

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE 2021-22 WORK PROGRAMME

NB: Visits should recommence from the 21 June 2021 once restrictions are lifted.

30 June 2021

Item/Topic	Aims/Objectives and recommendations	Lead Officer	Visits	Witnesses	Background information
SEND and Inclusion Strategy	<p>Drilldown into the design principles. Strategy is heavily reliant cross-partnership and multi-level – how are the different groups and partners working together? How is the Priority Programme 4: Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities within “Our Children and Young People’s Plan” being implemented/what is progress? Update on the High-Level Priority Actions.</p>	Jo Sullivan-Lyons		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Users • London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA) 	Latest SEND Inspection LIIA Peer Review
Impact of the London-wide Regional Adoption Agency	<p>Update on Lambeth Adoption with drilldown on regional agency and how it is working. Benchmarking on performance and how good are we (progress since last Ofsted report and since joining of RAA) Focus on: line-management processes within Lambeth and how RAA checks or manages potentially differing practices Case studies / and subsequent Improvement Plans Relations and working arrangements between the four London adoption agencies (‘Adopt London’ and not just Adopt London South)</p>	Alex Kubeyinje		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Jon Davies • Cllr Nanda Manley-Browne • Youth Council • Service users • Regional Lead Officer and Member 	
Troubled Families Programme	<p>Progress with programme following extended funded for 20/21. Plans, strategy and detail on family support going forward, what happens at the end? Plans, funding for similar/future national or local programmes. Links and relevance to the Lambeth Community Early Help Plan. Policy development to drive improvement</p>	Brenda McInerney Kulsuma Faiz		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User anon • Case studies • Funders attend - MHCLG. 	Third annual report

	Take-up from families and issues getting cohort, potential stigma of programme – comparison between LAs. How can Scrutiny aid programme and provide oversight in future?				
--	---	--	--	--	--

Pre-meet with Lead Officers: week commencing 21.06.21

Draft deadline: 11 June 2021

Final deadline: 18 June 2021

Agenda publication date: 22 June 2021

CSSSC Member CSSSC Planning Session 12.08.21

To discuss the work programme with CSSSC members and update as necessary for the 07 December 2021 meeting.

7 December 2021

Item/Topic	Aims/Objectives and recommendations	Lead Officer	Visits	Witnesses	Background information
IICSA Action Plan	Review of action plan Improve transparency of Lambeth Report response, arising actions and related services/delivery. Assurance of current Council reporting mechanisms and of service delivery, including escalation of complaints/whistleblowing (detailing process mapping). Staff retention	Merlin Joseph Fiona Connolly Fateha Salim	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Goosey, LSCP Independent scrutineer • Dr Jon Bird, NAPAC • Trade Unions 	As detailed in report.

Pre-meet with Lead Officers: 25.11.21

Draft deadline: 19 November 2021

Final deadline: 26 November 2021

Agenda publication date: 27 November 2021

Extraordinary 25 January 2022

Item/Topic	Aims/Objectives and recommendations	Lead Officer	Visits	Witnesses	Background information
Youth Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective use of language to engage cohort and provide lasting improved outcomes 2. Experience of users and community engagement 3. Aligned to support work to tackle VAWG, racism and discrimination 4. Successful delivery (providing training and embedding practices, community leadership, targeting young people most at risk and building trust, working with other statutory organisations and delivery partners, use of wider collective impact model; inequality gap, input of users into making and delivering strategy, ensuring safe local environments) 5. Relation to and inter-working with Lambeth Made Safer Strategy/other strategies 6. Development from previous Youth Strategies (issues identified or solved or lasting (what worked and what needs further improvement; and what has changed) 7. Young people’s mental health 8. Impacts arising from C-19 2019-21 and long-term effects on youth. 9. Employability - Employment outcomes and employability; 10-year outcomes and delivery on priorities to be a framework for scrutiny activity 	Melissa McArthur	<p>Youth Centre</p> <p>School</p> <p>Youth Council meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Thrive Programme Delivery Director • Cllr Hashi, Deputy CM for Youth • Youth centre workers • Youth Council 	<p>Cabinet, 30.11.20</p> <p>Lambeth Made Safer Strategy</p>
Child Friendly Lambeth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family travel and air pollution 2. What are the issues facing children in the borough? 3. Mental health of children, changes to these and challenges faced 4. Hackney model – appendix SPD (Bennett and Davie) – to feed into child sensitive design to <i>Youth and Play</i> 	Cath Millington	School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mums for Lungs • Schools (Jessop, Herne Hill, and Immanuel and 	<p>New School Streets prog</p> <p>Our children, Our Future</p>

	<p><i>Strategy.</i> Briefing note on considering as part of child friendly approach to design.</p> <p>5. Complex safeguarding – including county lines and trafficking</p> <p>6. Adoption of child friendly standards.</p> <p>7. LYC engagement as appendix (Catherine Carpenter).</p>			<p>St Andrew Primaries)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthwatch Lambeth • Lambeth Children’s Partnership • Local Child psychologist • Youth Council 	Health and Wellbeing Board
Update report on Ofsted	<p>1. Ofsted progress report</p> <p>2. Impact on staffing and mitigations</p>	<p>Jane Carroll</p> <p>Eibhlin McInerney</p>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPB – Cllr Ed Davie (Chair) • CPB – former chairs (Cllr Garden) • DfE reps • Ofsted report writers 	Previous Ofsted reports

Pre-meet with Lead Officers: 25 January 2022

Draft deadline: 04 January 2022

Final deadline: 12 January 2022

Agenda publication date: 17 January 2022

15 March 2022

Item/Topic	Aims/Objectives and recommendations	Lead Officer	Visits	Witnesses	Background information
Budget	Review of Children’s Services budget proposals.	Merlin Joseph	N/A	• N/A	Council and Cabinet Budget reports
Safer Lambeth Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assurance that the Strategy is working for young people who are vulnerable to violence/violent crime. 	Trevor East	Brixton Police Station	• Cllr Jacqui Dyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSC 21.03.21 report • Crime and Disorder Act 1998

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures in place when lockdown restrictions lift How CSSSC can play a greater role in addressing concerns and mitigating impacts. To include county lines and impact on most vulnerable children. 		Hampshire police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colin Wingrove, Chief Superintendent Victim Support Youth Advocate Chair of Lambeth Safer Neighbourhood Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police and Justice Act 2007 MET statistics reports/analysis MoU between Lambeth/MET/partners Private: Minutes/agenda from Safer Lambeth Board
Fostering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update – one year on Include short briefing (appendix) on London-wide adoption agency. 	Jane Carroll	Fostering home Lambeth fostering officers/team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC 	Previous Fostering reports
IICSA Recommendations Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review progress of IICSA Recommendations. How do we implement and track HR and organisational/culture changes (retention, recruitment, training metrics) – appendix. 	Merlin Joseph	N/A	N/A	Redress Scheme Cabinet report 09.11.21 CSSSC documents

Pre-meet with Lead Officers: TBA

Draft deadline: 22 February 2022

Final deadline: 02 March 2022

Agenda publication date: 07 March 2022

Issues for potential future scrutiny

The following matters have been identified by Members at previous meetings:

1. Children and accommodation; homelessness and young people;
2. Reducing adverse children's experiences and neglect;

3. Feeling safe and supported - children and young people in care/those needing support - continuity issues, not repeating their story;
4. Prevention and how services – council/services/stakeholders – work together;
5. Children’s and young persons’ mental health, to request report authors consider and include these across all reports.
6. Pupil Place Planning, Exclusion, and SEND items for June/July 2022

Post-Meeting Actions

30 June 2021					
Report Title	Outcome & Actions Arising	Lead	Action status	Deadline	RAG Status
SEND and Inclusion Strategy	1. To promote opportunities with employers and voluntary organisations to aid pathways to adulthood and identify employees’ support needs.	Abrilli Phillip Director Education and Learning, Jo Sullivan-Lyons , AD Education Strategy	In Cabinet report	Ongoing	Yellow
	2. To provide a measurable set of targets for the Strategy’s Action Plan, including outcomes for young people transitioning to adulthood, aiding independent living and improved links with employers and housing providers.		Comprehensive, measurable targets are already in the action plan. The contribution of each partner to the evaluation of the success of each target will be finalised by the end of September.	Prior to Cabinet decision	Green
	3. To ensure the Strategy had adequate and early identification provisions, particularly for early years; whilst detailing improvements of families’ use of early years settings, the role of health visitors, and how Lambeth was to approach these.		In Cabinet report	Ongoing	Yellow
	4. To review and monitor EHCPs, principally on ongoing maintenance, accountability and practical implementation.		This is a key priority within the draft SEND and Inclusion strategy. Please refer to Appendix A, priority number 6.	Prior to Cabinet decision	Green
	5. That the committee members receive a separate briefing on EHCPs with the Assistant Director Education Strategy, Access and Inclusion.		22.09.21 Visit	Prior to Cabinet decision	Green

6. To share an initial summary of and later the full Action Plan indicating success criteria and targets with Members.		Taken with above item	Prior to Cabinet decision	
7. To ensure the voices of young people, particularly SEND, and all communities, particularly young black persons, were continuously heard, represented and included in the Action Plan.		In Cabinet report	Ongoing	
8. To consider opportunities to share good practice with neighbouring local authorities, and detail cross-borough working with and comparisons to, neighbouring boroughs' strategies.		<p>Lambeth's neighbouring authorities have written statements of action (WSOA) (inadequate) from the Ofsted/ CQC inspections and/ or overspends in the high needs block of their DSGs requiring them to submit deficit recovery plans to the DfE. With reference to this, although they may have some good practice it is leading to huge deficits.</p> <p>For example: Merton: WSOA and deficit of £ 25m Wandsworth: WSOA Croydon: £ 23m deficit (not yet inspected by Ofsted/ CQC) Southwark: £21m deficit Lambeth had a very successful Ofsted/ CQC inspection in 2020 and will have a balanced budget position by 2023 (minimal deficit and therefore no requirement for a deficit recovery plan to the Department for Education)</p>	Prior to Cabinet decision	
9. To consult with nursery managers and staff on real needs and that nursery providers were included in the Action Plan.		In Cabinet report	Ongoing	

	10. To include lessons learnt during lockdown and discuss with families and the most vulnerable children impacted by the pandemic; and reflect these in the Action Plan.		Completed	Prior to Cabinet decision	
	11. To note the current funding challenges posed by central government and demonstrate strong outcomes for children with SEND in the final decision report.		Completed – in Cabinet report	Prior to Cabinet decision	
	12. To identify the level of need and use this information to lobby central Government on increased SEND parameters and provide the resources necessary to implement wider SEND responsibilities.		Completed	Prior to Cabinet decision	
Impact of the London-wide Regional Adoption Agency	1. To review the financial cost of courses and, where possible, include the most well-regarded courses as part of the support package for prospective adopters.	Alex Kubeyinje, Director CSC; Shkelqim Lumaa, Service Manager CSC Nina Sio-Lokam, Agency Advisory and Permanency Lead		07.12.21	
	2. To review allowances for employers, especially to support BAME adoptees, and, if sufficient allowances were in place, to help adoptive families minimise financial impacts.			07.12.21	
	3. To encourage employers to provide adequate adoptive leave, such as mirroring maternity leave arrangements.			07.12.21	
	4. To monitor the post-adoption programme, noting the ongoing pressure on CAMHS.			Ongoing	
	5. To monitor Lambeth young people's health and wellbeing across the borough's partnerships as adoption numbers were low in Lambeth and the time children remained in care was still high.			Ongoing	
	6. To monitor performance and to regularly report back to the Sub-Committee.			Ongoing	

	7. To continually review barriers to adoption, recruitment strategies, and to ensure that those seeking to adopt met and reflected the needs of children.			07.12.21	
	8. To use outreach techniques (e.g., event attendance) to reach specific audiences, particularly underrepresented audiences.			07.12.21	
	9. To work across Children's Services to consider permanency at point of contact.			07.12.21	
Supporting Families Programme	1. To provide detail on improved working arrangements with partners.	<p>Alex Kubeyinje, Director CSC</p> <p>Brenda McInerney, AD Early Help</p> <p>Kulsuma Faiz, Co-ordinator</p>	We have relaunched the Early Help Strategic Group which includes a wide range of partners which meet monthly. Currently the group are focussing on developing the broader EH Partnership wide strategy with a number of working groups. One working group is focussing on workforce and community which will, as part of this remit look at undertaking a self-evaluation of the partnership using the Early Help Systems guide provided by MHCLG. A second working group will focus on Infrastructure & Digital and will be working on the development of several IT solutions to improve working arrangements with partners. This will include development of the Mosaic Portal- which will allow external partners to complete Early Help Assessments which can then be uploaded directly on to the Mosaic case management system. A third working group is for schools to develop their Early help offer and is led by a local Head Teacher. There is also ongoing work being undertaken across EH locality teams with partners in the voluntary sector, schools etc to support capacity building.	15.11.21	

2. To provide the Sub-Committee with the written response(s) to MHCLG questions within 28 days.		Provided via email	28.07.21	
3. To regularly monitor data maturity milestones to improve reporting.			Ongoing	
4. To improve data- and resource- sharing links with providers.		<p>There is considerable work being done through the Infrastructure and Digital working group to ensure we continue to strengthen our data monitoring for families supported through this programme. We have developed a PowerBI dashboard which will allow us to report more effectively on demographics for the families we work with progress they have achieved. We hope to share the data with partners in the next Early Help Strategic group in December.</p> <p>Details of child level reporting of engagement and progress were provided via email to provide an overview of the progress.</p>	15.11.21	
5. To implement lessons learnt and focus on partner working arrangement.		See note for bullet point 1.	15.11.21	
6. To extend and strengthen Locality Panels and ensure ward councillors were involved and contacted to identify local groups.		<p>We have recently changed the geographical areas covered by the Early Help locality teams the locality partnership meetings now reflect the changes.</p> <p>Community Early Help Partnership meetings continue to take place across each of the locality teams every 6 weeks and are now chaired by Locality Managers. An attached slide shows the wards covered by each of the four localities.</p>	15.11.21	

	7. To strengthen data monitoring and continue to support families after Programme.		See note for bullet point 4.	15.11.21	
--	--	--	------------------------------	----------	--

07 December 2021

Report Title	Outcome & Actions Arising	Lead	Action status	Deadline	RAG Status
IICSA Action Plan	1. To ensure that the outcomes of the Patrick Vernon Review of Race and Diversity in Lambeth Council (2020) are incorporated into the Action Plan.	Merlin Joseph, Strategic Director for Children's Services Fiona Connolly, Executive Director for Adult Social Care Jane Carroll, Interim Director for Children's Social Care Fateha Salim, Inquiry Legal Team	Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
	2. To ensure the provision of training for elected representatives, officials, and partners: a. includes noticing the signs of abuse; b. includes guidance to enable proactive assurance that local services are safeguarding children c. occurs early on in induction or new starter processes; d. ensures the importance of a children-centred approach and voice of the child being at the heart of all decision making; e. is monitored to ensure all necessary persons receive it; and, f. that training encompasses all protected characteristics.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
	3. To ensure and provide monitoring so children in care receive the same level of support, including face-to-face contact, whether placed within or outside of the borough.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
	4. For political parties to review their selection processes and that all candidates are briefed and understand their corporate parenting and safeguarding responsibilities from the outset.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
	5. To explore school SENCOs having additional responsibilities for safeguarding children in care.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	

6. To review whether school Governors could have greater oversight of safeguarding and accountability by schools.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
7. To ensure that the Action Plan's language is appropriately precise and written in Plain English; for example, explain what 'organisational listening' means.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
8. To monitor social workers' workloads and cases, so that they are able to build relationships with young people.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
9. To explore further forms of peer review and external scrutiny, such as from other local authorities and the Local Government Association.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
10. To explore ways of ensuring children are empowered to recognise and report abuse.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
11. To review communications between social workers and schools, especially for those children placed at a distance, and ensure effective monitoring.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
12. To ensure provision of a 24/7 phone service for children to access to discuss and disclose abuse.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
13. To ensure that all councillors had full access to the Pentana (the council's performance monitoring system) which holds key performance indicator information.		Progress review at 15 March 2022 meeting.	15.03.22	
14. To add a review of the Redress Scheme in summer 2022 to the work programme.	Democratic Services Democratic Services	To be added to the Work Programme for 2022-23.	June 2022	
15. To add modern forms of abuse outside the scope of the IICSA Action Plan, such as county lines, to the work programme for further review.			June 2022	

25 January 2022

Report Title	Outcome & Actions Arising	Lead	Action status	Deadline	RAG Status
Youth Strategy	1.				
	2.				
Child Friendly Lambeth	1.				
	2.				
Update report on Ofsted	1.				
	2.				

15 March 2022

Report Title	Outcome & Actions Arising	Lead	Action status	Deadline	RAG Status
Fostering	1.				
	2.				
Budget	1.				
	2.				
Safer Lambeth Strategy	1.				
	2.				
IICSA Update	1.				
	2.				