

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

### **AGENDA**

**Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Council Chamber) on Thursday  
10<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at 5.30 p.m.**

#### **Membership**

Cllrs Crosby, Dodds, Dunn, P.W.L. Gibson, S. Johnston, Mason-Gage, McKeith (Vice-Chairman), Noble, Samuels, Scanlan, P. Smith (Chairman) and, Tye

Coopted Members – Mrs. A. Blakey and Ms. J. Graham

| ITEM |   | PAGE |
|------|---|------|
| 1.   | <b>Apologies for Absence</b>  |      |
| 2.   | <b>Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021</b> (copy attached) | 1    |
| 3.   | <b>Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)</b>   | -    |
|      | <b>Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>   |      |
|      | No Items  |      |
|      | <b>Part B – Scrutiny Business</b>   |      |
| 4.   | <b>Ofsted Focused Visit to Children's Services - Feedback</b>   | 6    |
|      | Report of the Chief Executive Together for Children (copy attached)   |      |

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| 5. | <b>Corporate Parenting Review</b>                                       | 12 |
|    | Report of the Director of Children's Services (copy attached)           |    |
| 6. | <b>Annual Work Programme 2021-2022</b>                                  | 27 |
|    | Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Coordinator (copy attached) |    |
| 7. | <b>Notice of Key Decisions</b>  | 30 |
|    | Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Coordinator (copy attached) |    |

E. WAUGH,  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,  
Civic Centre,  
SUNDERLAND.

2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021

## Item 2

**At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held REMOTELY on THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2021 at 5.30 p.m.**

### **Present:-**

Councillor P. Smith in the Chair

Councillors Crosby, Mann, McDonough, McKeith, Mordey, Samuels, Scanlan and Tye together with Ms Anne Blakey and Ms Jackie Graham.

### **Also in attendance:-**

Ms Jill Colbert, Chief Executive, Together for Children  
Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Law and Governance, Corporate Services Directorate  
Mr Iain Nixon, Vice Principal Partnerships and Commercial, Sunderland College  
Mr David Noon, Principal Governance Services Officer, Law and Governance, Corporate Services Directorate  
Ms Gillian Robinson, Scrutiny and Members' Support Coordinator, Law and Governance, Corporate Services Directorate

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Hunt and F. Miller.

### **Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

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

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **Apprenticeships Update – Sunderland College**

The Scrutiny and Members' Support Coordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided members with a background on the operation of apprenticeships in the city and introduced Mr Iain Nixon, Vice Principal Partnerships and Commercial, Sunderland College, who was present to brief the Committee on the current position.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair welcomed and introduced Mr Nixon who provided the Committee with a detailed power point presentation informing the Committee of :-

- i) the make-up of the Education Partnership North East and the Campuses it operated from.
- ii) the key sectors for apprenticeships i.e Construction, Health and Life Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, the Public Sector and Finance, Professional and Business Services. There was a cross cutting focus on digital skills across all these sectors.
- iii) the development of Apprenticeship schemes from 2016/17 to date.
- iv) the number of apprenticeships operating across the North East Local Economic Partnership area by provider, together with those located specifically in Sunderland.
- v) Apprenticeship achievement in the City. Sunderland's success rate for 2019/20 was 76.3 % compared with 64.2% nationally.
- vi) the impact of COVID 19. This included:-
  - A fall in apprenticeship recruitment in certain sectors
  - Employers not investing in training
  - Employers not recruiting or delaying recruitment
  - Apprentices being furloughed or put on a Learning Break
  - Redundancy and changes in employer / job
  - Apprenticeship end point assessments delayed
  - Confusion around the Government offer to employers
  - There had been some benefits including increased Government incentives to employers, an accelerated development and delivery of remote learning and reduced travel providing a financial and environmental benefit.
- vii) the introduction of the 'fix it, grow it' stage of the apprenticeship offer including initiatives to increase take up.
- viii) the options available for young people and adults at 16 years old, post 19 and post 24.

The Chair thanked Mr Nixon for his presentation and invited questions from Members.

Councillor Tye relayed his own experiences from the point of view of an employer in the Tees Valley area. He was interested to hear Mr Nixon's view on the issues from the perspective of the College and Councillor Tye believed that as an employer he largely shared the same concerns. One of his main concerns was a lack of tutors in respect of the traditional trade skills such as plastering and carpentry. As result colleges were dropping these courses locally and Councillor Tye's organisation was having to send young people to the College of Construction in Leeds to learn these skills. He also cited a reluctance of colleges to take on more apprenticeships despite there being a demand, because of current difficulties in resolving end point

assessments. In conclusion Councillor Tye highlighted the rigidity of the college course timetables that dictated a September start date.

In response, Mr Nixon highlighted the current difficulty of recruiting to certain positions within higher education. This was generally in areas where salaries were higher within the industries concerned than within the education sector and it was the construction trades and engineering that were most impacted. He believed that colleges could try to address this by growing their own tutors and targeting people looking for a career change and who were thinking of leaving the industry or alternatively, looking to the industry to deliver technical aspects of learning on behalf of the colleges. The situation in respect of end point assessments was challenging both in terms of the financial burden for colleges and also in tackling the backlog caused by the Covid lockdowns. With regard to course start dates these were traditionally in September. Trials were being undertaken with more flexible 'roll on roll off' courses, however as with any business, colleges required the availability of a viable cohort to make courses financially worthwhile.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Crosby, Mr Nixon advised that European ESF funding could not be used to support apprenticeships. Other funding was available and new sources were being provided such as that to support the Kickstart initiative.

Councillor Mann stated that securing engagement was a big concern. She also referred to the Kickstart initiative and questioned whether it would give a young person a good grounding going into employment, given that it was just a six month programme. Mr Nixon replied that it was very early days with Kickstart however he hoped that it would be a seamless journey. The challenge would be filling the opportunities that existed. The benefit of the programme was that there was a grant available to the employer to support training and the individual concerned was paid essentially by the Government via DWP rather than the employer. It enabled an employer to fill a vacancy in a new placement, that given the economic climate they would not have been in a position to create otherwise.

The Chair enquired as to what support had been made available to disadvantaged young people and to those with special needs? Mr Nixon replied that one of the specialisms of Sunderland College was in special educational needs so there was a lot of support made available for SEN students who wanted to take up both full time and part time courses. In terms of linking that with apprenticeships, a high percentage of placements would go to students classed as being disadvantaged given the number of areas of multiple deprivation within Sunderland. For apprentices with special needs these would be assessed prior to and in the very early stages of their placement with appropriate support put in place.

The Chair referred to paragraph 3.6 of the report which stated 'The organisation and delivery of apprenticeships has changed considerably over recent years with a greater emphasis placed on the role of employers in shaping courses and improving the quality of courses on offer.' She was really pleased to read this and hoped it would address the longstanding complaint of employers that educational establishments were not providing industry with enough people with the right qualifications and skills required in the workplace.

There being no further questions for Mr Nixon, the Chair thanked him for his attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report and presentation be received and noted.

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

The Chief Executive of Together for Children presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an overview of performance against TfC's contractual indicators with Sunderland City Council based on the February 2021 performance data and which set out the:-

- Six key contractual performance targets with the Council;
- Table of the supporting measures reported to the Council;
- Service commentary for any supporting measure reported as amber or red, and
- Summary table showing the RAG rating of all contractual performance targets and supporting measures.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor McDonaugh referred to the supporting indicators detailed on page 15 of the agenda and in particular SM5 (% of Child in Need assessments authorised within 45 wds – shown as 89.7%) and asked why the figure was dropping. He quoted a figure of 97.8% contained in the December 2019 committee report as a comparison and also a more recent figure of 93%. Ms Colbert replied that she didn't fully agree that it was a diminishing or deteriorating performance target. It wasn't technically an imperative figure from an Ofsted point of view. This was because they had better ways of understanding the quality of the outcomes secured for children. There were a number of critical milestones within the 45 working day period and a small proportion would fall outside that period. The Ofsted feedback from previous monitoring visits was that it was better to do it right than to do it quickly.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Mann, Ms Colbert explained the typical scenarios involved that may lead to a Cared for Child receiving 3 or more placements during a 12 month period.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Crosby regarding future plans, Ms Colbert advised that TfC's direct delivery services would not be moving to the new City Hall as it made no sense to centralise services that were locality based however some of the staff based at the Stanfield centre such as the finance team would relocate. Ms Colbert then briefed the Committee on the performance of the Liquid Logic system in response to an enquiry from the Chair.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chair thanked Ms Colbert for her report, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Annual Work Programme 2020/21**

The Scrutiny and Members' Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided members with details of the Committee's final work programme for the municipal year 2020/21

(for copy report – see original minutes)

There being no questions or comments, it was :-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Notice of Key Decisions**

The Scrutiny and Members' Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

The Committee was advised that if Members had any issues to raise or required further detail on any of the items included in the notice, they should contact Mr Diamond, Scrutiny Officer for initial assistance.

There being no questions or comments, it was :-

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

There being no further items of business, the Chair closed the meeting having thanked members and officers for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) P. SMITH,  
Chairman.

# Item 4

## CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JUNE 2021

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES - FEEDBACK

##### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the outcome of Ofsted's focused visit to children's services in Sunderland.

##### 2. Background

- 2.1 On 24 and 25 March 2021, Ofsted undertook a focused visit to children's services in Sunderland.
- 2.2 The Ofsted letter summarising the findings of the visit was published on 11 May 2021. A copy of the letter is attached for information.

##### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 Jill Colbert (Chief Executive of Together for Children) will be in attendance to report on the feedback.

##### 4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider and comment on the report.

##### 5 Background Papers

Ofsted Focused Letter to Children's Services in Sunderland (11 May 2021)



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11 May 2021

Jill Colbert  
Director of Children's Services  
and Chief Executive  
Together for Children  
Sunderland  
Sandhill Centre  
Grindon Lane  
Sunderland  
SR3 4EN

Dear Ms Colbert

### **Focused visit to Sunderland children's services**

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's social care system has delivered child-centred practice and care within the context of the restrictions placed on society during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

This letter summarises the findings of a focused visit to Sunderland local authority children's services on 24 and 25 March 2021. The visit was carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectors Neil Penswick, Jan Edwards, Brenda McLaughlin, Victoria Horsefield and Jon Bowman.

The methodology for this visit was in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. However, the delivery model was adapted to reflect the COVID-19 context. This visit was carried out fully by remote means. The inspectors used video calls for discussions with local authority staff, managers and leaders. The lead inspector and the director of children's services agreed arrangements to deliver this visit effectively while working within national and local guidelines for responding to COVID-19.

## **What needs to improve in this area of social work practice**

The areas for improvement continue to be those that were identified at the ILACS inspection in July 2018. Progress is evident in key areas.

### **Findings**

- ✓ Over the past 12 months, Sunderland has experienced continual high rates of COVID-19. However, apart from a brief period at the start of the first national lockdown when visits by social workers to children and their families were risk assessed, Together for Children (TfC) has provided face-to-face services throughout the pandemic in order to continue supporting the most vulnerable children in the city.
- ✓ Following two inspection judgements of inadequate, Sunderland City Council set up TfC in 2017 to deliver children's services functions on its behalf. Since the start of the pandemic, senior managers have steadfastly continued their focus on improving services. They have further developed their disabled children's team, established a new pre-birth team and opened two new residential centres to better respond to the needs of children locally.
- ✓ Management oversight of children's services has been tightened through the strengthening of a range of manager-led panels and through the ongoing roll-out of a nationally recognised model of social work practice. Despite the personal and professional pressures they had experienced as a result of the pandemic, all the staff who spoke to inspectors were enthusiastic about working for TfC and were highly positive about the support, training and development opportunities that continued to be provided to them over the past year.
- ✓ Leaders and managers from TfC and Sunderland City Council were proactive in working with schools during the pandemic. A range of actions were taken to better protect children and promote their attendance, including developing a joint risk assessment to identify and better monitor and support vulnerable children. Clear processes are in place to identify and monitor electively home-educated children, including those who are most vulnerable. Resources have been increased in this area in response to the rising demand. There has been a significant increase in children missing education since schools reopened to all children in September 2020. Following concerted efforts, the local authority is aware of the whereabouts of all these children and, where appropriate, welfare checks and visits have been undertaken.
- ✓ TfC performance data is of a high quality and gives managers an excellent knowledge base to enable them to understand and further develop their services. There is also a considerable programme of quality assurance and auditing.

However, the value of this for the organisation is more limited due to the inconsistent approach to auditing by the social work managers undertaking this work. Although managerial oversight is improving, it remains too variable. This was evident in the variations in the oversight provided in one-to-one supervision and in how managers were recording their guidance to social workers on various forms.

- ✓ The Integrated Contact and Referral Team provides a thorough screening of referrals of children received from the public and other agencies. Most triaging is timely, with clear management oversight and effective use of agency and historical information. The children at highest risk are responded to highly effectively. However, in lower-risk cases, inspectors found that some decisions were being made based on too-limited information in order to ensure that work was completed within 24 hours. In these cases, there is too much variability in the recording, and the key issues for the children are not always sufficiently clear.
- ✓ Child protection strategy discussions are timely and well attended by an appropriate range of agencies, with good information-sharing and recording of the meetings. The rationale for next steps is clearly recorded and a shared view of risk is taken through a scaling process. Immediate safety planning is robust. There is effective decision-making when children's cases are being stepped up or down to early help.
- ✓ Decision-making in relation to whether assessments are needed is inconsistent. Inspectors saw assessments that had been undertaken unnecessarily. Assessment quality is also inconsistent. Some are well written and comprehensive, and others lack analytical depth and do not assist in identifying the most appropriate services for the children. Children's views are recorded, but this is not always focused well enough on the issues being considered.
- ✓ Most of the child protection work seen during the visit is strong. This is underpinned by the commitment of the partner agencies working alongside social workers to ensure that children are better protected. However, there is variability in the quality of some child protection planning due to insufficiently specific plans and a lack of focus by TfC staff and other professionals on ensuring that the plans are being progressed.
- ✓ The risks to children from criminal and sexual exploitation are confidently managed and overseen by the Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficked operational group, which provides additional scrutiny and challenge to practice. Enhanced intelligence-sharing has influenced both service development and individual safeguarding for children, identification of risk and disruption activity. When children go missing from home and care, a newly commissioned team now provides a consistent worker, who is able to develop a relationship with the child to support participation in their return home interviews.

- ✓ When progress has stalled in child protection work, timely action is taken to enter into pre-proceedings and, when appropriate, care proceedings are issued. There is clear managerial oversight at significant decision-making points, including that of senior management. The pre-proceedings panel has been strengthened and regularly reviews the cases and the actions taken to ensure that any delays are responded to. A legal proceedings tracker is being refined to performancemanage practice more effectively. The letters before proceedings are not sufficiently explicit about what the expectation is of parents and in what timescale.
- ✓ Inspectors saw good work and much-improved forward planning and identification of risk by the new pre-birth team and through family network meetings. This reflected the positive comments made by the judiciary and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in describing to inspectors the improved work they see from Sunderland.
- ✓ Decisions to bring children into care are appropriate. However, some decisions are made in an emergency and are not timely enough or planned effectively enough to respond to the known escalating risks while children remain at home. Several of the children whose cases inspectors reviewed would have benefited from being in care sooner.
- ✓ The support provided to 'cared for children' (as children in care are known in Sunderland) is, in the main, good. Creative efforts are made to ensure that children benefit from planned, safe family time with their parents and people who are important to them. These arrangements have been maintained, and often increased, during the pandemic, which has helped to alleviate children's anxiety about the impact of COVID-19 on their birth families. Most cared for children were supported to attend school throughout the lockdowns, providing them with routine and stability. Personal education plans were put in place in a timely way for children, including those new to care. These have been adapted to have a better focus on children's well-being, reflecting concerns heightened by the pandemic.
- ✓ Cared for children have been able to access online support for mental health, and an organisation has been commissioned to provide support to 'care experienced' children (as care leavers are known in Sunderland). Additional access to support for emotional and mental health issues is being developed, as some children have waited too long for access to support when they have needed it. Consideration and understanding of the trauma children have endured prior to coming into care are not always sufficient and are too often superficial. Children have access to regular statutory health assessments, including sexual health clinics. They are registered with GPs, and specialist nurses provide support. Gaps in dental checks, as a result of COVID-19 restrictions under the lockdowns, were evident.
- ✓ Planned matching decisions are made with a good consideration of the child's needs. Management-level panels consider the need for a placement, along with the social worker, and decisions are linked to commissioners of those services.

Inspectors saw that children were being consulted about placements and were visiting before a decision was made. However, too many children who enter care in an emergency move quickly and not always to a settled placement.

- ✓ Care experienced young people have had regular contact with their personal advisers, including face-to-face visits, throughout the pandemic. The Next Steps team quickly adapted to become a virtual service to ensure that young people had ready access to support. This included well-being packs, food parcels, payment cards and face-to-face isolation sessions being offered, with a focus on emotional well-being.
- ✓ Virtual school staff have been persistent in supporting care experienced young people to attain their education, employment or training goals, including young people with more complex needs. However, a high proportion remain not in education, employment or training. Plans are in place to better coordinate the work of the virtual school post-16 workers, the dedicated education, employment and training careers adviser and the Next Steps team, so that work in this area is more effective.
- ✓ Inspectors met a number of the care experienced young people who are part of the Change Council. They described vividly the work they are doing and how they make an important contribution to helping develop services to support other young people. Among their successes has been their successful campaigning to get social workers, managers and others to use language that they understand and is non-stigmatising. They reported that they have experienced a much enhanced service and spoke positively about the commitment by Sunderland City Council and TfC to further improve.

Ofsted will take the findings from this focused visit into account when planning your next inspection or visit. We will share the content of this letter with the Department for Education.

Yours sincerely

Neil Penswick  
Her Majesty's Inspector

# Item 5

CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JUNE 2021

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### CORPORATE PARENTING REVIEW

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive an update report on the outcome of a review into the Council's corporate parenting arrangements.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 On 23 March 2021, the Cabinet considered a report on the outcome of an external review into the Council's corporate parenting arrangements together with proposals for a number of changes to the Council's approach.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 4 March 2021, the Chair requested that this issue be included on the work programme of the Committee for a future meeting.

#### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 Jill Colbert (Director of Children's Services) will be in attendance to answer any questions relating to the review.
- 3.2 A copy of the report to Cabinet is attached as an appendix.

#### 4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the report.

#### 5 Background Papers

Cabinet Report – March 2021

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p align="center"><b>CABINET MEETING – 23 MARCH 2021</b></p> <p align="center"><b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>Title of Report:</b><br/>Corporate Parenting Review</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Author(s):</b><br/>Director of Children's Services</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Purpose of Report:</b><br/>The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of an external review into the Council's corporate parenting arrangements and to propose a number of changes to the Council's approach.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Description of Decision:</b><br/>To recommend Council to</p> <p>(a) Revise the membership of the Corporate Parenting Board as set out in section 6 of this report, with effect from Annual Council 2021 and</p> <p>(b) Subject to (a) above, note and endorse the recommendations of the external review as set out in section 5 of the Report of K Simmons, attached as an Appendix to this report</p> |  |
| <p><b>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:</b><br/>Continuation with the current approach to Corporate Parenting would not meet the requirements of the continuing improvement journey for children, young people and their families in Sunderland.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Suggested reason(s) for Decision:</b><br/>To ensure we meet our obligations for Corporate Parenting for all our cared for children.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Impacts analysed;</b></p> <p>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" value="N/A"/></p>   |  |
| <p><b>Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?</b> Yes</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?</b> Yes</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Is it included in the 28-day Notice of Decisions?</b> Yes</p>   |  |





**CORPORATE PARENTING REVIEW****Report of the Director of Children's Services****1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of an external review into the Council's corporate parenting arrangements and to propose a number of changes to the Council's approach.

**2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)****2.1 To recommend Council to**

- (a) Revise the membership of the Corporate Parenting Board as set out in section 6 of this report, with effect from Annual Council 2021 and
- (b) Subject to (a) above, note and endorse the recommendations of the external review as set out in section 5 of the Report of K Simmons, attached as an Appendix to this report

**3. Introduction/Background**

- 3.1 Corporate parenting is the term used to describe the overarching responsibilities the Local Authority holds for cared for and care experienced children. These responsibilities are and should be expressed both strategically and operationally and should also be clear in the way that the Corporate Parenting Board operates. The Board is a committee of Council and the effectiveness of that Board is used as the litmus test of corporate parenting commitment, from Officers, Elected Members and partners. The Board's leadership is tested as part of the full inspection of Children's Services and as a result informs the overall graded judgement Ofsted make of leadership and management.
- 3.2 Elected Members, Officers for the Council and Together for Children have a mandated responsibility to ensure our cared for children's education, welfare and best interests are paramount. Corporate Parents should treat every child and young person who is cared for as if they are our own (the 'would it be good enough for my child' test) and put their needs at the top of the corporate agenda.
- 3.3 Recognising the importance of having a high functioning Board, that can clearly evidence this ambition, the Chief Executive of the Council and TfC Board Chair agreed to initiate an independent review of the Board by Karen Simmons, who is a former Assistant Director for Safeguarding at Newcastle City Council's Children's Services Department. Ms Simmons has extensive experience of Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting and is currently working for Together for Children as the Fostering Panel Independent Chair.

- 3.4 That review is now complete and Ms Simmons' report is attached as an Appendix to this report.

#### **4. Current Position**

- 4.1 In proposing a refreshed model for the Board, the aim is to develop a framework for corporate parenting which is agreed and fully adopted by the City Council and its elected members, Together for Children, partner agencies and cared for children. The intended outcome is to reinforce governance arrangements regarding corporate parenting to evidence that the Corporate Parenting Board is providing effective scrutiny of strategic plans and that as a result the quality of services demonstrates that it is making a difference to the lives of cared for children.
- 4.2 The review has considered how the Corporate Parenting Board currently operates through attendance at a Board meeting, a review of the reports and presentations to the Board and Board minutes. The review has looked at the conduct of other Corporate Parenting Boards across the country which have been identified as examples of good practice.

#### **5. Outcome of the Review**

- 5.1 In the best performing Councils, effective corporate parenting is a result of a shared vision, strong leadership, accountability through clear governance arrangements and challenge. As with Sunderland City Council, the majority of Councils have established Corporate Parenting Boards which include elected members and are attended by senior officers, to provide a strategic view of how cared for children and care experienced young people experience services.
- 5.2 This review has considered a range of corporate parenting arrangements across the country and in particular those Councils where their corporate parenting arrangements have been cited as good practice examples or rated highly by Ofsted. Analysis of the better performing Councils indicates that they have the following features in common:

**Strategic Ownership |** In a number of Councils, where their corporate parenting arrangements were seen as effective, they had a clearly articulated vision which was ambitious about the outcomes they wished to achieve for their children.

**Champions |** There were examples where elected members, senior officers in the Council and partner agencies proactively championed the needs of cared for children by promoting them as being everyone's business.

**Involvement of Cared for Children |** The experiences of cared for care experienced young people are an important measure about how well the Council is delivering on its corporate parenting responsibilities.

**Structure of Meeting** | Largely due to the involvement of cared for children, several Councils had modified the conduct of the Board meeting away from formal reports to presentations.

**Involvement of Partners** | The attendance of partner agencies is a uniform feature of Corporate Parenting Boards.

**Accountability** | In all Councils, the Corporate Parenting Board acts as an advisory rather than a decision-making committee. A number of Corporate Parenting Boards provide regular reports to Scrutiny Committee so that there is transparency about the work of the Board and to bring issues regarding corporate parenting into the Council's decision-making structures.

## **6. Proposals**

- 6.1 The recommendations from the review are set out in section 5 of Ms Simmons' report, to which members are referred.
- 6.2 Members will note that it is recommended that the composition of the Board should remain non-partisan and appointed in accordance with political balance principles. While it is for the political groups which have seats on the Board to nominate whichever members they choose for appointment, it is suggested that those appointed should preferably have an interest in children's issues and relevant life or professional experience relevant to the focus of the Board.
- 6.3 It is proposed that the Board remains an advisory committee of the Council, and that it comprises 7 elected members (Lead Member for Children's Services plus 6 other members), appointed in accordance with the political proportionality of the Council, and that the Lead Member for Children's Services will chair the Board. Named substitutes may be appointed for each elected member. In addition, Together for Children may nominate one of its non-executive directors for appointment as a non-voting co-opted member of the Corporate Parenting Board. As co-opted members should be aged 18 or over, it is recommended that rather than co-opt members of the Change Council to the Corporate Parenting Board, the Chair, Vice Chair and one other member of the Change Council have a "standing invitation" to attend meetings of the Board. Additional representatives of the Change Council and other partner organisations may of course be invited to attend and participate in meetings as appropriate.
- 6.4 It is also recommended that each elected member on the Board has responsibility for leading a theme, for example, Cared for Children's Mental Health as identified by the Corporate Parenting work plan and that all elected members (and officers) should undertake regular training on Corporate Parenting to ensure they understand their Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

## **7. Reasons for the Decision**

- 7.1 It is considered that the proposals will contribute to securing optimum arrangements and outcomes for all cared for and care experienced children and young people.

## **8. Alternative Options**

- 8.1 Continuation with the current approach to Corporate Parenting would not meet the requirements of the continuing improvement journey for children, young people and their families in Sunderland.

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

## **10. Legal Implications**

- 10.1 The Assistant Director of Law and Governance has been consulted and her comments incorporated in the report.

## **11. Background Papers**

Link to background paper >> [Corporate Parenting Review Document](#)

# **Review of Sunderland City Council's Corporate Parenting Board**

## **1. Background**

The scope of this review of Sunderland City Council's Corporate Parenting Board is to consider its current role in engaging elected members and key stakeholders including the wider Council, Together for Children and partner agencies to meet their collective corporate parenting responsibilities. The review has been tasked with proposing options for how the Board could be strengthened so that it is well placed to demonstrate its contribution to improvements in service delivery for cared for children and to meet the expectations of the 2018 statutory guidance '*Applying corporate parenting principles to looked after children and care leavers*'.

- 1.1. In proposing a refreshed model for the Board, the aim is to develop a framework for corporate parenting which is agreed and fully adopted by the City Council and its elected members, Together for Children, partner agencies and cared for children. The intended outcome is to reinforce governance arrangements regarding corporate parenting to evidence that the Corporate Parenting Board is providing effective scrutiny of strategic plans and that as a result the quality of services demonstrates that it is making a difference to the lives of cared for children.
- 1.2. The review has considered how the Corporate Parenting Board currently operates through attendance at a Board meeting, a review of the reports and presentations to the Board and Board minutes. The review has looked at the conduct of other Corporate Parenting Boards across the country which have been identified as examples of good practice.

## **2. Corporate Parenting**

- 2.1. The concept of the Council being the corporate parent for cared for children has been well established by national policy since 1998. The term means that when a child becomes cared for, the Council as a whole has responsibility for that child as its corporate parent. The standard expected of the Council, including its officers and elected members, in fulfilling its duties as a corporate parent, is to be ambitious and aspirational for their cared for and care experienced children and to consider whether '*this is good enough for my own child.*' This priority accorded to cared for children recognises the particular challenges they face, with the majority of cared for children coming into care due to abuse and neglect and experiencing poorer educational and health outcomes compared to their peers.
- 2.2. In 2007, the Government's White Paper '*Care Matters, Time for Change*' provided more explicit guidance to Councils about how they were expected to meet their corporate parenting duties, in particular the requirement that Councils must publish a Pledge to cared for children to confirm how it proposes to meet their holistic needs.
- 2.3. More recently, the Children and Social Work Act 2017, details in law the corporate parenting principles, comprising of seven needs, which each Council must have regard to when delivering services to cared for and care experienced young people. The principles apply to the whole Council. They are intended to embed a consistent, joined up and positive approach across the Council to govern how it delivers services. The principles require the Council to:
  - act in the best interests and promote the physical health and well-being of cared for children

- encourage cared for children to express their views, wishes and feelings
  - to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of cared for children
  - to help cared for children gain access to and make the best use of services provided by the Council and its relevant partners
  - to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for cared for children
  - for those cared for children to be safe and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
  - to prepare cared for children and adulthood and independent living
- 2.4. While the delivery of care to cared for children, is largely delegated to children's services functions, the leadership responsibility for corporate parenting rests with the Chief Executive and as a key element of their statutory duties, the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children. The responsibility for corporate parenting also extends to other directorates in the Council and to partner agencies such as Police, Housing, Health and schools, who, through s.10 of the Children Act 2004, have a duty to co-operate with the Council in meeting the needs of cared for and care experienced children and young people.
- 2.5. In terms of the specific corporate parenting responsibilities attributed to elected members, while every elected member is a corporate parent, not all elected members are expected to have the same level of knowledge and involvement with cared for children. The National Children's Bureau (2013) provides a definition of how the corporate parenting role for elected members can be structured into three levels of responsibility.

**Universal Responsibility** | All elected members have a responsibility for the children cared for by their Local Authority.

**Targeted Responsibility** | Councillors who are members of the Corporate Parenting Board or Adoption and Fostering Panels.

**Specialist Responsibility** | Councillors with a specific role e.g. Lead Member for Children; Chair of Corporate Parenting Board.

### 3. Local Arrangements

- 3.1. Sunderland City Council's Corporate Parenting Board has been in place since 2006 and was intended to report to the Children's Trust Board. As with other Councils, it is not a decision-making body, its remit is advisory and to contribute to the scrutiny of arrangements for cared for children. It is a cross-party Board, attended by senior representatives from Together for Children such as the Chief Executive and Head of the Virtual School, and representatives from partner agencies including CAMHS and the Designated Doctor for cared for children. Representatives from the Change Council regularly present to the Board regarding participation activities and present their views on services.
- 3.2. The governance arrangements between the City Council and Together for Children present a unique opportunity for the Corporate Parenting Board to provide challenge and support to the collective approach between both organisations to corporate parenting. For the Council and Together for Children, there are clear benefits to ensuring that the Corporate Parenting Board is effective in championing corporate parenting across both organisations, and in the context of the TfC model, with the TfC Board itself which also holds the corporate parenting duty by virtue of delivering the service on behalf of the Council.

- 3.3. The span of influence of Together for Children is not as substantial as the Council's, which has a wide range of services, links to local organisations and businesses, and the local community. The Council is well placed to support the wider needs of cared for children in areas such as housing, job opportunities and access to cultural and leisure activities, and it is important it does so to benefit cared for children. The Corporate Parenting Board has an important role to play in engaging the Council to think about how it can keep the needs of cared for children at the forefront of its strategic plans and services.

#### 4. Models of Good Practice

- 4.1. In the best performing Councils, effective corporate parenting is a result of a shared vision, strong leadership, accountability through clear governance arrangements and challenge. As with Sunderland City Council, the majority of Councils have established Corporate Parenting Boards which include elected members and senior officers, to provide a strategic view of how cared for children and care experienced young people experience services.

- 4.2. This review has considered a range of corporate parenting arrangements across the country and in particular those Councils where their corporate parenting arrangements have been cited as good practice examples or rated highly by Ofsted. Analysis of the better performing Councils indicates that they have the following features in common:

- 4.2.1. **Strategic Ownership** | In a number of Councils, where their corporate parenting arrangements were seen as effective, they had a clearly articulated vision which was ambitious about the outcomes they wished to achieve for their children and stated how they were going to deliver on the seven corporate parenting principles and their Pledge to cared for children about what they could expect from their corporate parents. This is usually developed in a strategic plan (Corporate Parenting Strategy or Looked After Children Strategy) which identifies what the Council intends to do to achieve its vision and the contribution of key partner agencies and the Council to deliver the plan. (*North Yorkshire, Leeds, Achieving for Children*) In a number of Councils, scrutiny of the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy is used by the Corporate Parenting Board to measure the effectiveness of the Council's corporate parenting arrangements and to hold services and agencies to account (*Doncaster, North Yorkshire, Solihull, Westminster*).

In Councils where corporate parenting is well embedded, Directorates across the Council have a clear understanding about their contribution to the corporate parenting agenda as the 'family firm' which is driven by senior officers including the Chief Executive (Leeds, Westminster).

- 4.2.2. **Champions** | There were examples where elected members, senior officers in the Council and partner agencies proactively championed the needs of cared for children by promoting them as being everyone's business. In some instances, this was established by key officer roles in the Council being given specific tasks to promote corporate parenting e.g. Corporate Parenting Champions in each Directorate. A Corporate Parenting Week took place in one Council (Wigan) where cared for children shadowed senior managers. In two Councils, each Directorate across the Council is required to adopt a business objective which relates to corporate parenting (Solihull) or to lead on a theme of the Corporate Parenting Strategy (Leeds). There were also examples where the Corporate Parenting Board championed cared for children with other elected members and Cabinet by ensuring the needs of children were addressed in key strategies to make sure they kept the needs of children at the forefront of their considerations (Solihull).





- 4.2.3. **Involvement for Cared for Children** | The experiences of cared for care experienced young people are an important measure about how well the Council is delivering on it's corporate parenting responsibilities. To capture these, it is important that their voice is meaningfully heard by the Corporate Parenting Board, senior officers and partner agencies. In most Councils, the Children in Care Council is well established and attends the Corporate Parenting Board to provide their views. There were a number of models of how looked after children were involved in the Corporate Parenting Board. In some Councils, representatives from the Children in Care Council are members of the Corporate Parenting Board, share joint responsibility with elected members for the agenda of the Panel and in some Councils (Gloucestershire) chair the Corporate Parenting Board once per year. Another example was where the Corporate Parenting Board held joint meetings with the Children in Care Council. In those Councils where cared for children took a proactive role in the Corporate Parenting Board, they regularly met with elected members to discuss their experiences. As a result, elected members were able to gain an increased insight into the care experiences of these children with led to a more informed understanding of information and data.

Several Councils had supported cared for children through the modern apprenticeship scheme to be either Young or Care Ambassadors (Hampshire, Doncaster, Gloucestershire) whose role is to represent the views of cared for children, contribute to policy and advise senior leaders. These roles were seen as an invaluable means of supporting the Corporate Parenting Board and senior leaders to be child centred and to be responsive to the issues identified as important by children. These roles have been cited as an example of good practice by Ofsted in terms of providing challenge and evidence of impact on service improvements.

- 4.2.4. **Structure of Meeting** | Largely due to the involvement of cared for children, several Councils had modified the conduct of the Board meeting away from formal reports to presentations. Several Boards explicitly reported that they had adopted a collaborative approach, providing challenge in a structured and constructive way with a view to establishing a common purpose and mutual respect with all stakeholders at the Board (Gloucestershire). The focus of the discussion in a number of Boards was a clear focus on tangible improvements with the Board evaluating performance of services against a clear set of measures agreed by the Board. (Doncaster) with feedback from a variety of sources including cared for children. Those Corporate Parenting Boards where children were members of the board or had chaired the meeting, tended to be smaller with no more than six elected members on the Board.
- 4.2.5. **Involvement of Partners** | The attendance of partner agencies is a uniform feature of Corporate Parenting Boards. This predominantly takes the form of the Head of the Virtual School and Designated Nurse or Doctor with regular reporting from Housing, CAMHS and the Youth Offending Service to provide assurance about how these services are meeting their corporate parenting responsibilities.
- 4.2.6. **Accountability** | In all Councils, the Corporate Parenting Board acts as an advisory rather than a decision-making committee. A number of Corporate Parenting Boards provide regular reports to Scrutiny Committee so that there is transparency about the work of the Board and to bring issues regarding corporate parenting into the Council's decision-making structures (Gloucester, Doncaster, Bristol).

## 5. Recommendations

- 5.1. The proposals below are intended to strengthen the role of the Corporate Parenting Board so that it provides effective scrutiny and assurance about how the Council, Together for Children and partner agencies jointly meet their corporate parenting responsibilities.

**Recommendation 1** | The Council, Together for Children and their partners develop a shared vision for how they will work together a jointly agreed framework such as a Corporate Parenting Strategy which articulates each of their contributions to meeting the needs of cared for children and their plan to improve services for them.

**Recommendation 2** | The impact of the shared vision and Corporate Parenting Strategy on the experience of cared for children is regularly reported and scrutinised by the Corporate Parenting Board through a set of measures agreed by the Board.

**Recommendation 3** | The membership of the Corporate Parenting Board is revised to include 6 elected members of the Council in addition to the Lead Member of Children's Services as Chair. There are nominated substitutes for each of the elected members to ensure quoracy.

**Recommendation 4** | Elected members appointed to the Board should preferably have an interest in children's issues and relevant life or professional experience relevant to the focus of the Board.

**Recommendation 5** | The composition of the elected members on the Board remains non-partisan and politically balanced.

**Recommendation 6** | The Corporate Parenting Board includes up to 3 non-voting co-opted members nominated by the Change Council, including its Chair and Vice Chair.

**Recommendation 7** | Key Officers in attendance include: DCS; Director Children's Social Care; Cared for Children Service Manager; Head of Virtual School; Designated Nurse and Doctor. The Chief Executive and Executive Directors of Sunderland Council are participant observers who are there to provide advice and assistance to members of the Bboard. Directorates nominate a senior lead to represent their Directorate at the Board.

**Recommendation 8** | The Corporate Parenting Board is held bi-monthly.

**Recommendation 9** | There are regular joint meetings between Corporate Parenting Board and Change Council, three per year, where the agenda is set jointly, and the meeting is jointly chaired.

**Recommendation 10** | Each elected member has responsibility for leading a theme from the Corporate Parenting Strategy and works with a representative from the Change Council, Together for Children and a lead Executive Director to promote the theme.

**Recommendation 11** | The Corporate Parenting Committee is required to consider and provide comment on all Council plans and strategies which might impact on cared for children.

**Recommendation 12** | The Council considers the appointment of Care Ambassadors to promote the needs of cared for children with Together for Children and Sunderland City Council.

**Recommendation 13** | The Corporate Parenting Board maintains a Challenge Log to evidence where it has provided challenge to services and the impact of that challenge.

**Recommendation 14** | The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board are shared with the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee and that the Corporate Parenting Board provides the Committee with a report regarding its work, identifying key issues for cared for children every six months to provide greater oversight and challenge.

**Recommendation 15** | That mandatory induction training is provided to elected members and officers regarding their corporate parenting responsibilities.

**Recommendation 16** | The Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Board are revised to reflect the recommendations of this report.

**Recommendation 17** | An officer to be identified from the Chief Officer Group to carry the role of Principal Corporate Parent. The recommendation would be that this is the Chief Executive of Sunderland City Council.

**Recommendation 18** | A Non-Executive Director of the Together for Children Board to be a co-opted non-voting member of the Corporate Parenting Board.

**Karen Simmons**

**18.01.2021**



# Item 6

## CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JUNE 2021

### ANNUAL SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

### REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide options, provide support and advise Members on the development of the scrutiny work programmes for 2021/22.
- 1.2 That consideration be given to holding a working group session in order to develop the Committees work programme for the year.

#### 2. DETERMINING SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES

- 2.1 Members are required to determine the work programmes for their respective scrutiny committees to give focus and structure to the scrutiny activity to ensure that it effectively and efficiently supports and challenges the decision-making processes of the Council, and partner organisations, for the benefit of the people and communities of Sunderland City Council.

##### *Principles Guiding the Development of Scrutiny Work Programmes*

- 2.2 The following key principles should be taken into consideration when determining scrutiny work programmes:

**Selectivity** – Given the limited number of scheduled meetings and time constraints on Members and officers it is important that priority is given to key issues. Members should consider what can realistically and properly be reviewed at each meeting, taking into account the time needed to scrutinise each item and what each session is intended to achieve.

**Value** – Items should have the potential to 'add value' to the work of the council and its partners. If it is not clear what the intended outcomes or impact of a review will be then Members should consider if there are issues of a higher priority that could be scrutinised instead.

**Ambition** – Scrutiny Committees should not shy away from carrying out scrutiny of issues that are of real concern, whether or not they are the primary responsibility of the Council. The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to promote economic, social and environmental well being of local communities. Subsequent Acts have

conferred specific powers to scrutinise health services, crime and disorder issues and to hold partner organisations to account.

***Flexibility*** – Members are reminded that there needs to be a degree of flexibility built into each work programme to respond to unforeseen issues/items for consideration/comment during the year and accommodate any developmental or additional work the falls within the specific committee remit.

***Timing*** – Scrutiny activity should be timely and, where appropriate, the findings and recommendations inform the wider corporate developments at a time when they can achieve the most impact. All Members should look to avoid duplication of work carried out and the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee can assist in preventing this from happening.

#### *Models for Carrying out the Work of Scrutiny Committees*

- 2.3 Topics for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme will vary from single issue items for consideration such as policy and performance reports through regular updates on issues that the committee have adopted a more focused monitoring role to in-depth policy reviews.
- 2.4 There are a number of ways that Scrutiny Committees can deliver these topics through their work programmes. Members should consider the appropriate option to undertake each of the items selected for inclusion in the work programme. This may take the form of regular updates and the scrutiny of Cabinet business or alternatively, specific one-off issues, task and finish groups or in-depth policy reviews.

#### *Support available for Scrutiny Activity*

- 2.5 The Overview and Scrutiny function has dedicated scrutiny support from the Scrutiny Team to:
  - Work with the Scrutiny Chairs to manage the work programme and coordinate the agenda, including advising officers and partner organisations on information required and guidance for witnesses submitting evidence to a scrutiny committee;
  - Provide support to scrutiny members through briefing papers, background material, training and development seminars etc.;
  - Facilitate and manage the work of any task and finish groups or policy reviews, including research, arranging site visits, inviting and briefing witnesses and drafting review reports for discussion and approval by the Committee; and
  - Promote the scrutiny function across both the organisation and externally.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR SETTING THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMMES**

- 3.1 Each Scrutiny Committee sets its own agenda within the scope of its terms of reference. There are a number of potential methods that can be utilised to assist members in debating key issues to develop and populate the respective scrutiny work programmes. It is suggested that the Committee may wish to hold a working group session prior to the July meeting in order consider potential items for consideration.
- 3.2 Scrutiny is a member-led function of the council and however work programmes are developed there is an important role for Members to highlight issues of concern within their local communities. Elected Members are best placed to provide local knowledge and raise key community issues that could be added to the appropriate work programme either at the development stage or at any time during the committee cycle.
- 3.3 The Committee cycle allows for the continued monitoring and development of the work programme through a regular agenda item and the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee, in its coordinating role, allows for a complete overview of the scrutiny work programmes throughout the year.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That consideration is given to developing the scrutiny work programme through a working group session. The aim of the session will be to provide a number of relevant issues and topics for consideration and approval by the Committee.

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**Contact Officer:** Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer (Tel 0779 5353681)

# Item 7

10 JUNE, 2021

## CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

### REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

#### 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
-



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  |
|------------|--|---|------------------|---|---------------------|---|---|--|
| 210301/571 | To consider statutory proposals and objections/comments received thereon and reach a decision in relation to the proposed discontinuance (closure) of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. | School Organisation Committee of Cabinet  | Y                | 20 May 2021 (previously notified on the Notice issued 8 April 2021)       | N                   | Not applicable.                               | School Organisation Committee of Cabinet report and responses to Consultation and Statutory proposals | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><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 15 June to 30 September 2021                            | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet report  | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 201201/538 | To give approval to progress with the Emergency Active Travel Funded cycle scheme on the Sea Front from the former tram stop to Roker café. | Cabinet   | Y                | During the period 15 June to 30 September 2021                            | N                   | Not applicable.  | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210211/564 | To approve the payment of financial assistance to a Sunderland based company in relation to the company's own investment plans.             | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | 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<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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|------------|--|---|------------------|---|---------------------|---|--|--|
| 210211/565 | To consider entering into a Funding Agreement and associated Partnership Agreement related to the city's low carbon programme.   | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 201201/537 | To give approval to progress with the three schemes (Sunderland Station and Car park, Holmeside bus rationalisation and A690 corridor cycle provision) funded by the governments Transforming Cities Fund. | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210118/552 | To consider the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order in relation to the New Wear Footbridge.  | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><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  |
|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|---|--|--|
| 210312/572 | To consider the grant of a proposed Lease of the Former Elemore Golf Course             | Cabinet   | N                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210326/573 | To consider a proposed new assessment and ranking system for minor road safety schemes. | Cabinet   | N                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210326/574 | To approve the adoption of the Development Management Supplementary Planning Document.  | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><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  |
|------------|--|---|------------------|---|---------------------|---|--|--|
| 210408/575 | To approve the Capital Programme Outturn (including Treasury Management) 2020-2021 | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210408/576 | To approve the Revenue Budget Outturn 2020-2021                                    | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><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  |
|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 210419/577 | To approve the dilapidation settlement figure and the procurement of the dilapidation works in respect of the CESAM building. | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | 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<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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|------------|--|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 210419/578 | To seek approval for the award of a Facilities Management contract at City Hall. | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | 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<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 212020/580 | To consider and approve the next steps for the Sunderland Heat Network project, including the submission of a grant application, the appointment of external advisers and the procurement of feasibility works. ∴ 1) | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210427/583 | To approve the progress with the three schemes (Sunderland Station and Car park, Holmeside bus rationalisation and A690 corridor cycle provision) funded by the governments Transforming Cities Fund.                | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210504/584 | To seek approval for the revised Sunderland Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.   | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |



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|------------|--|---|------------------|---|---------------------|---|--|--|
| 210504/585 | To approve the procurement of a contractor to carry out emergency works to Panns Quay east                         | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210505/586 | To approve the procurement of Rock Armour for the coastal defence structure at Stonehill Wall, Port of Sunderland. | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210505/587 | To approve the procurement of a Contractor for the Repair Works at Hendon Foreshore Barrier, Port of Sunderland.   | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 210510/592 | To approve the development of a proposed Housing Innovation & Construction Skills Academy.  | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210510/593 | To receive an update on Sunnyside Redevelopment and to agree to appoint a preferred developer.  | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210510/588 | To approve the receipt of external funding for the public sector decarbonisation scheme and green homes grant local programme and the procurement of the necessary contractors to deliver the schemes.<br><br>(i) | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 210513/594 | To seek approval to procure and award a contract for the treatment of garden waste  | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210513/595 | To seek approval for the annual procurement process by which funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will be awarded to providers for the delivery of Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL) training courses in the academic year 2021/2022 to support the city's strategic priorities. | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210513/596 | To seek approval to utilise the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) Framework as the contract provider and supplier of tyres and associated services.   | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 210513/597 | To seek approval to adopt and publish the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025   | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210513/598 | To seek approval for the improvement of Bereavement Services  | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210513/599 | To seek approval for a proposed extension to the lease and management agreement with Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) for the Empire theatre. | Cabinet   | Y                | 15 June 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 200813/494 | To approve funding mechanisms for the acquisition of residential properties.    | Cabinet   | Y                | During the period 15 June to 31 July 2021                                 | Y                   | This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains 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<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210420/581 | To award a contract for Legionella Monitoring and Maintenance of Water Supplies | Cabinet   | N                | During the period 15 June to 31 July 2021                                 | N                   | Not applicable.   | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 210422/582 | Sunderland Mobility Hub – To seek approval for associated procurement and appointment.  | Cabinet   | Y                | During the period 15 June to 31 July 2021                                 | N                   | Not applicable.  | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210510/589 | To approve the payment of financial assistance to a business in relation to the company's own investment plans in Sunderland. | Cabinet   | Y                | During the period June to July 2021                                       | 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<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 210510/590 | Subject to the receipt of external funding, to approve funding and partnership arrangements to enable support of advanced manufacturing innovation and growth.   | Cabinet   | N                | During the period 15 June to 31 July 2021                                 | N                   | Not applicable.  | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 210510/591 | To consider a proposal to enter into a Funding Agreement(s) with Government and to approve the associated procurement and delivery arrangements for energy infrastructure to enable economic development opportunities | Cabinet   | Y                | During the period 15 June to 31 July 2021                                 | 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<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 210420/579 | To consider a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2021  | N                   | Not applicable.                               | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><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)

**\*Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker and requests for details of these documents should be submitted to Governance Services at the address given above.**

**Who will decide;**

Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Claire Rowntree – Deputy Leader; Councillor Paul Stewart - Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Louise Farthing – Children, Learning and Skills; Councillor Kelly Chequer – Healthy City; Councillor Linda Williams – Vibrant City; Councillor Kevin Johnston – Dynamic City.

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

Elaine Waugh,  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

17 May 2021