant consultations to be undertaken. The

attached Youth Justice Plan for Sunderland follows the YJB's guidance for the construction of the plan for the purposes of national YJB submission.

#### **4. Current Position – Youth Justice Plan 2017/18**

- 4.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2017/18 sets out the principal aim of the Sunderland Youth offending Service to '*prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people*'. It also sets out the key related outcomes of reducing the numbers of first time entrants to the criminal justice system, reducing the proven rate of re-offending for children and young people and maintaining a low use of custody.
- 4.2 The Youth Justice Plan 2017/18 sets out a number of service development priorities that have been developed on the basis of an analysis of performance and need from a range of sources including:-
- The national and local policy context for youth justice.
  - Performance against key national and local outcome targets.
  - Analysis of prevention and youth offending service assessment data.
  - Outcomes of practice quality assurance audits and good practice guidance.
- 4.3 The plan sets out the excellent performance of Sunderland YOS and its achievements during the course of its last strategic plan which spanned 2013/14 to 2016/17. The service achievements include:
- Maintenance of performance in relation to the service's three annual key performance indicators. In particular the service achieved the lowest rate of custody in the region, a position which stands Sunderland far better than the national average rate.
  - First Time Entrants have continued to fall in Sunderland as a result of continued review of practice.
  - Continued good performance in relation to the frequency of reoffending when compared to both regional and national averages.
  - Mainstreaming of the YOS liaison and diversion scheme across the service which is enabling the service to offer early assessment of all young people from the point of arrest.
  - The Looked After Children (LAC) Protocol with children's services and Northumbria Police which was introduced in 2015/16, continues to be embedded in practice and supports improved decision making for LAC children who offend within Children's Homes, employing restorative justice principles and supporting diversion of such children out of the criminal justice system. The LAC offending rate performance has stabilised and was much improved in 2016/17 with Sunderland narrowing the gap with our neighbouring authorities in the North East.
  - Sunderland YOS was awarded the Restorative Justice Quality Mark (RSQM) one of only 50 organisations to have received the award at the time. Feedback included that leaders demonstrated clear commitment to Restorative Justice, positive relationships with staff and volunteers appropriately trained in Restorative Justice.

- Sunderland's overall performance continues to be recognised positively by the YOS Board with a review following the service's inspection concluding that Sunderland continues to perform at a high standard in all aspects of YOS work.

## **5. Reasons for the Decision**

- 5.1 The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan under the Constitution of the Council and is the primary document for YOS partnerships to set out how they will deliver against YJB performance management framework for YOS and is a key source for local youth justice planning.

## **6. Alternative Options**

- 6.1 The alternative option is not to submit the Youth Justice Plan to full Council. This would have a negative impact on local youth justice planning, and the service's ability to deliver against its action plans.

## **7. Impacts Analysis: Crime and Disorder**

- 7.1 The principal aim of the Youth Offending Service is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people in Sunderland.
- 7.2 The role and responsibilities of the local YOT/YOS are set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the YOS continues to work with four statutory agencies - Police, Probation, Health and the Local Authority - to ensure that the service continues to be a high performing one which delivers outcomes which contribute to the Council's priorities.

## **8. Relevant Considerations / Consultations**

### **8.1 Co-operative Values**

The development of the Youth Justice Plan adheres and supports the council to act, comply with and actively promote its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

### **8.2 Legal Implications**

Consultation with legal services was undertaken and there are no implications for this Plan.

### **8.3 Financial Implications**

Consultation has been undertaken with finance and there are no implications for this Plan

## **9. Glossary**

MOJ Ministry of Justice  
YJB Youth Justice Board  
YOS Youth Offending Service

## **10. List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2017/18

# **SUNDERLAND YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE**

## **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2017/18**

### ***OUR VISION***

**“To work in partnership across the City to offer a holistic service that successfully diverts young people from offending and reoffending and provides effective support to families and victims of those working with the service”**

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## 1 FOREWORD

We are pleased to endorse the Youth Justice Plan for Sunderland for 2017/18. Over the past year, Sunderland Youth Offending Service has maintained its excellent performance and its positive relationships with key partners in the City to deliver the best outcomes for those it works with.

Whilst the YOS has experienced a reduction in posts within the service it continues to push ahead with innovative and creative practice, maintaining a workforce that has passion and drive to make a difference for children and young people. The service has already successfully embedded liaison and diversion practice and implemented a new national assessment framework. This year we have taken Prevention services back into the YOS and are continuing to identify and work with those young people most likely to formally enter the Criminal Justice System. Working with children and young people at the earliest opportunity is key to further diverting young people from antisocial behaviour and crime. Employing the principles of restorative justice will help to achieve change and improved outcomes in behaviour. We are confident that the YOS can deliver further improvements through the excellent partnerships that already exist in the city.

We have witnessed at close hand some of the successes being achieved by the YOS and have been impressed at the commitment and dedication of the staff. The model of advocacy support maintained by the YOS to support compliance and engagement of young people is to be commended; with one young person describing those team members he has worked with as 'inspirational'.

We look forward to continuing to support the Sunderland Youth Offending Service into 2017/18 and beyond.

**CLLR LOUISE FARTHING**

**Portfolio Holder for Children and Learning, Sunderland City Council**

**KAREN DAVISON**

**Director of Early Help, Together for Children - Sunderland**

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## 2 INTRODUCTION

Sunderland Youth Offending Service is a multi-agency service comprising of the four statutory agencies of Police, Probation, Health, the Local Authority and Together for Children. The service works in partnership with other key agencies such as the area courts and specialist service providers including child mental health, substance misuse and accommodation.

The principal aim of the service is **to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people**. In doing so, the service works in partnership to deliver both statutory and non-statutory services to:

- Young people aged 10-17 who, because of actual offending have become involved in the criminal justice system;
- Children and young people identified as at risk of offending;
- Families of children and young people offending or at risk of offending; and
- Victims of young people who have offended.

The role and responsibilities of local Youth Offending Teams/Services (YOT/YOS) was set down by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It also included the requirement for each local area to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan setting out how youth justice services will be delivered in the local area.

The detail on how these priorities will be implemented is included within the service's annual delivery plan, which is refreshed on an annual basis (see Resources Section for further detail).

## 2.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Sunderland YOS has continued to maintain a low use of custody
- In the last 12 months Sunderland YOT has made improvements in its rates of First Time entrants to the Criminal Justice system.
- Sunderland YOT benefited from being able to **fast track** vulnerable young people assessment by specialist services
- There were **strong effective partnerships**, where intelligence was shared and acted upon

### 2016/17 Performance against National Indicators

#### FTEs

- Cumulative local performance of the FTE rate between April 2016 to March 2017 shows a much improved rate of 434 (101 FTEs) per 100,000 young people of the 10 to 17 year old Sunderland population against an annual target of 600. Regional and National rates are also reducing showing an improvement.

#### Custody

- In 2016/17 the use of custody within Sunderland is at a low rate of 0.04, which equates to 1 custodial disposal within the year. This is the lowest rate of custody for any YOS in the Region (rate 0.34) and a far better picture than the National average (rate 0.37).

## Reoffending

- As at July 2017, the latest PNC data used by the YJB shows the reoffending binary rate to be 42.4%. Although better than the increasing Regional trend this performance remains below the national performance. The same pattern can be seen in relation to frequency of offending (rate 1.32) when compared to both Regional (rate 1.26) and National averages (1.53).

## Performance Against Our Strategic Priorities in 2016/17

The YOS maintained 5 strategic priorities which were the same in 2015/16 (see below). These were established in the service's 3 year strategy in 2013/14 to ensure that the service was able to effectively respond to local and national priorities in relation to youth justice and wider key strategic agendas:

**Priority 1 – A preventative approach to reducing reoffending**

**Priority 2 – Reducing Reoffending**

**Priority 3 – A Family Approach**

**Priority 4 – A Restorative Justice Approach**

**Priority 5 – Service Evaluation**

The detail of the work programme which underpins how these are driven forward is set out within a separate Delivery Plan for each year which underpins the overarching YOS Strategy. The delivery plan for 2016/17 was designed on a thematic basis, providing a more effective focus for service developments and allow for a cross cutting set of work programmes linked to one or a number of the overarching development priorities. An update is provided below on the achievements of the service against these themes:

THEME 1 - QUALITY	YOS STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY
<b>ACTIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Strengthen the quality of delivery in relation to cautions</li><li>Review effectiveness of liaison and diversion practice</li><li>Review quality of practice in relation to the implementation of the whole family approach</li></ul>	<b>Priority 1</b> <b>Priority 2</b> <b>Priority 3</b>

## Progress Update:

The quality of work in relation to Cautions and Liaison and Diversion was again considered against both the YJB National Standards audit process and an internal review of practice. We have further reviewed our internal process for quality assurance and decision making in relation to Cautions and Triage so that cases are considered on a weekly basis.

The Prevention Team of Wear Kids is now also situated within the YOS and they have been trained in AssetPlus and will now be included in quality assurance processes alongside established case managers

A particular success during 2016/17 was the partnership agreement to establishing a LAC (Looked after Children) Protocol which is supporting improved decision making for LAC children who offend within Children's Homes, employing restorative justice principles and supporting diversion of such children out of the criminal justice system. This protocol has continued to be embedded and attracted interest from the YJB; whilst we cannot conclusively evidence that this has had a positive impact on rates of offending by LAC young people, this performance has continued to improve. We have undertaken a review of a small number of offences committed by LAC young people placed out of area to consider how we can positively impact upon decision making in these cases and shared this with Social Care colleagues.

We would look to build upon this practice by working with partners to discuss if a similar protocol could be agreed in schools for LAC young people.

THEME 2 - OUTCOMES	YOS STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY
<b>ACTIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver Reducing Reoffending Action Plan</li> <li>• Deliver work programme to ensure the child or young person is at the centre of their assessment and intervention plan</li> <li>• Improve victim satisfaction processes</li> </ul>	<b>Priority 1</b> <b>Priority 2</b> <b>Priority 4</b> <b>Priority 5</b>

### Progress Update:

Following the service's participation in the national Reducing Reoffending Project, we have built upon how we utilise findings to date and continue to incorporate this into our quality assurance processes and ensure young people are receiving the most effective interventions possible.

The YOS continues to review re-offending and consider how we can continue to improve outcomes for young people; this includes identifying areas of unmet needs and areas of risk that other agencies need to address alongside us. We have just agreed a new process to offer voluntary interventions for young people committing Anti-Social Behaviour and will also be reviewing Quality Assurance process in 2017/18.

The recent National Standards Audit confirms the YOS victim service is compliant with service standards. Victims can currently submit their views to the RJ Team verbally or in writing. To further improve practice and processes for victims we will be undertaking a review of methods of feedback from victims.

THEME 3 – WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH	YOS STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY
<b>ACTIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree information sharing processes with City Intelligence Hub</li> <li>• Improve referral processes to key partners where additional family needs are identified</li> <li>• Improve delivery of family mediation support within the YOS and with key relevant partners</li> <li>• Continue whole family approach implementation work programme</li> </ul>	<b>Priority 1</b> <b>Priority 2</b> <b>Priority 3</b>

### Progress Update:

As is noted above, critical intelligence sharing is robust in Sunderland. One additional element city wide is the newly developed Early Help offer. The YOS continues to work in a “whole family” approach, for which we were commended in the 2016 Inspection. We have started to develop a joined up approach across Early Help to consider what are the appropriate services to work with young people at risk of offending and exit strategies for families who need continued support at the end of formal Criminal justice interventions. We will monitor the impact of this model.

Further work needs to take place in 2017/18 to consider if the service is able to increase its ability to better recognise opportunities for mediation both internally and with other social care colleagues, for example, to support young people in Children’s Homes as well as within the Prevention team.

THEME 4 – STAFF AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	YOS STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY
<b>ACTIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Sunderland YOS' approach to being a "learning organisation"</li> <li>• Review reflective practice and how the quality assurance agenda can support staff development</li> <li>• Work with key partners in relation to how YOS staff can integrate into locality working</li> </ul>	<b>Priority 1</b> <b>Priority 2</b> <b>Priority 3</b>

### Progress Update:

The YOS has over the last two years made significant improvements to its quality assurance process with the on-going development of a reflective one-to-one approach between managers and case managers used to review quality of practice. In addition, staff have been engaged in a variety of thematic reviews including Strengthening Families, health and caution quality.

Since the establishment of Together for Children in April 2017 the YOS sits within Early Help as part of a targeted Youth Services Team. This has already allowed for development of a wider offer to young people at risk of Anti-Social Behaviour and offending and greater integration with the delivery of services for 0-19 year olds. This has also begun to be reflected in the development

THEME 5 – RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	YOS STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY
<b>ACTIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase direct Restorative Justice opportunities</li> <li>• Work with city partners to identify where YOS can support wider delivery of RJ practice</li> <li>• Maintain RJ training programme</li> </ul>	<b>Priority 1</b> <b>Priority 2</b> <b>Priority 4</b>

### Progress Update:

Sunderland YOS was successful in gaining the Restorative Justice Quality Mark in 2016 and we are committed to ensuring work with victims is of the highest quality. Restorative justice staff have in the last year also delivered workshops at a professionals' conference and also worked in a primary school to advise on restorative approaches

Going forward into 2017/18 we will be offering restorative approaches through Wear Kids for young people referred for Anti-Social or unacceptable behaviour and will be looking to support staff across Early Help understand how restorative approaches can positively impact upon young people .

The agreement of the LAC Protocol will also offer additional direct RJ and mediation support, and further improve the already substantial YOS work with city partners including Northumbria Police.

The YOS continues to deliver, in an efficient way, its statutory requirements for the delivery of Restorative Justice Interventions including Restorative Conferencing.



THEME 6 – LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	YOS STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY
<b>ACTIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve practice in relation to offending within Children's Homes and other settings, i.e. schools, with key partners</li> <li>• Improve outcomes for children who are on the edge of care</li> </ul>	<b>Priority 1</b> <b>Priority 2</b> <b>Priority 3</b> <b>Priority 4</b>

### Progress Update:

Beginning in 2016 work was undertaken on a LAC protocol with social care colleagues and Northumbria Police that will reduce the criminalisation of young people where offences are committed within the children's home setting. This protocol embeds an "out of court" process which allows the YOS to undertake a holistic and partnership assessment for such offences in order to improve decisions and embed a YOS restorative justice offer as an alternative to police intervention for children in care. The YOS continues to offer young people wrap around support where needed to support their engagement and also to support any exit strategies from the service beyond their orders. The LAC protocol commits these same resources from the YOS to Children's Homes and individual young people, offering wrap around support to prevent challenging behaviour or support the young person after an offence. We continue to review incidents where LAC young people enter the Criminal Justice system and we are currently considering how we can better influence decisions for young people in out of area placements. This is not a straightforward process but is important if we are to be assured that all young people are considered for an opportunity for diversion from criminal justice where appropriate.

Alongside this LAC protocol, the YOS also wants to continue to agree a similar approach for other settings, and most critically at this time, for those young people identified as being exploited or at risk of being sexually exploited as we know young people are often criminalised as part of the grooming process. As a long term strategy we would wish to engage partners in a dialogue to consider how we can effectively identify and divert young people at risk from the criminal justice system.

## **Youth Justice Board – Performance Review.**

Sunderland continues to improve performance in relation to FTEs and *performance in reducing reoffending is stabilising* Custody rates were very low in 2016/17 and whilst we have an established history of maintaining low custody rates it is unlikely it will remain as low this year.

## **Changes to Governance and Service Delivery**

As is identified within the Structure and Governance section below, the YOS has not transitioned into a new Children's Services model independent of the Local Authority.

## **Learning from Inspections**

The YOS Partnership is routinely presented with analysis papers and recommendations for action in relation to Inspection Reports and Good Practice Research following their publication. The YOS Management Team proactively reviews good practice and inspection outcomes internally with staff to consider local practice through Team meetings and practice workshops.

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### 3 STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Since June 2016 the chair of the YOS Board has been the Chief Executive of Together for Children, thereby continuing to effectively support and drive the YOS Partnership in relation to effective services for children and young people.

The YOS Management Board meets on a minimum of four occasions each year.

The annual Youth Justice Plan continues to be considered as an Article 4 plan and as such is scrutinised and approved on an annual basis by the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet prior to submission to the Youth Justice Board.

The YOS Management Board receive regular financial, performance and safeguarding and practice reports, including updates on audit compliance and inspection themes that may inform or impact service delivery. The YOS continues to be proactive in terms of reviewing best and innovative practice.

Case studies are regularly used at the YOS Board to highlight both positive practice but also barriers in accessing services for young people. These have received positive feedback from Board members. They are presented where possible by the individual case manager which allows Board members to hear at first hand the support being offered to young people in the city. In terms of YOS performance and safeguarding updates, these are provided at every Board meeting.

The YOS management team as a whole contributes to the current Business Plan objectives through attendance at the Children's Safeguarding Board Sub-Groups driving forward work in relation to Learning and Improvement; Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET); and Serious case reviews. All Safeguarding referrals are quality assured and reviewed. The YOS is also supporting the Safeguarding Board's programme of audits during 2017/18

## 4 RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

### 2017/18 Budget

The YOS budget is made up of statutory partner agency funding and in-kind contributions, core government funding from the Youth Justice Board and other grants. The chart below summarises each of the funding sources for the financial year 2017/18

Within this budget, Sunderland will deliver the core statutory youth justice service as set out by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and other subsequent legislation.

**B5: YOT Budget / Youth Justice Board Statutory Return July 2017**

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>Staffing Costs</b> <i>total cost of the secondee to the employer, including on-costs</i>	<b>Payments in kind</b> <i>as defined in guidance</i>	<b>Other Delegated Funds</b> <i>cash contributions from partner agencies to be used at YOS Managers' discretion</i>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Police	93,712			£93,712
Probation	71,814		10,000	£81,814
Health	20,720		130,000	£150,720
Local Authority	474,666	413,070	7,850	£896,486
YJB	610,575		33,298	£643,873
Other				30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,271,486.66</b>	<b>£413,970.00</b>	<b>£181,148.00</b>	<b>£1,866,605</b>

## Delivery of Youth Justice in 2017/8

For 2017/18, the YOS has reviewed its internal targets in relation to the three key outcomes of preventing offending, reducing reoffending and use of custody.

The three performance targets therefore are:

### Entering the Youth Justice System (First Time Entrants)

**Outcome Target:** To maintain first time entrants below a rate of 560 per 100,000 of the 10-17 population.

### Reducing Reoffending

**Outcome Target:** To maintain performance on re-offending in line with national expectations.

### Maintaining low levels of custodial sentencing

**Outcome Target:** To maintain custodial sentencing below a rate of **0.35** per 1,000 of the 10 to 17 Sunderland population.

The YOS is confident, based upon its historical performance, that these targets can be achieved.

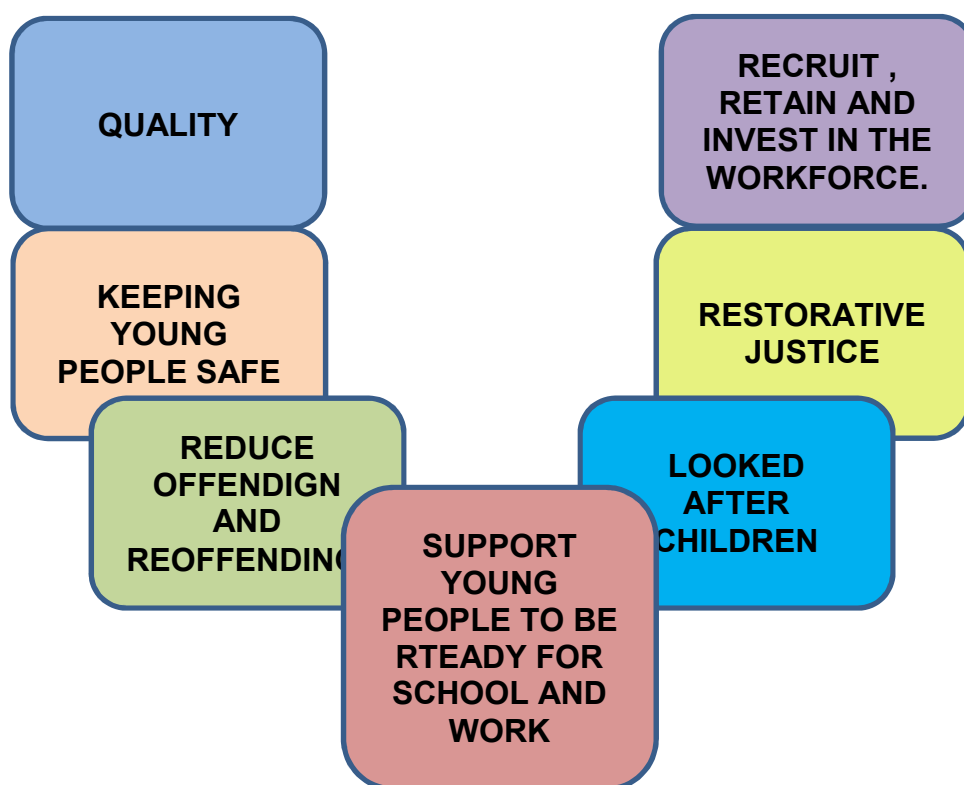
## Service Development Priorities

To ensure that the service effectively responds to local and national priorities in relation to youth justice and wider key strategic agendas, the service will have a focus in the next year on

- 1 - A preventative approach to reducing offending
- 2 - Reducing Reoffending
- 3 - A restorative justice approach
- 4 - Work to reduce NEET

The annual delivery plan for 2017/18 also continues to be designed on a thematic basis, providing a more effective focus for service developments and allow for a cross cutting set of work programmes linked to one or a number of the overarching development priorities.

Sunderland YOS continues to shape its development plans around the following themes.



Within Together for Children, the YOS will support and contribute to the “Early Help” offer in the city for young people and their parents/carers. Annual service development priorities for 2017/18 have been therefore considered within this context and agreed with the YOS Partnership Board. These are included at Appendix A.

### **Workforce and Specialist Resources**

Moving into 2017/18, the YOS headcount has further reduced from 2016/7, but it maintains its core staffing resources in relation to the full-time Staff, multi-agency secondees, (volunteers and sessional staff and is therefore compliant with the minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Included within Appendix B is a structure chart for the YOS alongside a table which breaks down staffing by agency, gender and ethnicity. All core YOS staff (with the exception of five practitioners) are trained in elements of restorative justice relevant to their post. All Referral Order Panel volunteer members have been trained in RJ relevant to their roles. The YOS continues to also provide robust supervision, training and management of its sessional workers who support in the delivery of RJ work, advocacy and appropriate adult responsibilities.

The YOS Restorative Justice Team maintains its two accredited practitioners, one of which is also an accredited trainer.

## **YOS Management Board Oversight**

The YOS Management Board maintains oversight of YOS resources through regular reports across the financial year.

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## **5 PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS**

The multi-agency Sunderland YOS Management Board remains as an identified 'significant partnership' for Sunderland and it also provides the strategic links with other significant partnerships, and their associated strategic plans across children's services, criminal justice and community safety. The YOS Management Board also continues to be linked into the Safer Sunderland Partnership which is the local Community Safety Partnership, by acting as a key delivery group in supporting delivery of the Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008-2023 to ensure that "everyone in Sunderland will be, and feel, safe and secure". The YOS Manager is also a member of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children's Board and YOS Managers contribute to relevant safeguarding sub-committees.

Partnership working has strengthened through 2016/17, particularly with Northumbria Police in relation to the LAC Protocol and the early intervention work around antisocial behaviour. The partnership arrangements in place that support Liaison and Diversion practice have also significantly improved the service's ability to recognise and address the wider health needs of the children and young people it works with. 2017/18 will be a year for the YOS to further embed L&D assessment practice across the whole of the service, and alongside that work to evaluate its success to inform the commissioning agenda going forward to secure health resources in the longer term.

The YOS remains committed to working in partnership with others around the key issues affecting young people today including significant and emerging problems around sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, substance misuse and the prevent agenda.

### **Prevent Agenda**

The YOS supports and is a member of the City Council's Prevent protocol and practice. Relevant staff have been trained in relation to the Prevent agenda.

### **MAPPA**

The YOS continues to utilise MAPPA arrangements to in relation to those young people who pose significant risks within the community.

## Resettlement

The critical needs of young people being resettled into the community continue to be reported within the service's Performance Report for the YOS Management Board and there are robust internal processes that ensure timely and appropriate planning takes place in advance of release. The service has maintained its wrap around advocate staff which support young people on release from custody or at risk of custody.

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## 6 RISKS

### Risks in relation to Youth Justice Outcomes

The YOS continues to maintain good performance across all three indicators.

In terms of critical risks in relation to performance, the service is performing well (as acknowledged by the YJB) in relation to reoffending and custody and a recent improvement in performance for FTEs.

We anticipate we can continue to build on our partnerships across Early Help, Police and ASB team to further impact upon FTEs and ASB as well as deliver out of Court Disposals to a high standard. We are looking to work collaboratively to utilise developments in Out Of Court disposal options such as the use of compensation. In parallel with this, it is anticipated this will also positively impact on LAC offending rates with the implementation of alternative models of dealing with incidents in children's homes. Young people who are looked after who offend has been a particular focus for the service over 2016/17 given the high rates of offending reported over the past three years. The agreement to the LAC Protocol (detailed within the Achievements section of this plan) is expected to make a significant impact on this LAC offending rate and improve partnership arrangements with residential care staff and police to make better decisions for these young people.

The use of custody or remand episodes is not considered a concern within Sunderland. The rate of custody remains very low overall and compares well against national levels.

The YOS maintains its successful relationships with local magistrates and its Intensive Supervision and Surveillance service which offer robust alternatives



to custody and wrap around support. The service provides Court duty officers for weekend cover. These are YOS staff experienced in responding to potential remands as typically out of hours court appearances are a risk area in terms of remands.

There is a clear escalation process through line management to the Head of Service in relation to any young person at risk of custody in order to ensure that where partnership support is needed to avoid remands, this is secured.

The YOS is well embedded in Children's Social Care meeting structures where placements for Looked after Children are agreed and this includes young people remanded so that alternative placements are sourced where needed and appropriate. The YOS is also represented at the regional Resettlement meeting which considers practice.

### **YOS Partnership Risk Register**

The Partnership Risk Register has been reviewed and refreshed for 2016/17 [see Appendix C]. This continues to highlight financial resources, the Charlie Taylor review and the transition of the YOS into the new Community Interest Company in Sunderland as the most pertinent risks to the service.

**SUNDERLAND YOS BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

<b>CHAIR</b>	Karen Davison Director of Early Help, Together for Children	
<b>Statutory Partners</b>	Clinical Commissioning Group	
	Gillian Gibson, Acting Director of Public Health	
	Northumbria Police	
	Karin O'Neill, NPS	
<b>CRC</b>	Martyn Strike, CRC	
<b>Local Authority Partners</b>	Stuart Douglas, Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety	
	Linda Mason, YOS Manager	
	Councillor Louise Farthing	
<b>Court</b>	Gerry Tierney	
<b>Education</b>	Dr Paul Dresser, Sunderland University	
	Virtual Schools Head	

YOS Board members considered and agreed the contents of the YOS Plan at the Partnership Board meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

ETE	Education, Training and Employment
FTE	First Time Entrants
HO	Home Office
IRS	Intensive Resettlement and Support
ISS	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance
LAC	Looked After Children
LASPO	Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (Act)
L&D	Liaison and Diversion
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
RJ	Restorative Justice
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YRO	Youth Rehabilitation Order
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YOT	Youth Offending Team

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## HOW TO CONTACT US

Sunderland Youth Offending Service's base is in the city centre:

Staff and service user base:

176 High Street West  
Sunderland  
SR1 1UP

0191 561 7301

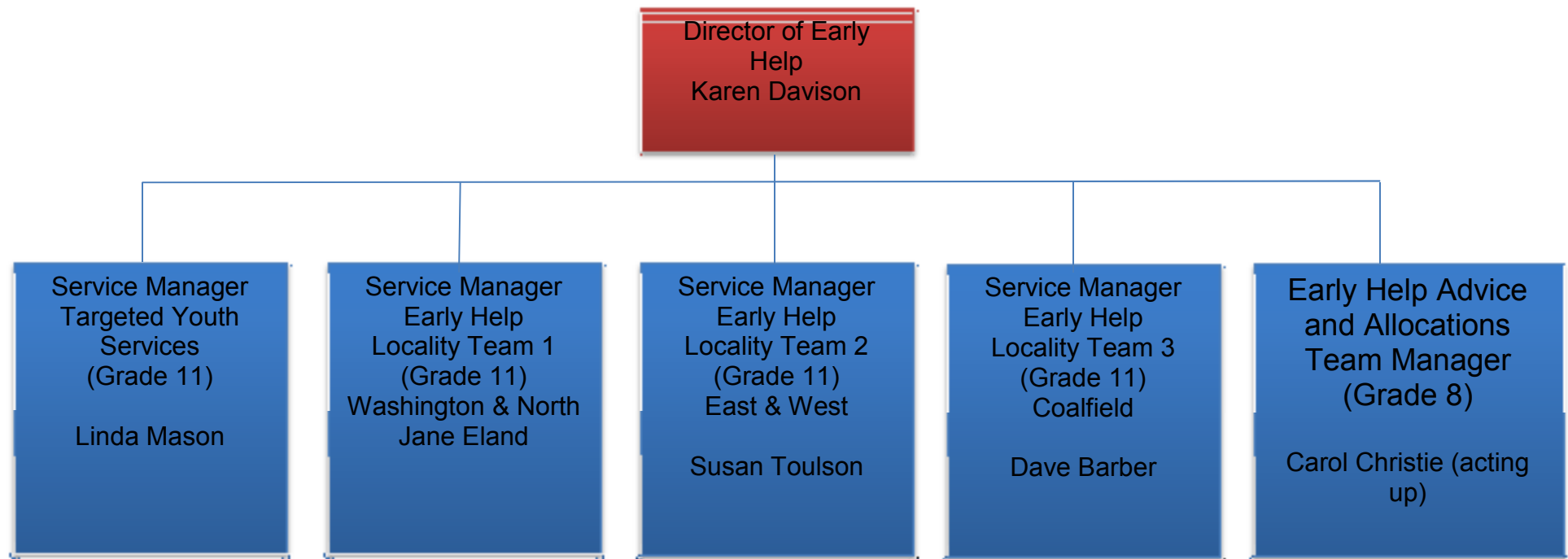
Email: [yos@sunderland.togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:yos@sunderland.togetherforchildren.org.uk)

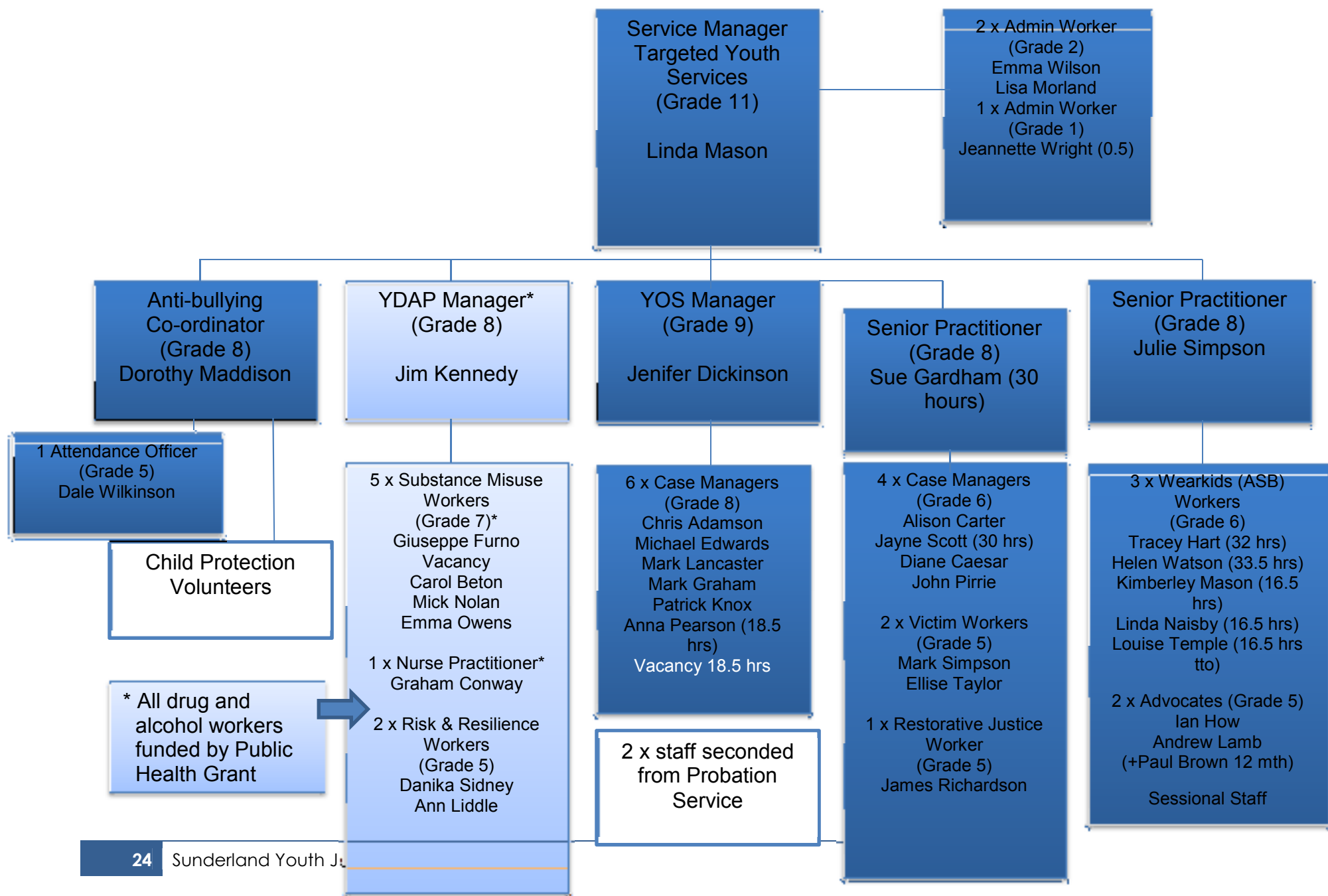
If you would like this document in any other format, please do not hesitate to contact the staff at the base above.

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN SUNDERLAND

EARLY HELP SERVICE

COMPLETED STRUCTURE



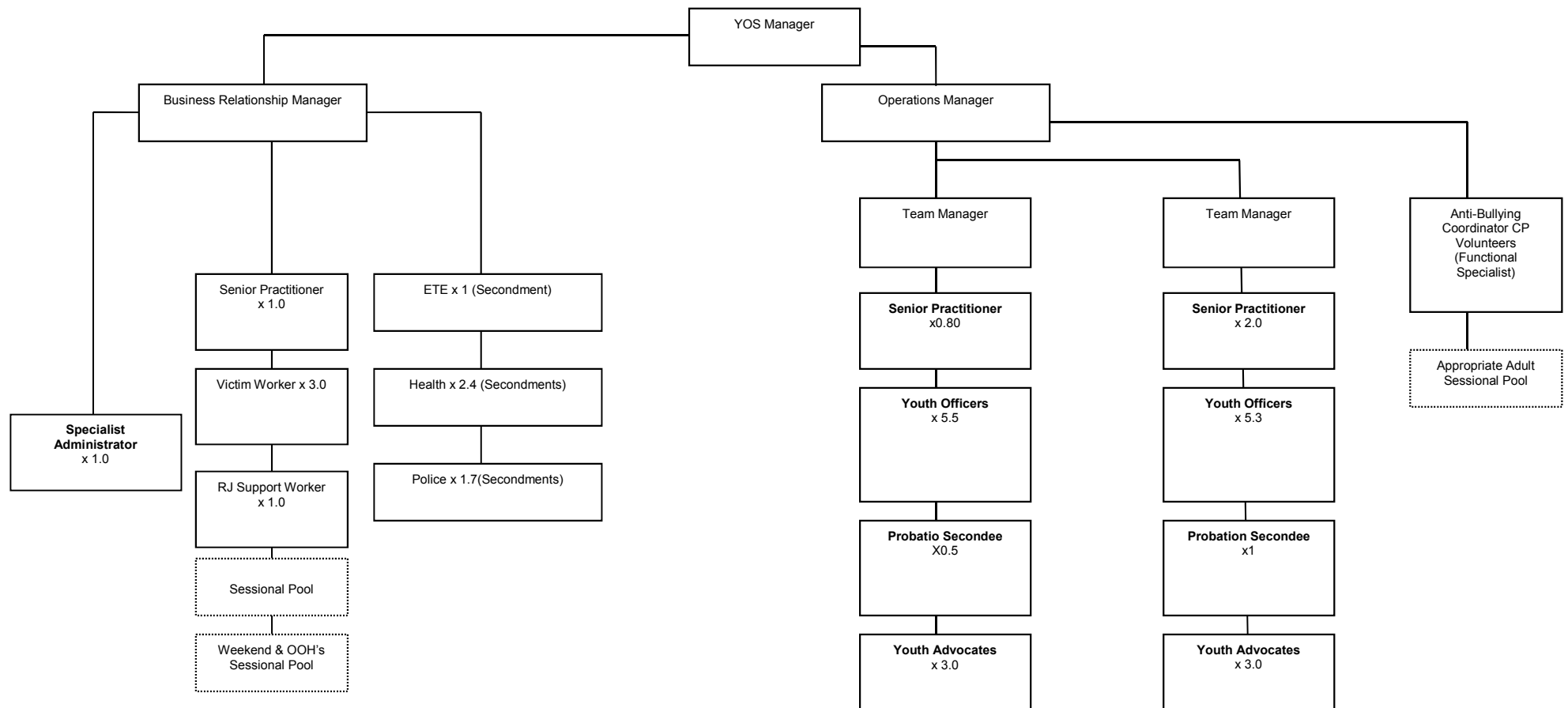


## APPENDIX B – STAFF STRUCTURE AND STAFFING CHART

Type of Contract	Strategic Manager (PT)	Strategic Manager (FT)	Operational Manager (PT)	Operational Manager (FT)	Practitioners (PT)	Practitioners (FT)	Administration (PT)	Administration (FT)	Sessional	Students/ trainees	Volunteer	Total
Permanent		1	0.8	2	4.4	14	0.5	1				23.7
Fixed-term						1			15			16
Outsourced												0
Temporary												0
Vacant					0.5							0.5
Seconded Children's Services												0
Seconded Probation					0.5	1						1.5
Seconded Police					1.8							1.8
Seconded Health (Substance misuse)						0.5						0.5
Seconded Health (Mental health)												0
Seconded Health (Physical health)						0.5						0.5
Seconded Health (Speech/language)												0
Other/Unspecified Seconded Health												0
Seconded Education												0
Seconded Connexions												0
Seconded Other												0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44.5</b>
Disabled (self-classified)												0

Ethnicity	Managers Strategic		Managers Operational		Practitioners		Administrative		Sessional		Student		Volunteer		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
White British	0	3	0	3	21	14	0	6	5	11	0	0	0	0		
White Irish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
White & Black Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
White & Black African	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
White & Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other Mixed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pakistani	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Bangladeshi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
African	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chinese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Any other ethnic group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>																





## Risk Register

**Risk Likelihood**  
 1 = Unlikely  
 2 = Possible  
 3 = Likely  
 4 = Almost Certain

**Risk Impact**  
 1 = Minor  
 2 = Moderate  
 3 = Significant  
 4 = Critical

Likelihood	4	3	2	1
	4	3	2	1
	3	2	1	
	2	1		
Negative Impact				

											Last Updated		
ID	Date Identified	Risk Description	Risk Owner	Impact	Likelihood	Rating	Mitigating Actions	Action Lead	Time scale	RAG	Date	Progress	Status
	16.6.17	Technical issues with YOS Case Management system and the ICT Infrastructure leading to potential instability in recording and performance reporting	YOS Manager	4	4	12	Escalation made to software supplier at the highest level, jointly with ICT Business Relationship Manager to review issues with the system	LM	End Sept 2017	r			
	31.3.18	Governmental Review (Charlie Taylor Review) could significantly change the future YOT operating model	YOS Manager	3	4	12	Work is ongoing with Early Help to embed model of addressing FTE and NEET's	LM	End March 2018	R			
	131.12.17	Efficiencies has undergone efficiency savings- the staff group remains stable but work is needed to ensure prevention services are well targeted.	YOS Manager	3	3	9	YOS Manager to continue discussions with strategic directors of new Community Interest Company.	LM	End of March 2017	A			
	31.3.17	Future of funding streams in a time of continued austerity remains uncertain.	YOS Manager	4	4	16	YOS Manager to explore funding streams to address identified service priorities from alternative sources	LM	End of March 2017	R			

## CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

1 February 2018

### SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### OVERALL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE DATA FOR THE 2016/17 ACADEMIC YEAR

##### **1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To update members of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee on the verified overall school performance data for the academic year 2016 – 2017.

##### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 1996 to promote high standards in schools and to raise attainment. There is a strong commitment to achieving the best outcomes for children and young people across a full range of measures which includes raising standards of achievement across all key stages.
- 2.2 This report presents an overview across the full range of academic outcomes and the key priorities for the school improvement service.

##### **3. Early Years Foundation Stage Profile**

- 3.1 Overall, 71% of children achieved a 'good level of development' compared to 68% in 2016. In 2017 we ranked 80 out of 152 authorities. The national average for 2017 is 71%. The difference between those children living in the 30% most deprived wards and all other learners i.e. the 'gap' was 13% in 2015, 11% in 2016 and 12% in 2017.

##### **4. Phonics**

- 4.1 All children in Year 1 of primary school have a phonics screening check. The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in phonics has risen to 83% in 2017. We rank 31<sup>st</sup> out of 152 authorities. This represents a 2ppts improvement on the previous academic year.

##### **5 Key Stage 1**

##### **5.1 Reading**

The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in reading was 76%. This figure is equal to the national figure. The performance of Sunderland schools showed a 1ppt increase over the previous year. We

ranked 66<sup>th</sup> out of 152 authorities. The percentage of children achieving the higher standard in reading was 25% again this is equal to the national figure.

## 5.2 Writing

The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in writing is 71% this was a 1% improvement from the previous year and 3% above the national figure. Sunderland ranks 36<sup>th</sup> out of 152 authorities.

The percentage of children achieving the higher than expected standards in writing is 17%, which is 1ppts above the national figure.

## 5.3 Mathematics

The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in mathematics is 78% and showed a 2% rise from the previous year. Sunderland ranks 26<sup>th</sup> out of 152 authorities. The national average for 2017 is 75%.

The percentage of children achieving the higher standards in mathematics is 21%. The national figure in 2017 is 21%.

## 5.4 In summary:

Overall key Stage 1 outcomes compare strongly to national averages in a year where the expectations of children have risen considerably.

## 6. Key Stage 2

- 6.1 The percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing (Teacher Assessment) and maths was 68% in 2017 a rise of 7% from the previous year and 6ppts above national. Sunderland ranks 19<sup>th</sup> out of 152 authorities. The percentage of children achieving the higher standard is 11% which is 2ppt above national.

### 6.2 Vulnerable groups data

Individual subjects are no longer reported in statistical release

<b>Disadvantaged children</b>	LA	<i>Rank</i>	Regional	National
Reading writing & maths combined	54%	26 <sup>th</sup> /152	50%	48%

<b>SEN Support</b>	LA	<i>Rank</i>	Regional	National
Reading writing & maths combined	26%	30 <sup>th</sup> /152	24%	21%

<b>EHCP</b>	<b>LA</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>National</b>
Reading writing & maths combined	9%	43 <sup>rd</sup> /152	9%	8%

### 6.3 Progress scores - reading, writing and mathematics

	<b>LA</b>	<b>Regional</b>
Reading	1.1	0.6
Writing	1.4	0.9
Maths	1.4	0.9

The table above demonstrates that overall progress data in Sunderland is above the regional average and reflects the level of support and challenge offered to schools to ensure positive outcomes.

## 7. GCSE results - Provisional results

- 7.1 In 2017 a revised method of grading both GCSE English and mathematics was introduced, replacing conventional A\*-G with grades 9-1. Across Sunderland, 56% of children achieved grades 9-4, with grades 9-4 seen as an equivalent grade A\*-C. This is a 3ppt fall compared to 2016. The performance gap between girls and boys increased to 6ppt in 2017. We ranked 134<sup>th</sup> out of 152 authorities.

## 8. English

- 8.1 Analysis of the year-on-year variation at school level suggests there is more variation at grade C in English/English language than in other subjects.
- 8.2 The % of grades 9-4 GCSE English in 2017 fell by 1ppt to 69%. The gap compared to national increased by 1ppt in 2017. We ranked 134<sup>th</sup> out of 152 authorities.

## 9. Mathematics

- 9.1 The % of grades 9-4 GCSE maths has fallen by 3ppt to 63%. The gap compared to national increased by 3ppts. We ranked 132 out of 152 authorities.

## 10. English Baccalaureate / Performance 8 / Attainment 8

- 10.1 The percentage of pupils achieving the (Ebacc) has improved from 21% in 2016 to 22% in 2017. This has reduced the gap between Sunderland pupils and the national figure by 2ppts. We ranked 81 out of 152 authorities.
- 10.2 Progress 8 was introduced as a performance measure during the 2015 -16 academic year. This measure tells us how well pupils at this school have progressed between the end of primary school (key stage 2) and the end of secondary school (key stage 4), compared to pupils in other schools who got similar results at the end of primary school. This is based on results in up to 8 qualifications, which include English, maths, 3 qualifications including sciences, computer science, history, geography and languages, and 3 other additional approved qualifications.

The Progress 8 figure for Sunderland in 2017 was -0.31 and nationally this figure was -0.03, increasing our gap compared to national, by 0.14 points.

- 10.3 Attainment 8 was introduced as a performance measure during the 2015 -16 academic year. Attainment 8 measures a student's average grade across eight subjects – the same subjects that count for Progress 8. This new measure is designed to encourage schools to offer a broad, well-balanced curriculum.

The Attainment 8 figure for Sunderland was 43.6 and nationally this figure was 46.1.

### 10.4 Vulnerable Groups

	SEN All	SEN EHCP / Statement	Disadvantaged	All
Number of Pupils	460	375	921	2772
Progress 8	-0.77	-0.69	-0.71	-0.31
EBacc Achieved	3%	3.7%	7.4%	22%

The figures above show that in Sunderland, performance of disadvantaged pupils highlights the significant difference between this group and others.

## **11. Actions taken by the School Improvement Service to secure improvements at a Secondary level included:**

### **11.1 The following actions were taken / facilitated by the School Improvement Service:**

- Termly meetings with representatives of DfE / Regional Schools Commissioner responsible for the performance of academies (in 2016-17 84% of secondary schools within the city were academies. This figure has now risen) in relation to the outcomes / performance of particular academies.
- Continuation of the School to school improvement networks in which 14 Secondary schools/ academies participated.
- In partnership with St Anthony's teaching school continue with the termly subject network programme across the city for curriculum area leaders.

### **11.2 In addition to building upon the good practice already developed last year the School Improvement Service will support / facilitate the additional activities:**

- Work with a group of Secondary Headteachers to review in school alternative curriculum practice to secure better outcomes for pupils at KS4.
- Utilising funding from University of Sunderland to develop with schools learning and teaching strategies so that the proportion of pupils achieving GCSE Grade 9 in mathematics.
- Utilise the monthly Secondary Headteacher meeting with an agenda focus of sharing of good practice, with particular reference to attainment in Year 11.
- Work with schools to narrow the gap between the disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged, by commissioning Pupil Premium reviews for those schools with the greatest gap and utilise the findings of the Tees Valley partnership to diminish the difference. Continue with funding applications to the Strategic School Improvement Fund. Develop a conference to share best practice.

## **12. A level results – Provisional Results**

### **12.1 3 A-levels grades A, A,B or higher**

The comparative measure of 1 A-level graded A\* - A is nationally no longer used and is replaced by 3 AAB instead.

- 15% of young people achieved 3 A-levels graded A, A and B or higher. This is an increase over 12% reported in 2016. Nationally, the rate has remained at 18%. We ranked 104<sup>th</sup> out of 152 authorities.

## **12.2 Individual school outcomes % A\*-A grades**

- St Aidan's Academy – 12%
- St Anthony's Academy – 31%
- St Robert's School – 23%
- Grindon Hall Christian School – 47%
- Southmoor Academy – 19%
- Sunderland College – 10%

## **13 City Wide**

- Achievement of grades A\*-A has improved year on year from 18% in 2016 to 20% in 2017, with notable improvements at St Anthony's RC Academy, Southmoor Academy and Grindon Hall Christian School.

### **13.1 City wide A\*- E grades**

- City wide (LA and College) – 98% of young people achieved A\* - E grades, remaining stable, 2016 into 2017.

## **14 Recommendation**

- 14.1 The Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information provided regarding school performance data.



## **CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**1 FEBRUARY 2018**

### **ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2017-18**

#### **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The report sets out for members' consideration the work programme of the Committee for the 2017/18 municipal year.

##### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 The work programme is intended to be a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year, allowing it to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 In delivering its work programme the Committee will support the Council in achieving its corporate outcomes

##### **3. Current position**

- 3.1 The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 3.2 It is suggested that Members may wish to review the composition and priorities of the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year in view of the number of remaining items and earlier discussions during the meeting (Agenda Item 3 refers).

##### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The work programme is intended to be a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2017-18.

## **5 Recommendation**

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme and consider its composition and priorities for the remainder of the municipal year.

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**Contact Officer:** Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer  
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**CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2017-18**

REASON FOR INCLUSION	27 JUNE 17	13 JULY 17	6 SEPTEMBER 17	5 OCTOBER 17	2 NOVEMBER 17	30 NOVEMBER17	4 JANUARY 18	1 FEBRUARY 18	1 MARCH 18	12 APRIL 18
<b>Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>	Children and Young People's Partnership Plan (Jane Hibberd)							Youth Justice Plan (Linda Mason)		
<b>Scrutiny Business</b>	Remit and Work Programme of Committee (Jim Diamond)	Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) –Annual Report (Gavin Taylor)  Pupil Place Planning (Alan Rowan)	Independent Review Officer (IRO) – Annual Report (Gavin Taylor)  Early Years Funding (David May)	Training and Preparing for Work/ – NEETS Update (Karen Davison)  SEND Update – (Annette Parr)  IRO Report – Looked After Children (Gavin Taylor)	Corporate Parenting Annual Report (Sheila Lough)	Fixed Penalty Notices (Elaine Matterson)  Elective Home Education (Elaine Matterson)  School Exclusions and Attendance (Simon Marshall)  Feedback from Social Work Visit (Jim Diamond)	Safeguarding Board Annual Report (Paul Ennals-Independent Chair)	Together for Children (Chief Executive)  Educational Attainment Schools Results (Simon Marshall/Richard Cullen)	Special Educational Needs/Services Provided for Autistic Children (Simon Marshall)  NEETS/Connexions Progress Report (Karen Davison)  Early Help Strategy (Karen Davison)	Scrutiny Annual Report (JD)  Child Sexual Exploitation/Role of Licensing (Stuart Douglass)  Suicide and Self Harm, children & young people – Progress Report (Lorraine Hughes)  New Special Educational School (Alan Rowan)  University Technical Colleges(Alan Rowan)
<b>Performance / Service Improvement</b>		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Julie Lynn)  Children's Services Complaints (Rhiannon Hood)	Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Julie Lynn)		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Julie Lynn)		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Julie Lynn)  Children's Services Complaints (Stacy Hodgkinson)		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Julie Lynn)	Children's Services Complaints (Stacy Hodgkinson)
<b>Consultation / Awareness Raising</b>	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18

**Future Items to Timetable:**

SEND Inspection - Progress  
 Nursery Provision for Two Year Olds in Sunderland  
 CAMHS  
 Children and Young People Strategy – Update  
 Youth Services  
 School Exclusion Update and Criteria

## CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

#### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

##### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions.

##### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

##### 3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

##### 4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

##### 5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda

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Contact Officer : Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer  
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The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or in private) and of Executive Decisions (including key decisions) intended to be considered in a private meeting:-

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
170810/205	To approve the freehold acquisition of a property to provide children's services accommodation.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 7 February to 31 March 2018.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170927/212	To approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force area.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 7 February to 31 March 2018.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
171019/214	To approve the proposed disposal of land at Usworth, Washington.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 7 February to 31 March 2018.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
171024/217	To approve: -  1) the establishment of a Sunderland Football Trust;  2) the adoption of the updated Playing Pitch Plan as a citywide document to support the application to the Football Foundation; and  3) note updates in relation to project development costs and associated risks.	Cabinet	Y	7 February 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
171120/228	To consider the disposal of land at the former Easington Lane Primary School, South Hetton Road.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 7 February to 31 March 2018.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
171214/233	To consider the sale of Shiney Row Library	Cabinet	Y	7 February 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report and plan	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
171218/234	To seek approval to begin consultation in relation to a City Wide Public Space Protection Order	Cabinet	Y	7 February 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
171218/238	To recommend to Council to approve the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 and Capital Programme Strategy 2018/2019 to 2021/2022	Cabinet	Y	7 February 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
171218/239	To note the position in relation to the Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2017/2018 in respect of Council Tax and the amounts available to the Council and its major precepting authorities for use in setting Council Tax levels for 2018/2019	Cabinet	Y	7 February 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
171218/240	To recommend to Council to approve the Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2018/2019 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/2019 to 2020/2021	Cabinet	Y	7 February 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
180103/235	To seek Cabinet approval for the procurement and award of contracts to providers for local welfare provision	Cabinet	Y	7 February 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
180103/236	To seek Cabinet approval for the recommendation of the local authority's preferred sponsor for the new Autistic Free School on the former Bishop Harland site	Cabinet	Y	7 February 2018	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>



Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
180103/237	To seek Cabinet approval to adopt the refreshed Active Sunderland policy position and themes until 2021.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

**Note;** Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure.

Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact Governance Services at the address below.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Governance Services team PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, or by email to [committees@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk)

Who will decide;

Cabinet; Councillor Henry Trueman – Deputy Leader; Councillor Mel Speding – Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Louise Farthing – Children's Services; Councillor Graeme Miller – Health, Housing and Adult Services; Councillor John Kelly – Public Health, Wellness and Culture; Councillor Michael Mordey – City Services; Councillor Cecilia Gofton – Responsive Services and Customer Care

This is the membership of Cabinet as at the date of this notice. Any changes will be specified on a supplementary notice.

Elaine Waugh

Head of Law and Governance **9 January 2018**