



Buckinghamshire Council Children's & Education Select Committee

Agenda

Date: Thursday 25 January 2024

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF

Membership: J Ward (Chairman), M Dormer, S Adoh, K Bates, D Blamires, L Clarke OBE, I Darby, N Hussain, C Jones, S Kayani, S Lewin, Dr W Matthews, A Osibogun (Vice-Chairman), D Summers, P Turner, Z Williams and T Wilson

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE		
2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST For Committee Members to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests.		
3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd November 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.		3 - 14
4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS Public Questions is an opportunity for people who live, work or study in Buckinghamshire to put a question to a Select Committee. The Committee will hear from members of the public who have submitted questions in advance relating to items on the agenda. The Cabinet Member, relevant key partners and responsible officers will be invited to respond. Further information on how to register can be found here: https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/get-involved-with-council-decisions/select-committees/		
5 YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE - PROGRESS UPDATE For the Committee to note the improvements made by the Youth Offending Services since the HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) published their findings in January 2023 following the service		15 - 20

inspection made by them in September 2022.

Contributors:

Cllr Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
John Macilwraith, Corporate Director, Children's Services
Aman Sekhon-Gill, Assistant Director of Quality Assurance and Standards, Children's Services

- 6 CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE 21 - 32**
For the Select Committee to receive an update on the progress of the Children's Services Transformation Programme.

Contributors:

Cllr Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
Errol Albert, Service Director, Transformation and Improvement, Children's Services

- 7 SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR REVIEW OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 33 - 38**
For the Committee to
- (i) consider and agree the draft scoping document for the Select Committee's review of school attendance issues and
 - (ii) consider which committee members would like to take part in the review group.

Contributors:

Cllr Julie Ward, Select Committee Chairman
Katie Dover, Senior Scrutiny Officer

- 8 WORK PROGRAMME 39 - 42**
- 9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting of the Select Committee will be held on Thursday 7th March at 2.00 p.m. in the Oculus, The Gateway, Aylesbury.

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Katie Dover on 01296 531339, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Agenda Item 3
Buckinghamshire Council
Children's & Education Select
Committee

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S & EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE PARALYMPIC ROOM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, GATEHOUSE ROAD, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF, COMMENCING AT 2.02 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.58 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

J Ward, M Dormer, K Bates, D Blamires, L Clarke OBE, I Darby, S Lewin, Dr W Matthews, A Osibogun, P Turner, Z Williams, T Wilson and A Cranmer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

K Dover, Ms S Moore, G Drawmer, C Duffy, Ms C Marriott, Pike, E Albert and W McCulloch

Agenda Item

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Adoh, Jones, Hussain, Kayani and Summers.
Cllr Stuchbury substituted for Cllr Kayani.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Cllrs Bates, Clarke, Darby, Osibogun and Turner declared a personal interest as a school governor.
- Tony Wilson declared a personal interest as a trustee of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire School Trust.

Zoe Williams declared that she is employed by the Buckinghamshire Educational Partnership and as a Chair of Governors.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question by Sarah Hodges and response from the service – October 2023

Could Buckinghamshire Council provide an update on the implementation of an EHC Hub (a digital platform) supporting engagement, contributions and collaboration on EHC assessments,

plans and reviews. Parents/guardians, staff and professionals can spend considerable periods of time chasing information which could be accessed online providing up to date information to all parties?

This question was originally raised by Sarah Hodges in November 2021.

The response to this question was as follows:

The digital EHC system was initiated with schools in 2021 for new EHC assessments; however, the initial launch was not successful and further work on the system was required and as a result, implementation was paused. The remedial work has been completed and the digital platform is due to re-launch with schools in April 2024. If successful, this will then be extended to families by September 2024.

5 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Cabinet Member, Cllr Anita Cranmer introduced Walter McCulloch, Chair of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership. She explained that the Partnership is a statutory multi-agency body, which oversees children's safeguarding across Buckinghamshire acting both as a critical friend and as a champion for best practice across agencies.

Walter McCulloch summarised the annual report and highlighted the following points:

- The Safeguarding Partnership concentrated on four domains:
 - Using data to evidence the impact of the work done
 - Ensuring qualitative assessment
 - Listening to the voices of staff
 - Bringing the voices of those with lived experience to the forefront
- There had been good examples of lived experience contributing to case reviews. At multi-agency events, presentations made as personal testimony, giving specific examples of lived experience had been very powerful and valued highly.
- In children's safeguarding, there has been an issue about how incoming concerns are handled collectively by the different agencies. The use of data evaluation had led to the development of a challenge event focussing on the use of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. This had been subject to difficulties around staffing levels and unprecedented levels of work in the last year
- There was an acknowledgment that there should be a work focus to improve continuity between services for 16 to 25 year olds
- There is good evidence that cross border work happens effectively – neighbouring local authorities and police forces are working well together
- A revised business plan for the Safeguarding Partnership is being signed off in December. This would cover the four domain areas as well as further development of the partnership, strengthening the initial triaging of cases, bringing to the forefront the use of information from the "lived experience" and ensuring evidence of the impact of case review work.

The Chairman invited Members' questions. In response to questions and during subsequent discussions, the following main points were noted:

- There is a need for analytical work on child death figures by the Child Death Overview Panel. The figures for child deaths during the pandemic had been submitted as part of a

three-year catch-up report to the Partnership and had been correctly analysed. The figures for 2021 to 2022 were now required to complete the picture for previous years. The child death overview panel covers the ICB area and has data from this geographical area.

Action: Walter McCulloch to circulate comparative child death information from the ICB area, statistical neighbours and nationally

- Partnership working across the agencies which help young people is good and will be developed further, for example, by enhancing joint collaboration when the system is under pressure. Walter McCulloch is in regular contact with the Chief Constable of Thames Valley police, the Chief Executive of the council and the ICB Chief Executive to ensure further development of partnership working and to develop the effectiveness of the front door service.
- 170 children are currently missing from education. There is a team dedicated to finding the children who are missing and both housing and health information are used to help find them. In most cases, children are found within two to three weeks but some are absent from education for longer than six weeks. These children stay on the council's list until they are located or reach the age of 18. Many children that had been found had moved schools to out of the local authority area. The vast majority are located.
- There is a risk register for schools where safeguarding needs to be improved. Currently there are only 3 schools on the list. Robust training on safeguarding is being delivered by officers to ensure processes are secure.
- It was noted that there were no figures in the report showing the number of children suffering harm or violence. These figures were presented to a different Select Committee as there is an overlap with community safety. Walter McCulloch noted the need to streamline the governance arrangements regarding the reporting of this information.
- The Safeguarding Partnership can provide more detailed data which compares safeguarding issues, the youth justice system and custody rates across other council areas.

Action: Walter McCulloch to provide information from the modern slavery & exploitation subgroup showing occurrence of harm levels.

- Work is underway to listen to the voice of young people in the "hard to reach" group.
- The services for young people in the 16 to 25 age group are difficult to navigate due to the different age cut-off points for services such as housing and mental health. More work is needed to improve the continuity of provision. Case reviews are being used to help improve the transition from Children's to Adults' services. A report would go to the ICB in the new year to look at the themes in this area of work.
- The voice of lived experience had recently been brought forward to the Partnership by several agencies.
- A piece of work is being undertaken by the Youth Justice area on Buckinghamshire's custody rates comparative to other areas

Action: WM to provide some broader data/performance information including custody rates at the same time as issuing the committee with the new business plan once agreed.

The Chairman thanked Walter McCulloch for the report

6 SEND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE NOVEMBER 2023

The Chairman welcomed Cate Duffy, Interim Service Director, Education, Lucy Pike, Head of Transformation and Improvement and Caroline Marriott, Head of Integrated SEND Services to the meeting.

During the update, the following main points were made:

- The purpose of the update was to report progress and improvements following the SEND inspection of March 2022
- A written statement of action (WSOA) had been made concentrating on neuro-developmental pathways, community paediatricians and therapies with an emphasis on the delays which had been experienced by families to get this provision.
- £4.6 million had been received this year from the ICB (Integrated Care Board) to decrease waiting lists for treatment and increase clinical capacity. Recruitment and retention of staff is a nationwide and ongoing issue.
- An all-age autism strategy was in the final stages of development and would be presented to a Cabinet meeting in January 2024.

Some examples of how the service had improved included:

- A single provider model was being used for 15–19 year olds for ADHD assessment. Digital assessments would be used to offer support for autism more quickly.
- The voluntary sector was helping to support families within the neurodevelopmental pathway
- Community paediatricians were arranging to use other professionals to decrease waiting times
- Prescribing pharmacists had been able to carry out medication reviews and had eradicated the backlog for these reviews
- The “Waiting Well” initiative ensured that support was in place at the right time, aiming for early intervention. Numerous activities included social prescribing, equine therapy and other support offers were used
- The overall quality of new EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans) had improved from 11% to 78% graded as good in 2021 and then August 2023 but there was still a significant amount of work needed to improve existing plans. The timelines for producing these needed improvement due to the increase in demand and a shortage of educational psychologists. The aim is to meet the 20-week statutory target
- There had been several new offers which had helped families, including a toolkit giving guidance on EBSNA (Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance), Holiday activity and food programmes, support for children Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) with an increase from 12 to 40 internships provided by the authority for children with SEND.
- Much work had been undertaken to rebalance the system through co-ordination of work at the early intervention stage. A programme called “Delivering Better Value” was in place to make the best use of resources to improve the experience of both children and families.
- There will be a SEND inspection within the next three years which will be carried out under the new framework introduced in January 2023. Preparation for this inspection was under way

In response to Members’ comments the following points were made:

- The All-Age Autism Strategy would be shared with the committee before it is published in January 2024

Action: The new Autism Strategy to be circulated to the committee following Cabinet.

- To help in the short-term, some associate educational psychologists have been successfully recruited. In the longer term, the aim would be to have a team of educational psychologists working in schools to give a multi-faceted approach, addressing all angles of the current demand
- The first phase of the “Delivering Better Value” project for children with SEND had looked at data, auditing 40 anonymised cases to see if children were in the right provision and if they had received the right outcome. The deep dive phase was now underway and would provide further data. The real focus was improving outcomes rather than reducing costs
- The recommendations of the pathways to SEND review were noted to be embedded as work within the Improvement Programme
- It was noted that there is currently a national shortage of ADHD medication, and this could be a cause for distress for young people. Advisory information had been sent to schools regarding this

Action: Gareth Drawmer to contact Public Health for an update on the timing of the provision of medication

- It is too early to give data on the EBSNA toolkit, but there had been a positive response from schools. Buckinghamshire had a 20% non-attendance rate at school against a national average of 21%. Severe absenteeism was at 1.7% in Buckinghamshire compared with 1.9% nationally.
- More detailed information to give the context to these figures was requested.

Action: Gareth Drawmer to provide further information on the school non-attendance figures

- There are three family hubs and sixteen family centres in Buckinghamshire and these play an important role in early intervention. They formerly concentrated on children under five years old but now have a larger remit. They continue to intervene early for children with speech and language problems and are especially focused on the “Opportunity Bucks” wards
- The over-arching challenges faced in SEND are currently:
 - Meeting the 20-week deadline for assessment
 - The rising demand for EHCPs (a rise of 76% since 2020)
 - Sufficiency of specialist places for children with an EHCP
 - Long waiting times for diagnosis and therapies, including significant waits for ASD assessments
 - Budgetary constraints
 - Recruitment and retention of Educational Psychologists

- Several charities provide valuable early intervention and support for SEND children
- A general point was made that Democratic Services should ensure that reports relevant to the subject of a Select Committee should be provided to that Committee prior to final sign off at Cabinet where possible.

Action: The Scrutiny Officer to raise this issue with the Scrutiny Manager & Directors of items relevant to this committee being reported here

Cllr Stuchbury submitted a question on this Item as follows:

The Department of Education acknowledges the current challenges which local systems are experiencing in delivering special educational needs and disability services. The Delivering Better Value in SEND programme (DBV in SEND) is aiming to support local authorities and their area partners to improve the delivery of SEND services for children and young people whilst working towards financial sustainability.

Paragraph 3.4 states challenging in relations to the provision of therapy for children and young people with an EHP remains significant. The September 2023 figures identified at 24 week wait for speech, therapist and language advice to inform education and health care plans.

My question is considering the OFSTED report and the inspection framework from CQC send being undertaken;

1. What percentage of the £4.600,000 investment to the integrated care board, ICB agreed in April 23 will be available to help to reduce the time that parents and children are waiting to receive their EHCP report, and
2. will this positively impact and enable children with speech and learning difficulties to gain the optimum value from opportunities within the education, and
3. will there be incremental financial support to enable officers working within special educational needs to deliver on their aspirations to improve services in line with the parents' aspirations to have their child specialist needs in respected education, met in a timely fashion?

The response to the questions was as follows:

The £4.6m has been allocated across the 3 Written Statement of Action (WSOA) areas of (a) community paediatrics (b) Neurodevelopmental Diagnosis and ADHD Clinic and (c) the Integrated Therapies Service. All these areas of investment will add capacity to the services in terms of current delivery enabling the required professional advice to be provided more quickly.

It is anticipated that this funding will help to support all children with SEND to gain the right support for their needs, regardless of diagnosis, including those with Speech and Language difficulties.

The £4.6m ICB funding is ongoing beyond 2024/25.

7 SCHOOLS OFSTED INSPECTION OUTCOMES - ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Cllr Anita Cranmer welcomed Gareth Drawmer to the meeting and invited him to summarise the report

During the update, the following main points were made:

- The report had been produced in the context of the sad death of Ruth Perry, Headteacher at Caversham Primary School in Reading
- Some schools in Buckinghamshire had moved up to an OFSTED classification "Good", some schools however had declined in category
- There was an increased level of inspection activity, with Ofsted aiming to inspect all schools by 2025
- In schools, issues can arise where there is change in leadership team or where staff recruitment and retention were a challenge

- The curriculum had changed substantially over the last few years and in some cases where schools had been less successful the curriculum changes had not always been fully embedded
- In the last year, no school had been given a limited judgement for safeguarding
- Some schools had improved
- Amendment to the report: New Town School in Chesham was graded “Good” and not “Inadequate” as stated in the report. Gareth Drawmer commended the teachers and pupils of New Town School

In response to Members’ comments the following points were made:

- In relation to the schools where their OFSTED rating declined, Gareth Drawmer noted that Buckinghamshire’s aim was to support schools well, with the relationship and communication between the local authority and school being two way. He acknowledged that Ofsted inspections did induce a level of concern with school leaders which could impede communication. He considered the relationship between the authority and schools however, to be strong
- The system of school risk assessment is very robust
- Pupil Champion support has provided help to schools at no cost. Pupil champion support worked alongside teachers offering coaching and mentoring
- The de-delegation model provides a means for school to benefit from a side-by-side project. Schools would return part of their budget to the council to fund this. The Side by Side Leadership Champion (SSLC) and headteacher would assess what support would be required
- The Business Intelligence Team would look at whether information could be provided on the flow of pupils between wards to attend school
 - Action:** Gareth Drawmer to speak to the Business Intelligence Team regarding what information is available on the flow of pupils outside of their own wards to go to school
- The three schools which had retained their inadequate rating had received standard Section 8 monitoring visits and a change of grade is not made at these. Section 5 visits are those where grade changes can be made
- School leaders were under enormous stress. OFSTED was aware and concerned about the stress faced by teaching staff and has revised its inspection framework this year to increase the accountability of inspectors. Schools help their own staff’s wellbeing and school staff have access to the Buckinghamshire employee assistance service if needed
- The council ensures that all interaction with schools is as supportive as possible. Headteachers can take part in a weekly Zoom meeting to raise any concerns. New headteachers are offered a mentoring programme for their first year in the role to gain support when commencing their role. There is also a coaching service provided by the local authority
- The team would consider whether the levels of stress could be monitored in any way.
 - Action:** Gareth Drawmer to discuss the possibility of monitoring stress levels of education staff during inspections with the Education Team
- The authority met the South East Sector Led Improvement Programme (SESLIP) regularly to map out work on improvement
- There had been a rise nationally in qualifying complaints. Once received, the local authority worked with the school to assist in remedying the issue

- There is a focus on literacy for the “Opportunity Bucks” schools but bespoke work in schools also. There was an Opportunity Bucks Launch for the 40 schools in November to look at what projects would most benefit them
- There are currently two projects running in schools, the Opportunity Bucks Short Film Competition (key stage 2 onwards) and the App Accelerator Project which focussed on tech skills for secondary school children. The council works in partnership with the local film industry to provide learning opportunities for young people. The National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield is also part of this project
- It was suggested that the Member Bulletin could be used to made Members aware of the various Opportunity Bucks initiatives aimed at young people

8 WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman proposed that the issue of school attendance would be a good subject for a more detailed piece of work. She explained that this issue had not been considered by the committee since before the covid pandemic and non-attendance had increased since then. A report is due to come before the committee in March 2024 and a scope for the review taken to the January committee. The committee agreed to this proposal.

Action: Scrutiny Officer to commence drafting the scope for review work on school attendance

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 25th January at 2.00 pm in the Oculus, The Gateway

Children’s and Education Select Committee – Actions Council Year 2023/2024

	Date/Committee Item	Action	Update
12	23-3-23 – Education Standards	SJ to provide examples of detailed information from schools in intervention categories, and an example of traits of a good school, to allow understanding of how these schools had achieved this	Complete Information Circulated August 2023
13	23-3-23 – Education Standards	SJ/GD to provide information comparing our non-selective schools to those elsewhere by looking at the national averages as most other areas were non-selective.	Complete Information Circulated August 2023
14	23-3-23 – Education Standards	SJ/GD to provide education standards information relating to geographical areas	Complete Information Circulated August 2023
15	23-3-23 – Update on social worker recruitment and retention	JM to share a central government paper on social worker recruitment and retention	Complete Information circulated August 2023
16	23-3-23 – Update on social worker recruitment and retention	JM to investigate the suitability of transcription software for social workers and report back to committee	Complete Update circulated 12 December 2023
17	15-6-23 – Children’s Services Update	RN to provide a more information on proposed standardisation of agency social worker rates.	Complete Information circulated to members on 5/12/23
18	15-6-23 – Children’s Services Update	More information required on the digitalisation of EHCPs	Complete At this stage, there is limited information available. The intention is that EHC plans will be standardised nationally from 2025, with increased use of digital technology.
19	15-6-23 Children’s Services Update	United Nations Committee – Rights of the Child - observations on academic testing	Complete Cllr Cranmer sent response to Cllr Lewin

20	15-6-23 Children's Services Update	More information required on SEND co-production charter	Complete Information circulated August 2023
21	15-6-23 Children's Services Update	More information required on addressing the deficit of funding in the high needs block	Complete Information circulated August 2023
22	15-6-23 Children's Services Transformation	Government Social Care Reform: A comprehensive response on funding available for projected spend was requested	Whilst the Governments strategy 'Stable homes; Built on Love' commits £200 million in additional funding to support children's social care; there is no further detail available currently on how much Buckinghamshire will receive.
23	7-9-23 Action Addendum	Information relating to actions 12 to 14 be sent to Cllr N Hussein	Complete
24	7-9-23 Placement Sufficiency Strategy	Service to supply Cllr Darby with information regarding how we compare to other statistically similar local authorities on numbers of placements in our foster care and agency foster places. Also on the placement change measurement figures.	Complete Information circulated October 2023
25	7-9-23 Report of the Principal Social Worker	Service to supply age and gender information of the newly qualified social workers in the ASYE Academy and to consider including in future reports (RN)	Complete Information circulated October 2023
26	7-9-23 Report of the Principal Social Worker	What information is made accessible to social workers on the subject of parental alienation (RN to circulate to members)	Complete Information circulated October 2023
27	7-9-23 Ofsted update	Service to determine the level of information which can be shared relating to schools attainment in particular relating to the 10 wards focussed on in Opportunity Bucks	Complete Meeting took place December 2023 to agree scope of Education Standards Report

28	2-11-23 Bucks Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	Walter McCulloch to circulate comparative child death information from the ICB area, statistical neighbours and nationally	Complete. Information circulated w/c 8-1-24
29	2-11-23 Bucks Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	Walter McCulloch to provide information from the Modern Slavery & Exploitation subgroup to show occurrence of harm levels.	Complete Information circulated w/c 8-1-24
30	2-11-23 Bucks Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	Walter McCulloch to provide some broader data and/or performance information including custody rates at the same time as issuing the Committee with the new business plan once agreed.	Complete Information circulated December 2023
31	2-11-23 SEND Improvement Programme Update	The new Autism Strategy to be circulated the committee following Cabinet.	The draft strategy and consultation was shared with members in August 2023 by Katie Dover.
32	2-11-23 SEND Improvement Programme Update	Gareth Drawmer to contact the Director of Public Health for further information regarding the shortage of ADHD medication and when the supply chain would recommence.	Complete Response circulated 12 December 2023
33	2-11-23 SEND Improvement Programme Update	Gareth Drawmer to provide further information on the school non-attendance figures	Complete Response circulated December 2023
34	2-11-23 SEND Improvement Programme Update	Katie Dover to raise with the Scrutiny Manager /Directors re the query over items relevant to the committee coming to this meeting e.g. Autism Strategy	The Scrutiny Manager and Deputy Chief Executive have been updated of this concern.
35	2-11-23 Schools Ofsted Inspection Outcomes	Gareth Drawmer to speak to the Business Intelligence Team as to what information is available on the flow of pupils outside of their own wards to go to school	Complete Response circulated December 2023

36	2-11-23 Schools Ofsted Inspection Outcomes	Gareth Drawmer to discuss the possibility of monitoring stress levels of education staff during inspections with the Education Team	Complete Response circulated December 2023
37	2-11-23 Work Programme	Katie Dover to commence drafting scope for review work on schools attendance	Draft scope ready for committee on 25 th January
38	2-11-23 SEND Improvement Programme Update	Lucy Pike to provide information on the take up of the HAF provision in the summer	Complete Response circulated on 12 th December 2023



Report to Children’s and Education Select Committee

Date:	25 January 2024
Title:	Progress Update – One year on from YOS inspection
Cabinet Member(s):	Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member, Education and Children’s Services
Contact officer:	Oliver Foxell
Ward(s) affected:	All wards
Recommendations:	To note progress made against inspection findings

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In January 2023, HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) published their findings following an inspection in September 2022 of [Youth Offending Services \(YOS\) in Buckinghamshire](#).
- 1.2 Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service received an overall grading of “Good” with Inspectors grading some elements as “Outstanding”. This is a very significant achievement and the outcome is testament to the hard work, dedication and skill of our colleagues within the YOS as well as across the Council and partner agencies.
- 1.3 There were also some areas for development identified, predominantly in relation to out of court disposals.
- 1.4 A summary of the key findings from the report can be found below:
 - i. The governance and leadership of this service is strong.
 - ii. The youth justice plan has been developed with input from board members and is based on detailed understanding of the profiles of children and their needs.
 - iii. Board arrangements are effective, and mechanisms are in place to oversee the delivery of the strategy.

- iv. Comprehensive data reports about the profile of children, as well as YOS performance enable the board and management team to oversee service delivery.
- v. Pleased to see the focus on addressing ethnic disproportionality is being driven at board level.
- vi. Children have access to a range of services and interventions that meet a spectrum of needs, and they are supported to access these.
- vii. The positive feedback we received from children confirms that they are getting the support and help they need.
- viii. A skilled, stable, highly motivated, staff team are supported by a competent management team that promotes a culture of learning and development.
- ix. There are excellent training and development opportunities and a strong connection between operational delivery and strategic priorities.
- x. All aspects of post-court work are excellent.
- xi. Case managers take a holistic approach to their work. They balance children's desistance and safety and wellbeing needs, with an equal focus on protecting the public where a risk of harm has been identified.
- xii. The consistent quality of statutory work was impressive. However, the services delivered to children who receive out-of-court disposals is not of the same quality as that received by children on court orders.
- xiii. Assessment of children's own safety and wellbeing, and planning to manage and reduce the risk of harm they may present to others require improvement.
- xiv. Information sharing and joint work with social care is strong; however, further work is needed to ensure information within out of court disposal assessments consistently reflects social care input.
- xv. Leaders also need to better understand the reintegration rates for children who are not in mainstream education to make sure every child has the best possible education placement.

1.5 Where improvement areas were identified an action plan was agreed by the Youth Offending Service Partnership Board and approved by HMIP. The plan is monitored by the Partnership Board, with individual recommendations and actions held by Board members to ensure strategic oversight.

2. HMIP Recommendations

- 2.1 There were 7 recommendations made by inspectors following their visit and progress against these is outlined below.
- 2.2 **Recommendation 1: Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service Board should monitor the reintegration rates of YOS children into mainstream education to make sure that children return to full-time mainstream education in every case where this is appropriate.**
- 2.3 The Partnership Board now has oversight of young people open to the YOS who are not in mainstream education. This has enabled the Board to identify themes and raise strategic issues related to children being educated through alternative provision and support improved outcomes. The Partnership Board will continue to have oversight of this and will challenge and escalate concerns where appropriate.
- 2.4 There has also been joint audit activity between YOS and Education staff, where a sample of cases were looked at to gain greater understanding of quality including areas of good practice and any further areas of learning. Audits with education colleagues have been built into the wider YOS audit programme, meaning quality of practice for these children will continue to be a focus of learning. A further audit is scheduled for January 2024, and the intention is to continue oversight in this way every 6 months to ensure quality of practice is a strength and any learning quickly identified and put into practice.
- 2.5 **Recommendation 2: Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service Board should ensure information within out of court disposal assessments consistently reflects social care input and that the roles and responsibilities for each service area are clearly identified within children's plans.**
- 2.6 Joint audit activity between YOS and Social Care colleagues has led to service improvements specifically relating to information sharing for Out of Court Disposal work. The ongoing impact of this work on the quality of practice is to be evaluated following a re-audit in February 2024.
- 2.7 Quarterly data presented to the Partnership Board now includes reporting on quality of practice for Out of Court Disposal work, ensuring there is an opportunity for scrutiny and challenge from partners.
- 2.8 Training input has been delivered across Help and Protection Social Care teams and MASH to support improved understanding of Youth Justice.
- 2.9 Quality assurance of 15 out of court assessments completed between July and September 2023 demonstrates that 100% of assessments included clear roles and responsibilities for each partner agency, including Children's Social Care.

- 2.10 **Recommendation 3: Buckinghamshire YOS should improve the quality of assessment and planning for Out of Court disposal work to focus on the safety and well-being of children and the management of risk of harm to others.**
- 2.11 A revised Out of Court disposal assessment tool has been introduced, which focuses on the safety and wellbeing of children and the management of risk, supporting practitioners to assess appropriately.
- 2.12 The addition of the Out of Court Disposal work into the wider quality assurance process has lent itself to improved quality and timeliness of management oversight. 38 cases have been dip sampled and an improved number have met the expected standard.
- 2.13 Training has been delivered to staff, which has delivered improved quality of risk assessment and planning. This has been evidenced by an audit conducted in August 2023 which showed that over 80% of cases met the required standard against all domains relating to assessment and planning.
- 2.14 **Recommendation 4: Buckinghamshire YOS should review Out of Court disposal guidance so that it sets out explicitly how the service intends to meet all diversity, safety and well-being needs and risk of harm to others.**
- 2.15 This recommendation focussed on needing to improve the guidance document already available to staff, and the need to explicitly include diversity, safety and wellbeing needs and risk of harm. This has been actioned and shared with staff to ensure they and managers are aware of the updates and purpose.
- 2.16 Quality assurance relating to assessments completed between July and September 2023 show that 93% were assessed as having diversity sufficiently explored and 80% had clear evidence for ratings for safety and well-being and risk to others.
- 2.17 **Recommendation 5: Buckinghamshire YOS should strengthen the Out of Court Disposal Process so that children and families are engaged at the earliest opportunity.**
- 2.18 The service has redesigned its approach to engagement with children who come through the out of court disposal route. This entails contact with the family and child prior to the decision-making process which allows the service to engage at the earliest opportunity. This is captured on the Youth Offending Service database.
- 2.19 A more streamlined process has been launched which extends the offer of early intervention support to more children, via the Ministry of Justice funded Turnaround programme. 24 young people received support from this programme between April and September 2023. Of those, none have received a subsequent criminal justice outcome, although 1 is subject to police bail. As part of the funding requirements all children need to be tracked to see if they enter or reenter the youth justice system, demonstrating impact of intervention delivery.

2.20 **Recommendation 6: Buckinghamshire YOS should consistently ensure that there are suitable supervision arrangements for children completing reparation and expand the number of projects available.**

2.21 This post has been difficult to recruit to and unfortunately when a candidate was offered the post, they withdrew due to personal circumstances. The recruitment campaign has remained open and at the time of writing this report, interviews were due to take place in December 2023. It is hoped recruitment will be successful.

2.22 In the interim, YOS staff have continued to supervise young people on reparation, with the added support of managers ensuring arrangements for supervision are adequate. The service continues to identify projects for reparation and this has increased in scope.

2.23 **Recommendation 7: Buckinghamshire YOS should seek to proactively diversify the pool of volunteers so that it reflects the children and families the service works with**

2.24 The service has recruited 7 new volunteers. This has increased the diversity of the pool of volunteers in terms of gender, ethnicity and age range. There has been a significant increase in younger volunteers with an additional 5 recruited who are under 40. In relation to ethnicity, there are an additional 2 volunteers of Asian heritage. This reflects local data in relation to recent increases in numbers of children from an Asian background receiving intervention from the YOS.

3. Legal and financial implications

3.1 N/A report for information only. There are no legal or financial implications arising from this update.

4. Next Steps and Review

4.1 The YOS Partnership Board continue to retain oversight, scrutiny and governance of improvements being made at quarterly Board meetings.

5. Background Papers

5.1 N/A

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Children's Services Transformation Update

January 2024



Children's Services Transformation – Background

- There has been an unprecedented increase in demand nationally and locally since 2020. This includes a 32% increase nationally in children subject to Child Protection Plans in the 10 years to 2019/20.
- Cases referred post pandemic have seen a higher degree of complexity in children and young people's circumstances.
- The [Independent Review of Children's Social Care](#) noted that the current way of working by managing risks, responding to episodic need, and having high thresholds to access help, may be restricting the purpose of social care to 'rescuing' children, and keeping services from meeting the needs of families.
- The current structure of our service creates too many hand-off points and lends itself to process driven case management which does not appropriately support children and young people. Inspection activity and feedback from children, young people and families has been critical of unnecessary hand off points, creating drift and delay for families and resulting in families having to share their story with multiple practitioners.
- Current structures have led to issues with recruitment and retention in certain parts of the service, particularly where staff have carried higher than desirable caseloads contributing to an over-reliance on a high-cost agency workforce and difficulty in maintaining a financially sustainable structure.
- Across the Early Help landscape, Government has introduced the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme to strengthen multi-agency Family Hubs in line with the levelling up agenda. Family hubs are a place-based way of joining up locally in the planning and delivery of family services bringing services together to improve access, improve the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and put relationships at the heart of family support.
- As part of their review of Children's Services in January 2023, iMPower noted there was opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of support provided by improving collaboration through increased system-wide multi-disciplinary ways of working.

Children's Services Transformation – Background

- We are committed to realising our ambitions to deliver good quality, effective services for children and young people.
- There is opportunity for whole system change and to redefine the support to children and families, including redeveloping our operating model to be more responsive to children's needs and move away from process-led referral pathways.
- Other Local Authorities have already moved to create multi-disciplinary locality-based services and are able to firmly evidence positive outcomes for their children and families, e.g. Hampshire, Wakefield.
- The move away from process-led referral pathways has been endorsed by the Government in their response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, '[Stable Homes, Built on Love](#)'.
- A strong Early Help strategy and partnership necessary to create change in the system and ensure families that do not require statutory intervention can be supported effectively within communities.
- Service transformation presents the opportunity to rebalance the skills and knowledge of the workforce equitably to ensure children and young people receive the right support from appropriately located and qualified practitioners that meets their needs.
- A locality-based model will in time create a whole-system approach with multi-agency professionals who understand the localised needs and pressures within their communities and effectively influence how the resources are used to positively impact outcomes for children and families in a joined-up way.

Key Principles for Transformation

Ensure that Children and Young People are at the centre of our thinking and decision-making.

Opportunity to innovate, appropriately address demand and respond to new and emerging threats.

Reduce hand off points, minimise assessments and enable the system to respond to changing risks.

Ensure there is alignment between services and seamless transition at all points of the child's journey.

Introduce and embed a clear practice model and methodology that is all about nurturing relationships with children and families.

Ensure that the most trusted lead professional is working with the child and family.

Support the continuous professional development of staff.

Multi-disciplinary locality-based teams working closer to the communities and supporting effective relationships with partner agencies to enable better outcomes for children.

Ensure there is a balanced system across preventative and statutory services.

Ensure families are supported to access effective early help services, reducing the need for more intrusive interventions.

Key Workstreams



The Front Door: To operate an effective and well resourced 'front door' for children and young people where agencies work effectively together to ensure children and young people get the right support at the right time.



Early Help: To have a strengthened and more consistent approach across the partnership that supports the early identification of, and response to, emerging problems that children, young people and their families face.



Development of Locality teams: To create locality based cohesive teams of multi-agency professionals enabling responsive services attuned to local need skilled at delivering a range of interventions to children, young people and families at the earliest stage.



Culture and Workforce: To attract, retain and develop a workforce that is skilled and motivated coupled with the development of a cultural framework and implementation of a clear practice methodology to improve outcomes for children and young people in Buckinghamshire.



Strategic Commissioning: To develop and deliver a Placement Sufficiency Strategy that accurately reflects the current position and clearly articulates the service's plans to increase the availability of provision for our children and young people that meet their needs and provides them with a safe place to live and thrive within Buckinghamshire.

Transformation Governance

- Children's Services Transformation Board established to oversee progress against transformation priorities.
- Introduction of an Early Help Partnership Board to engage key partners and the voluntary and community sector which is critical to shaping our model.
- Establishing a set of metrics to monitor the impact of change.
- Ensuring effective links with other service transformation activity across the Council.
- Regular updates on progress to Cabinet and the Children's and Education Select Committee as required.
- Dialogue at regular intervals with the Department for Education and Ofsted around Transformation Programme.

Development of the Front Door, Locality Teams and Family Hubs - Employee consultation

- Over recent months, the service has been developing a new operating model focused on ensuring children and young people benefit from integrated services and seamless transition at all points of their journey.
- Between 16 November 2023 and 15 December 2023, formal consultation with staff took place in relation to the front door, early help pathways, the initial child's journey and prevention of escalating need. The consultation involved employees within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, Family Support Service, Social Care Assessment and Help and Protection Teams.
- This consultation was the initial step in moving to a locality-based, whole-system way of working.
- Transformation at this stage centres on a strong Early Help Partnership to ensure families that do not require statutory intervention can be supported effectively within communities and the introduction of Locality Family Support Teams to ensure children and young people benefit from cohesive teams of skilled, multi-agency professionals provide responsive services attuned to local need skilled at delivering a range of interventions. In addition, work is underway to strengthen the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub as a single point of access for families seeking advice, support and guidance.
- The initial phase will be an alignment of internal services only, but the long-term aim is to secure a more integrated approach with other partner agencies and the voluntary and community sector to bolster the range of support available within a locality. It is anticipated that a fully embedded integrated model of practice will be achievable in time.
- Throughout the consultation period, staff groups engaged positively in the process providing valuable feedback and informing the final model of service delivery.
- The service will implement a new operating model from April 2024.

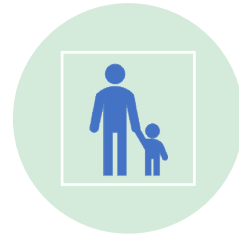
General consultation feedback

- HR related queries relating to individuals including grading, fixed term contract arrangements, redundancy, personal circumstances etc.
- A desire to understand in more detail the selected locality areas and what future working arrangements may look like.
- Questions regarding pay and grading and role evaluation.
- Queries around roles and responsibilities as set out within the proposed job descriptions.
- Queries around part time and flexible working arrangements as well as locality preferences.
- Clarification on the delivering of level 2 activity and Family Centre operations.
- Ideas and suggestions around system changes and changes to system pathways/practice standards.
- A desire to understand more in relation to demand management within a locality area.
- Reflections on the importance of maintaining consistent practice standards across locality teams and monitoring arrangements that reflect impact of changes for children and young people.
- Reflections on developing a 'one service' culture and practicalities of bringing together Early Help and Social Care services into an integrated arrangement.

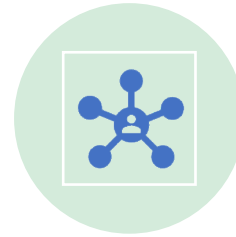
Locality Family Support Teams



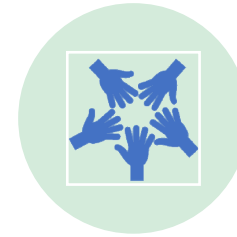
Small, cohesive **teams of skilled, multi-agency professionals** that are attuned to local need and deliver a range of interventions.



A **trusted lead professional** that works with the child and family to ensure the best possible offer of support at the right point in time.



Building of **strong collaboration with local partners**, (including the voluntary and community sector) that can target need variation through locality specific services.



Reduced hand-offs between teams that mean families don't need to continually repeat their stories.



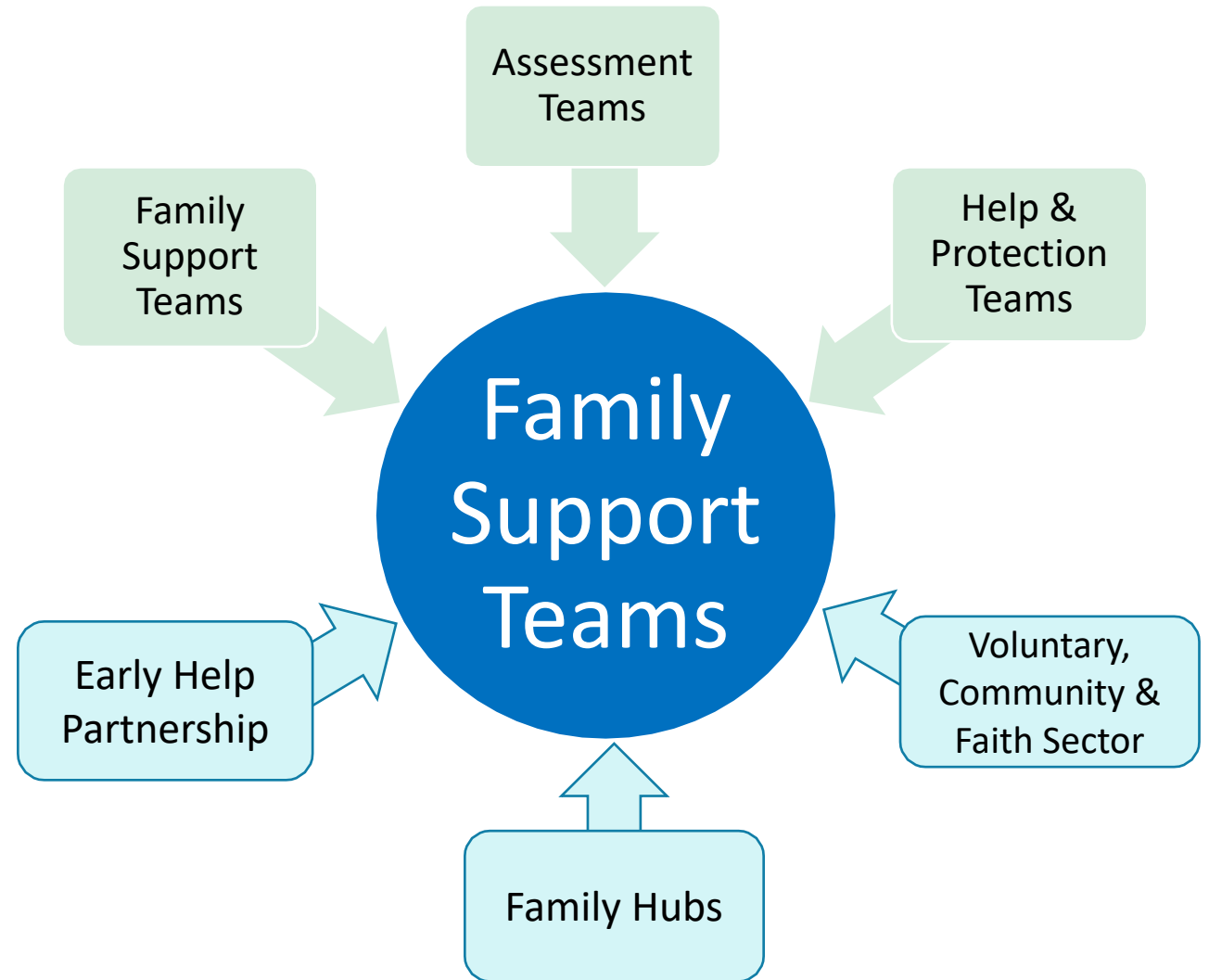
Sense of **one team, one service** leading to enhanced supervision, support and continuous development.

Locality Family Support Teams

The proposed Locality Family Support Team structure brings together the separately managed case holding practitioners within the Family Support Service, Social Care Assessment and Help and Protection teams into smaller integrated locality-based teams that will undertake child in need, child protection and family support work under a single management structure.

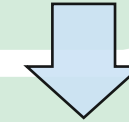
Page 30

The Family Hub structure will complement and support the Locality Family Support teams to ensure the seamless delivery of services to children, young people and families in need of additional support.

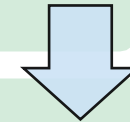


Family Hubs:

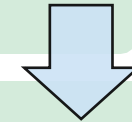
Drive the development of the Family Hub network across a range of agencies, including building partnership capacity, fully utilising community-based provision (including from the voluntary sector) to achieve minimum Family Hub expectations.



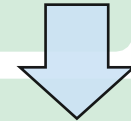
Coordinate and deliver activity within the Family Centre network and ensure provision meets the needs of the local community including the development of joint and partner-led community provision. This includes the delivery of Universal and Level 2 provision across Family Centres/Hubs.



Provide support and ongoing professional development and training to ensure high quality family work within the Council and across partner agencies and the VCS.



Provide advice and support to families on a wide range of issues at universal and level 2, as well as dovetailing into support provided by Locality Family Support teams.



Develop capacity and resilience in the community to enable local people to be able to support each other and resolve issues at the earliest stage with minimal intervention.

Next steps

- In the lead up to implementation of the new model in April 2024, work is underway to recruit to roles within the new structure and prepare the service for the change in delivery model.
- There is a need to allow time and space for the initial changes to embed and for new ways of working to develop.
- This period allows the time needed to develop the longer-term view of multi-agency locality working, including the contribution of partners, focusing on the impact on children and families and how practitioners from across the entirety of a children's services system can contribute to the refinement of the model.
- Conversations with key partners are underway to find synergies across transformational activity and explore opportunities to better align respective services.
- Other transformation activity across workstreams continues to progress change at pace including the development of the Early Help Partnership and focus on placement sufficiency for children in care.

Inquiry/Rapid Review Group Proposed Scope

Title	Review of School Attendance in Buckinghamshire
Select Committee Chairman	Cllr Julie Ward, Children’s and Education Select Committee
Scope reviewed and signed-off by	Kelly Sutherland, Scrutiny Manager
Author	Katie Dover, Senior Scrutiny Officer
Date	January 2024
What is the problem that is trying to be solved?	<p>Good school attendance rates have been shown to be key to children’s success at school. Evidence from the gov.uk website shows that primary school children who do <i>not</i> reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths miss on average an extra 4 days of school compared to those who did attend at better levels.</p> <p>Non-attendance has increased significantly following the covid pandemic from between 4 to 5% nationally pre pandemic to 7.6% in the academic year 2021-2022 and 7.3 % in the 2022-2023 academic year. The 2022-2023 figures include 1.56 million children who were persistently absent i.e. they missed at least 10% of their lessons. The statistics for children with SEND tend to be higher.</p> <p>The government guidance “Working Together to Improve School Attendance” published in May 2022 and applied from September 2022 gave details of the importance of high levels of school attendance, and the expectations now placed on both schools and local authorities to address the issue of low attendance. Research has shown that attendance clearly impacts on levels of attainment at key stages 2 and 4 with highest achievement levels found in the highest attendance groups. Dame Rachel De Souza, Children’s Commissioner for England has called for urgent action to address absenteeism.</p> <p>The Commission for Social Reform October 2023 noted that 1 in 3 children were absent from school in England each day during the 2022-2023 academic year.</p> <p>A House of Commons Inquiry noted that absence rates were higher for children with SEND.</p> <p>Statutory guidance documents are available on parental responsibility measures, children missing education, supporting pupils with medical conditions at school, suspensions and exclusions and alternative provision which all support the Government guidance regarding attendance.</p>

The guidance says that “the barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families. The foundation of securing good attendance is that school is a calm, orderly, safe, and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn.”

Securing good attendance is not an isolated issue, and effective practices for improvement will involve close interaction with schools’ efforts on curriculum, behaviour, bullying, special educational needs support, pastoral and mental health and wellbeing, and effective use of resources, including pupil premium.

Impact of Covid-19

There were many challenges for pupils following the covid pandemic which contributed to school absences, and contributing factors included anxiety issues, parents or pupils with specific health needs and the challenge of some pupils becoming disengaged from education during the pandemic. Views of parents of school sometimes played a role also. (Guardian article September 2023)

Impact of Increased child poverty

The Child Poverty Action Group gave evidence to the House of Commons Inquiry stating that often school policies made it too expensive for children of low-income families to attend classes due to issues such as cost of uniform, transport issues, punctuality policies not taking account of caring responsibilities and cost of special days e.g. dressing up.

The group noted that adverse childhood experiences such as mental illness, domestic violence, neglect, parental separation and verbal abuse could also contribute to poor school attendance as this may lead to poor self-esteem and lack of confidence in children and young people.

Local Context in Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire Council’s school attendance function is delivered through the County Attendance Team, part of the Education Entitlement Team. The team is a small countywide service established to meet the minimum duties required of local authorities under the previous school attendance framework.

Prior to the release of ‘Working together to improve school attendance’ the school attendance team in Buckinghamshire was already the smallest when comparing establishment FTE per 10,000 pupils across other local authorities in the south-east, resulting in a deficit starting position when responding to

	<p>the new burdens. Based on staffing estimates provided by local authorities in the south-east in July 2023 Buckinghamshire continues to have the smallest school attendance team in comparison with other areas.</p> <p>The DfE estimates in its new burdens assessment: School attendance, improving the consistency of support: new burdens assessment – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) that the average number of attendance staff required to resource the new local authority school attendance delivery model is 8 FTE or 1 FTE per 5,490 pupils. In Buckinghamshire we have 1 FTE County Attendance Officer per 39,432 pupils.</p> <p>These new burdens come unfunded. Senior officers continue to make representation to the DfE on behalf of Buckinghamshire and via the ADCS (Association of Directors of Childrens Services) group regarding the lack of funding from central government to deliver these additional duties.</p> <p>The DfE publishes national pupil absence statistics that come from the termly school census. There are 3 pupil absence releases: autumn term (published in May), combined autumn and spring term release (published in October) and full year (published in March).</p> <p>The Buckinghamshire schools' persistent absence rate (attendance 90% or below) for the 2022 autumn term was 23.4%. The figure for the South-East was 24.5% and for England 24.2%.</p> <p>The Buckinghamshire schools' persistent absence figure for the 2021/2022 academic year was 22.9%. The figure for the South-East was 22.0% and for England 22.5%.</p> <p>This shows a 12% increase in the persistent absentee rate in Buckinghamshire from the 2020/2021 academic year when it was 10.9%. (11.4% for the South-East and 12.1% for England). This is reflective of the increase nationally in non-attendance post-pandemic.</p>
<p>What might the Inquiry Achieve?</p>	<p>It is proposed to hold evidence gathering sessions between March and end of April which would conclude with recommendations being developed and reported to Cabinet and other key partners. The Select Committee will be receiving a report on Attendance Duties in March and evidence gathering for this review will commence thereafter.</p> <p>The in-depth review/ rapid review group would look to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the current picture of school attendance across Buckinghamshire including an analysis of school attendance data and trends for non-attendance in Buckinghamshire schools.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the impact of the Covid pandemic and other factors impacting on non-attendance in Buckinghamshire schools. • An independent and “critical friend” review of the issues surrounding the increase in non-attendance in Buckinghamshire • Explore the current school practices in Buckinghamshire (including interventions outlined in Working Together to Improve School Attendance), looking at variations in attendance across the county and how schools are employing different approaches to raise attendance levels • An understanding of the resources available in the Council’s school attendance team and how effectively they are drawing on other front line service teams to meet the requirements for local authorities in the government guidance • Collate examples of good practice from particular schools where attendance levels have increased above the national average since the pandemic and how these schools are applying the key areas of setting high expectations, communicating those expectations, challenging and supporting, having the appropriate staff in place and recording and analysing data accurately. • Overall aim – to Identify areas for development
Is the issue of significance to Buckinghamshire as a whole?	Yes – as outlined above
Is this topic within the remit of the Select Committee?	Yes – the Select Committee’s remit covers issues relating to Children’s Services.
What work is underway already on this issue?	<p>Enrolled in recent DfE facilitated peer-to-peer (other similar local authorities) action learning sets.</p> <p>Signed up to DfE Attendance Adviser support sessions which provide access to at least 3 days of free support over the next academic year. This includes a local authority self-assessment to review progress made in meeting the requirements of the new attendance guidance.</p> <p>A countywide communication campaign on the importance of good school attendance is at development stage.</p>
Are there any key changes that might impact on this issue?	<p>The COVID pandemic has and continues to impact the attendance of children and young people at school.</p> <p>An increase in pupils experiencing social, emotional or mental health issues that impact their attendance at school, also referred to as Emotional Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA).</p> <p>SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper.</p>
What are the key timing considerations?	Review to commence after the presentation of the report on new attendance duties at the March committee meeting.
Who are the key stakeholders & decision-makers?	<p>Cabinet Member for Education and Children’s Services</p> <p>Corporate Director for Children’s Services</p> <p>Service Director Education</p>

	Schools School age-pupils and their parents/ carers County Attendance Team Other Education Teams relevant to CME, EHE, EBSA, SEND
What is outside the scope?	School exclusions, NEET, EHE

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Select Committee Work Programmes 2023/24

Children's and Education Select Committee (Chairman: Cllr Julie Ward, Scrutiny officer: Katie Dover)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
15 th June	Children's Services 6 month Update	An Update report with specific focus on Children's Social Care reforms, SEND and Alternate Provision	John Macilwraith Richard Nash Simon James	John Macilwraith Richard Nash Simon James
	Children's Services Transformation	Overview and Case for change	John Macilwraith Errol Albert	John Macilwraith Errol Albert
	Review Group report on Pathways for Children with SEND and Disabilities	To receive the report of the review group and hear the Officers' response.	Katie Dover	Cllr Diana Blamires
	Children's & Education Select Committee Work Programme	To receive the draft work programme for the forthcoming year	Katie Dover	Cllr Julie Ward
7 th September	Placement Sufficiency Strategy	This strategy sets out a summary of the action we will be taking over to make sure that we can provide placements for all children who need care.	Richard Nash Sandra Carnall	Richard Nash Sandra Carnall
	Principal Social Worker Annual Report	To provide a progress report on the work during 2022/23 of the Principal Social Worker to	Richard Nash	Richard Nash

		promote and improve the quality of social work practice, highlight the achievements for this year and identify priorities for the coming year.		
	Update on Ofsted Work	Update on the outcome following the Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting	John Macilwraith	John Macilwraith
2 nd November	Bucks Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	This edition of the Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. It highlights the progress made during the last year against the BSCP's priorities as well as setting out future plans	Walter Mcculloch Joanne Stephenson	Walter Mcculloch
	SEND Improvement Programme follow up paper	To update the Committee on progress made with regards to the SEND Improvement programme	Cate Duffy Caroline Marriott Lucy Pike	Cate Duffy Caroline Marriott Lucy Pike
	Schools Ofsted Inspection Outcomes for Academic Year 2022-2023	To update the committee on Ofsted inspection outcomes for the academic year ending 2022-2023	Cate Duffy Gareth Drawmer	Cate Duffy Gareth Drawmer
25 th January	Youth Offending Team	Progress update one year on from YOS inspection	John Macilwraith Aman Sekhon-Gill	John Macilwraith Aman Sekhon-Gill
	Children's Services Transformation	To update the committee on the progress to date of the transformation programme	John Macilwraith Errol Albert	Errol Albert
	Scoping Document for the	For the committee to confirm	Katie Dover	Julie Ward

	Review of School Attendance	the scope of the review	Gareth Drawmer	
7 th March	Pathways to SEND services	To provide a 6 month update on the progress against the recommendations within the Pathways to SEND review group report	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer
	New attendance duties	To provide the committee with an update on the new attendance duties and the implications for Buckinghamshire.	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer	Gareth Drawmer
	Education Standards Paper	To share with the committee the latest educational outcomes achieved by the children and young people of Buckinghamshire.	Cate Duffy Gareth Drawmer	Cate Duffy Gareth Drawmer

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