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Agenda for a meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday, 29 June 2022 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Committee – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Alipoor Humphreys Berry Shafiq Thirkill	Winnard Pollard	J Sunderland	Sajawal

Alternates:

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Mukhtar H Khan Walsh Parsan	K Green Felstead	B Stubbs	Elahi

Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
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- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

From:

Bryn Roberts
Interim City Solicitor
Agenda Contact: Jill Bell/Kanwal Amrez
Phone: 07970 413716/07929 070288
E-Mail: jill.bell@bradford.gov.uk/kanwal.amrez@bradford.gov.uk

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

The City Solicitor will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct - Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an interest which the Member feels would call into question their compliance with the wider principles set out in the Code of Conduct. Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (2) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (3) Members are also welcome to disclose interests which are not disclosable pecuniary interests but which they consider should be made in the interest of clarity.*
- (4) Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

3. MINUTES

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 23 March 2022 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Jill Bell/Kawal Amrez – 07970 413716/07929 070288)

4. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Jill Bell/Kanwal Amrez – 07970 413716/07929 070288)

5. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The following referrals have been made to this Committee up to and including the date of publication of this agenda.

The Committee is asked to note the referrals listed above and decide how it wishes to proceed, for example by incorporating the item into the work programme, requesting that it be subject to more detailed examination, or refer it to an appropriate Working Group/Committee.

6. APPOINTMENT OF NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Committee is asked to confirm and recommend to Council the appointment of the following non-voting co-opted representatives for the 2022/2023 municipal year:

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Teachers Secondary School Representative: Tom Bright
Children's Social Care – Dr Samina Karim

(Jill Bell/Kanwal Amrez – 0970 413716/07929 070288)

B. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES

7. NATIONAL REVIEW INTO THE MURDERS OF ARTHUR LABINJO-HUGHES AND STAR HOBSON 1 - 10

Following the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes in Solihull in June 2020, Star Hobson in Keighley, Bradford in September 2020, and the subsequent two murder trials and convictions in December 2021 of their parents and partners, a national review of learning from the two cases was initiated.

The review was undertaken by the national independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. This panel commissions reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, focusing on improving learning, professional practice and outcomes for children, based on the possibility of identifying improvements from cases that it views as complex or of national importance.

The review's primary focus was to try and understand how and why public services and systems designed to protect children were not able to do so. The review looked in detail at service responses to the two children's experiences, to make sense of what can be learned and must do differently in the future locally and nationally. The review, published on the 26th of May 2022 has six local and eight national recommendations. The Overview and Scrutiny report (**Document "A"**) focuses primarily on the national and local recommendations in respect of Star Hobson.

Recommended -

That the Overview and Scrutiny committee commit to working closely with partners to deliver on the recommendations within the developmental action plan and progressing the extensive wider work presently on going in Bradford.

(Darren Minton 01274 434361)

8. CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23 11 - 30

The report of the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (**Document "B"**) presents the Committee's Draft Work Programme 2022-23.

Recommended-

(1) That members consider and comment on the areas of work included in the work programme.

(2) That members consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that they may wish to conduct.

(Mustansir Butt – 01274 432574)



Report of the Chief Executive Office to the meeting of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 29th June 2022

Subject: National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson

Summary statement:

A

Following the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes in Solihull in June 2020, Star Hobson in Keighley, Bradford in September 2020, and the subsequent two murder trials and convictions in December 2021 of their parents and partners, a national review of learning from the two cases was initiated.

The review was undertaken by the national independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. This panel commissions reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, focusing on improving learning, professional practice and outcomes for children, based on the possibility of identifying improvements from cases that it views as complex or of national importance.

The review's primary focus was to try and understand how and why public services and systems designed to protect children were not able to do so. The review looked in detail at service responses to the two children's experiences, to make sense of what can be learned and must do differently in the future locally and nationally. The review, published on the 26th of May 2022 has six local and eight national recommendations. This Overview and Scrutiny report focuses primarily on the national and local recommendations in respect of Star Hobson.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

This case highlights the role of hidden partners and in particular women in perpetrating crimes against children.

Kersten England
Chief Executive

Portfolio:

Children and Families

Report Contact: Darren Minton
Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager
/ Janice Hawkes – Independent Scrutineer –
The Bradford Partnership
Phone: (01274) 434361
E-mail: darren.minton@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes in Solihull in June 2020, Star Hobson in Keighley, Bradford in September 2020, and the subsequent two murder trials and convictions in December 2021 of their parents and partners, a national review of learning from the two cases was initiated.
- 1.2 The review was undertaken by the national independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel). The Panel are an independent panel that commissions reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, focusing on improving learning, professional practice and outcomes for children. Their purpose is to oversee the identification of learning from cases that it views as complex or of national importance.
- 1.3 The Panel is appointed by the Secretary of State for Education but is independent from Government. The Panel has experienced members representing the Statutory partners of Social Care, Police Criminal Justice, and Health who are supported by other experts.
- 1.4 The review's primary focus was to try and understand how and why public services and systems designed to protect children were not able to do so in these two cases. The review looked in detail at service responses to the two children's experiences and to make sense of what can be learned and must do differently in the future locally and nationally.
- 1.5 The review has six local recommendations in respect of Star Hobson and eight national recommendations all of which are detailed in full in the report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The issues that emerge in both these cases are distressing to read and in particular demonstrate that significant learning was needed, and that both children had not been kept safe.
- 2.2 It is important to remember that Star was killed by the people who should have been there to protect her. Savannah Brockhill was convicted of the murder of Star Hobson and jailed for a minimum of 25 years.
- 2.3 Frankie Smith, the mother of Star Hobson was found guilty of allowing or causing the death of Star. She was sentenced to eight years in prison, which was increased to 12 years after being referred to the Court of Appeal by the Attorney General for being "unduly lenient."
- 2.4 **Methodology:**
The methodology used by the Panel in determining this review was not to undertake two individual child safeguarding practice reviews in relation to Arthur and Star, but to apply learning from the deaths of these two children to the national system.
- 2.5 The Panel's key working principles were to draw on its independent national role to analyse robustly and objectively the effectiveness and quality of safeguarding systems, processes, policy and professional behaviours.
- 2.6 Recommendations are evidence based and drawing upon Panel experience and research.
- 2.7 The Panel engaged key organisations and representative bodies at relevant points of review. This included appropriate engagement with the Independent Review of Children's Social Care (MacAlister Review) which was published on Monday 23rd May 2022

2.8 **National Learning:**

In analysing what happened to Arthur and Star, and how agencies responded, the Panel identified a set of issues which hindered professionals understanding of what was happening to both children.

2.9 The review acknowledges that these issues are not uncommon and have been identified from the analysis of Serious Case Reviews and other thematic practices review including all previous inquiries into child deaths.

2.10 There are eight national recommendations. These recommendations are set out in full in the review but can broadly be grouped into key areas of action.

- Weakness in information sharing and seeking
- A lack of robust critical thinking and challenge within agencies
- A need for sharper specialist child protection skills and expertise, especially in relation to complex risk assessment and decision making; engaging reluctant parents; understanding the daily life of children; and domestic abuse
- Underpinning all of the above a need for leadership and management which has a powerful enabling impact on child protection

2.11 **Learning from the death of Star**

The review identifies 6 key practice episodes where professionals were directly involved with Star and her family which affected outcomes for her.

These were

- Identifying risk in pre-birth and post birth period
- Referral from domestic abuse services
- Concerns about Savannah Hill's care of Star and domestic abuse of Frankie Smith
- Bruises of Star and child protection medicals
- Repeated Concerns about Star from friends and family
- Submission of Video material of Star with bruises

2.12 **Recommendations to Bradford**

The review sets out six key recommendations for the partnership in Bradford.

1. To review strategic and operational responsibilities as recommended nationally by this review, including making sure that there is a good understanding of learning from the review, good oversight of performance and that priorities are agreed, and funding is fair and equitable.
2. To review, develop, commission and resource a comprehensive, early help offer which can be accessed before/during and after the completion of any child and family assessment by children's social care. This offer should include:
 - A review of the Partnership's Pre-Birth Procedures
 - Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that ante natal health visiting is offered and priority is given to first time parents.
 - Teenage pregnancy support going beyond the age of 16
 - Develop the role of the Care Leaving services to ensure that it supports care leavers who become parents.
 - A whole family approach where the wider extended family and neighbourhood networks are involved in providing support to vulnerable young parents

3. To agree clear expectations regarding risk assessment and decision making and these are understood by all agencies. Partners should work with CSC to ensure that:
 - Decisions not to proceed following a referral are based on a review of previous history, background checks and a chronology of prior concerns
 - No referral is deemed malicious without a full and thorough multi-agency assessment, including talking with the referrer, and agreement with the appropriate manager
 - All staff are compliant with information sharing protocols
 - Risk assessments are always informed by multi-agency information gathering which includes listening to family and friends and an assessment that goes beyond self-reporting
 - Supervision is always used to test assumptions and alternative hypotheses

4. To jointly review and commission domestic abuse services to guide the response of practitioners and ensure there is a robust understanding of what the domestic abuse support offer is in Bradford. This should lead towards a coordinated community response by providing a bridge between services. Immediate action should be taken to provide multi-agency practitioners with guidance and/or training, supported within supervision, to enquire about domestic violence in mixed and same sex relationships, to develop safety plans for victims and their children and support perpetrator interventions. This should include that routine enquiry about domestic abuse is embedded in professional practice of midwifery and health visitor services.

5. To ensure that all practitioners understand their role when considering allegations of bruising including consideration of images which appear to show bruising. This should include:
 - convening a strategy discussion with relevant agencies, both in and outside working hours
 - an assumption that a medical will be required and recording the rationale for any decision not to arrange a Child Protection Medical where there are allegations of bruising or other concerning external injury. The absence of visible marks should NOT be a reason, without consultation with a Paediatrician
 - discussion with the on-call Paediatrician with respect to arranging a Child Protection Medical Assessment
 - ensuring that all relevant information on the child and family is available at the time of this assessment
 - the medical assessment should be done in accordance with RCPCH's standards for such assessments, and such assessments subjected to peer review
 - providing social workers with relevant knowledge about bruising to children, so that they are alert to situations which require follow up, including discussion with medical practitioners.

6. To review information sharing protocols to ensure that practitioners have an accurate understanding what data is available what information must be shared. This review should pay attention to whether sufficient information is available to the emergency duty service.

2.13 National Recommendations

The review also identified eight national recommendations which are being shared for action with all local authorities

1. A new expert-led, multi-agency model for child protection investigation, planning, intervention, and review.

2. Establishing National Multi-Agency Practice Standards for Child Protection.
3. Strengthening the local Safeguarding Partners to ensure proper co-ordination and involvement of all agencies.
4. Changes to multi-agency inspection to better understand local performance and drive improvement.
5. A new role for the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in driving practice improvement in Safeguarding Partners.
6. A sharper performance focus and better co-ordination of child protection policy in central Government.
7. Using the potential of data to help professionals protect children.
8. Specific practice improvements in relation to domestic abuse

2.14 Action in Bradford

Action has already been taken by the partners in Bradford to address issues identified in relation to the death of Star Hobson. These are set out below. The Partnership are working at pace to develop and update the action plan to include the full set of recommendations from the national panel.

2.15 Partnership actions already undertaken.

- 2.16 Since the criminal trial and the Children's Commissioners report, Children Services, West Yorkshire Police and Health Care services have taken action to respond to recommendations and to provide for the wellbeing and safety children in Bradford.
- 2.17 Bradford is working alongside the Government appointed Children's Commissioner to make significant changes in how social workers work in the district. Bradford is in the process of setting up a Children's Trust which will deliver further changes needed to make at pace to make sure children in our district are safe.
- 2.18 The Safeguarding Partnership, the Children's Commissioner and Chair of the improvement board are reviewing arrangements including governance and performance to ensure actions are taken and that agencies are held to account.
- 2.19 Development of Bradford's Early Help Offer has been accelerated and training has been delivered to frontline practitioners. Five locality based Early Help Hubs in which statutory partners and commissioned services will be co-located with a specific remit of ensuring a safety net of early interventions is in place
- 2.20 Focussed work is underway to revise protocols and train staff in relation to assessing risk, sharing information and provide quality supervision of social workers. Review and action is being taken on all statutory multi-agency processes used to keep children safe including child protection medicals, strategy discussions and Section 47 enquiries.
- 2.21 Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust (BDCFT) and Airedale NHS Foundation Trust (ANHSFT) have introduced new process, guidance and training for Pre-birth, maternity and antenatal safeguarding. This includes ensuring that the offer of Early Help assessment is considered at any stage in pregnancy and that routine enquiry in relation to domestic abuse is embedded. Alongside this, additional bespoke training is being developed for General Practitioners.
- 2.22 All agencies are progressing training for staff in relation to disguised compliance and professional curiosity. The programme includes mandatory training for all children's social care staff.

- 2.23 Systems, process and training have been reviewed and refreshed by CSC to ensure all agency staff can complete chronologies or prior concerns.
- 2.24 Specific training has been delivered to the CSC and Health care staff on coercive and controlling behaviours in relationships and the impact on children learning, hidden partners and diversity.
- 2.25 Within CSC guidance has been provided to all managers about the oversight of key points in a child's journey and an audit is being used to focus on improvement.
- 2.26 West Yorkshire Police has undertaken a review of Safeguarding and is in the process of delivering the key recommendations. This includes uplifting resources within the Safeguarding Units and taking action around training and accreditation.
- 2.27 New referrals processes adopted by Bradford Police in February 2022 are live across the other four policing areas (Calderdale, Leeds, Kirklees & Wakefield) in respect of child protection.
- 2.28 West Yorkshire Police have introduced a Neglect toolkit which can be drawn upon by practitioners from all agencies to identify and effectively respond to cases of neglect.
- 2.29 West Yorkshire Police Safeguarding specialist functions has increased the implementation of Digital Media Investigators. Digital media was a significant source of information during the investigation of Star's murder.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 There are no other considerations.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Additional investments have been agreed for Children's Services.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 The protection of Children is the highest priority for the Council and its partners when considering the implications of abuse, as is the provision of services to support those who are victims of this abuse. Failure to protect and provide appropriate services significantly increases the risk to children in the district. It would lead to significantly reduced public confidence in Bradford Council, West Yorkshire Police, the Health economy and other partners, as has been demonstrated nationally.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report, in that it does not impose any additional legal duties or obligations on the Council. Rather, it provides recommendations for improvement of services, many of which have either already been adopted by agencies, or which will be incorporated into the future working practices of those agencies in the exercise of their statutory duties.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

7.12 None

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.31 Community concern in relation to the death of Star has been significant.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.41 Sexual and Criminal Exploitation is a violation of the rights of the child/adult under the Human Rights Act. The multi-agency partnership arrangements are intended to prevent the rights of the child/adult being violated in this way

7.5 TRADE UNION

None

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

None

**7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

N/A

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.81 The recommendations of this review all relate to children and young people and will be actioned at pace as part of a revised action plan. This review will be shared with the Corporate Parenting Panel, who will look at the implications of the recommendations in relation to children who are looked after. This will include looking in detail at the recommendations about care leavers and pregnancy pathways for teen parents.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

7.10 The nature of child protection work requires partners to manage confidential matters and data under GDPR regulations in accordance with individual agency guidelines. There is no sensitive data included in this report that requires a Privacy Impact Assessment None.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

9.1 None

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Overview and Scrutiny committee commit to working closely with partners to deliver on the recommendations within the developmental action plan and progressing the extensive wider work presently on going in Bradford

11. APPENDICES

A) The National Panel Review

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1078488/ALH_SH_National_Review_26-5-22.pdf

B) Summary of Bradford Conclusions

Bradford Conclusions

1. Professionals had only a limited understanding of what daily life was like for Star, beyond a superficial assessment from “one off” visits, which did not build on any historic information known by each agency. Star experienced a high level of disruption due to constant moves throughout her short life. No professionals understood this. The fact that she may have been experiencing serious and systematic physical and emotional abuse was never really considered and addressed.
2. Decision making in the Integrated Front Door reflected management priorities to respond to a high volume of referrals and ensure throughput of cases. This resulted in minimal information gathering, including checking background information. Referrals about Star that would have benefited from a fuller assessment were not recognised.
3. Assessments did not explore the family context and interaction between family members, most specifically in relation to concerns raised about how Star was being treated. This meant professionals did not understand referrals from family members in context and dismissed them too readily.
4. Star’s wider family members were not listened to. The growing weight of concerned voices speaking on behalf of Star should have prompted professionals to reconsider the escalating risks to her. Framing family concerns as being ‘malicious’ was inappropriate and distracted professional attention from what might be happening to Star. The positive contribution that maternal great grandmother made to Star’s care was not fully recognised or understood.
5. Domestic abuse between Savannah and Frankie was cited by referrers to children’s social care in January and May 2020 but this was not assessed in the respective single agency assessments. Witness statements from family members and family associates to the police have attested to Savannah’s coercive, threatening, aggressive, ‘grooming’ and sometimes violent behaviour towards Frankie, but no professional understood this. Frankie was not given sufficient space to disclose what was happening to her.
6. Assessments within children’s social care were not fit for purpose and did not enable the identification of risks to Star and a plan for mitigating those risks. The practice framework underpinned by the Signs of Safety methodology was reduced in practice to the use of a formulaic list and rating scale and did not lead to a better understanding of risks and protective factors for Star. Assessments needed to move beyond superficial judgements and imprecise language, to the position where all available information was used, triangulated and analysed in order to understand what was happening to Star.
7. The responses to the referrals with concerns about Star were significantly weakened by the lack of formal multi-agency child protection processes, especially strategy discussions and consideration of whether Section 47 enquiries should be initiated. This was particularly the case when there were allegations about bruising to Star. Robust strategy discussions would have allowed professionals to put all of the evidence together, interrogate it, challenge each other’s perspectives, and agree a coordinated and strong response.

8. In 2020, Bradford children's social care service was a service in turmoil, where professionals were working in conditions that made high quality decision making very difficult to achieve. An overwhelming impression from our interviews with children's social care managers and practitioners was that this had been their experience.
9. The decision by the Secretary of State for Education on 25th January 2022 to place children's social care in Bradford into a not-for-profit trust, following a report from the Children's Services Commissioner, highlighted the scale and depth of systemic problems in Children's Services in Bradford which, in our view, had a substantive and material impact on the quality of practice and decision making about Star.
10. The volume of work and significant problems with workforce stability and experience, at every level, meant assessments and work with Star and her family were too superficial and did not rigorously address the repeated concerns expressed by different family members. These problems were compounded by weaknesses in multi-agency working. Taken together, these factors had a significant impact on the professional judgements made about Star's safety and well-being at several very critical moments; resulting in professionals not knowing about or addressing the harm she was suffering.
11. There were undoubtedly multiple fault lines in multi and individual agency practice arrangements in Bradford in 2020, some of which are unique to that area. These contributed to the practice issues identified by this review. However, the review illustrates many of these fault lines have been identified in other situations and in other places.



Report of the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 29 June 2022

Subject:

B

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee – DRAFT Work Programme 2022/23

Summary statement:

This report includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee DRAFT work programme for 2022/23.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Community Cohesion and Equalities related issues are part of the work remit for this Committee.

Clr Geoff Winnard
Chair – Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Portfolio:

Children and Families

Report Contact: Mustansir Butt
Overview and Scrutiny Lead
Phone: (01274) 432574
E-mail: mustansir.butt@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report includes the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft work programme for 2022/23, which is attached as appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 Also attached as appendix 2 to this report is a list of unscheduled topics for 2022/23.
- 1.3 Appendix 3 is resolution tracking, which indicates the recommendations that the Committee made in 2022/23 and the progress against those recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to produce a work programme.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for "the strategies, plans, policies, functions and services directly relevant to the corporate priority about services to children and young people." (Council Constitution, Part 2, 6.3.1).
- 3.2 Best practice published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests that "work programming should be a continuous process". It is important to review work programmes, so that important or urgent issues that arise during the year are able to be scrutinised. Furthermore, at a time of limited resources, it should also be possible to remove areas of work which have become less relevant or timely. For this reason, it is proposed that the Committee's work programme be regularly reviewed by members of the committee throughout the municipal year.
- 3.3 The work programme as agreed by the Committee will form the basis for the Committee's work during the year, but will be amended as issues arise during the year.
- 3.4 This Committee has agreed to undertake a programme of detailed scrutiny reviews, with the Committee already having started the Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review. The other scrutiny reviews include:
 - Looked after Children.
 - Children's Homes.
 - Fostering.
 - Children's Mental Health.
 - Recruitment and retention of Social Workers.
 - SEND, (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).
 - YOT, (Youth Offending Team).
- 3.5 At its meeting on Tuesday 15 March 2022, the Executive, during their discussions relating to supporting children and their families to thrive post pandemic, recommended that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertake a scrutiny review into Child Poverty across the District.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 None.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 None.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 None.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

7.5 TRADE UNION

None.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Work of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee has ward implications, but this depends on that nature of the topic.

7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

This will be a key area of work for the Committee.

7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 The Committee may choose to add to or amend the topics included in the 2022-23 work programme for the committee.
- 9.2 Members may wish to consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that it may wish to conduct.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That members consider and comment on the areas of work included in the work programme.
- 10.2 That members consider any detailed scrutiny reviews that they may wish to conduct.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix One – 2022-23 DRAFT Work Programme for the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Appendix Two – Unscheduled Topics.

Appendix Three – Resolution Tracking.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Council Constitution.

2021-22 Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 29th June 2022 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 09/06/22. Report deadline 16/06/22.			
1) Serious Case Review Findings.	Representatives from Bradford Council, the Police and Health to be in attendance.	Darren Minton.	Request from Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee members.
2) Draft 2022-23 Work Programme.	The proposed areas of work to be considered in this municipal year.	Mustansir Butt.	Includes recommendations that the Committee made in the last municipal year.
Wednesday, 13th July 2022 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 22/06/22. Report deadline 30/06/22.			
1) Transition to the Bradford Children's Company.		Steve Walker/Eleanor Brazil.	Member request.
2) Work Programme.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 28th September 2022 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 07/09/22. Report deadline 15/09/22.			
1) Review into the existing CSE and development of the Multi-Agency Exploitation Hub.		Darren Minton.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 December 2021.
2) Monitoring of the Children's Services Improvement Plan.	Focusing specifically on Priority 2 of the plan - Caseloads across all	Marium Haque.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 23 March 2022.

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 28th September 2022 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 07/09/22. Report deadline 15/09/22.			
3) Youth Offending Team.	<p>Focusing on the Next Steps, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Improving participation with young people and families to understand their experiences of the services they have received;- Starting to address themes that arise from the audit feedback;- Using data to drive the service and its impact;- Continued Thematic Inspection reports within the service;- Embedding the pathfinder model to focus on prevention;- Continuing to improve quality and embed the audit process.		Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 December 2021.
4) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 12th October 2022 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 21/09/22. Report deadline 29/09/22.			
1) Monitoring the Children's Services Improvement Plan.		Marium Haque.	
2) Findings from the review into children's health assessments caseloads.		Philip Segurola.	
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 30th November 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 09/11/22. Report deadline 17/11/22.			
1) Mental Health Issues relating to Children's Social Care.	Report to include the targetting of improved timelines of autism assessments and diagnosis.		Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 17 November 2021.
2) Troubled Families Programme. Overview & Scrutiny	Focusing on key outcomes delivered by the programme and exploring more approaches, to ensure the sustainable approaches to the continuation of the continuity of the programme, if it were not to be funded beyond the currently known three-year period, 2022-25.	Mustansir Butt.	Chad Thompson. Children's Services Committee recommendation from options for more sustainable
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 14th December 2022 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 23/11/22. Report deadline 01/12/22.			
1) Exploitation Annual Report.		Darren Minton.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 December 2021.
2) Annual Looked after Children.		Philip Segurola.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 15 December 2021.
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 18th January 2023 at City Hall, Bradford.			
Chair's briefing 21/12/22. Report deadline 05/01/23.			
1) Monitoring the Children's Services Improvement Plan.		Marium Haque.	

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 18th January 2023 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 21/12/22. Report deadline 05/01/23. 2) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
Wednesday, 1st February 2023 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 11/01/23. Report deadline 19/01/23. 1) Raising Attainment Strategy.	demonstrates key outcomes, with Emphasis on key outcomes, with particular emphasis on	Marium Haque/Sue Lowndes.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from the delivery of Wednesday 9th February
2022. 2) Educational Standards - Early Years to Key Stage 4. from March 2022.	the Raising Attainment Strategy. To focus on: - Approaches being used to improve educational attainment across the District.	Marium Haque/Sue	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Lowndes. Committee recommendation - More up-to-date data; Wednesday 9th
3) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	
3) Opportunity Funding.		Kathryn Loftus	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 9th March 2022.
4) Audit findings relating to the quality of Social Work Practice.	To focus on areas that require actions being taken to address the areas of practice that currently, most often are shown to require improvement or are inadequate.	David Jonhstone.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 9th February 2022.

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Mustansir Butt tel - 43 2574

Work Programme

Agenda Items	Description	Report Author	Comments
Wednesday, 15th March 2023 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 22/02/23. Report deadline 02/03/23.			
1) Workforce Development - Children's Services. Services Overview & Scrutiny	To focus specifically focus on: effectiveness of the new recruitment campaign; - Retention of staff; - Progress on training and growing our own staff; - The exact breakdown of workforce establishment for social workers and the level of vacancies at each grade	-The	Marium Haque/Anne Children's Lloyd. Committee recommendation Wednesday 9th February 2022.
from			
2) Sufficiency Strategy, to also include In-house Fostering Service and Adoptions.		Philip Segurola.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 9 March 2022.
3) Young Carers.	To also include measures of performance and details of outcomes and improvements delivered.	Cath Dew.	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation from Wednesday 23rd March 2022
4) Work Planning.	There is a need to regularly review the work programme, in order to prioritise and manage the work.	Mustansir Butt.	

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Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

Scrutiny Committees Forward Plan

Unscheduled Items

Childrens Services O&S Committee

Agenda item	Item description	Author	Comments
1 Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny - Programme of Scrutiny Reviews.	That a programme of Scrutiny Reviews be undertaken across key areas within Children's Services which include: (a) Alternative School Provision, (including Home Schooled Children). (b) Looked after Children. Children's Homes. (d)Fostering. (e)Children's Mental Health. (f)Recruitment and retention of Social Workers. (g)SEND, (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). (h)YOT, (Youth Offending Team).	Mustansir Butt.	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny recommendation from Wednesday 9 October 2019.
2 Scutiny review of Child Poverty.		Mustansir Butt.	Council resolution from its meeting on Tuesday 15 March 2022, during their discssions relating to sporting children and families to thrive post pandemic.
3 Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review.		Mustansir Butt.	
4 OFSTED Inspection of SEND.		Marium Haque.	Member Request.

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Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

Report of All Outcomes for Childrens Services O&S Committee - 2021/22

Agenda item	Resolution	Outcome
Meeting date: Thursday, 29th July 2021 in City Hall, Bradford		
1 Ofsted inspection of LACS - Improvement	1 The Committee considered the OFSTED monitoring letter and requests that an update on progress be brought back to this Committee, together with an updated Vital Signs report at the meeting on Wednesday 22 September 2021; as it is clear that the pace of improvement is still unsatisfactory.	Ongoing.
	2 The Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee has examined this report in the context of serious shortcomings, both historic and relatively recent, as highlighted in the Child Sexual Exploitation Thematic Child Safeguarding Practice Review. Therefore, the necessity for driving the pace of improvement as a matter of the highest corporate priority, is clear.	Ongoing.
2 Work Planning.	1 The Committee discussed and agreed the 2021-22 work programme and recommended that the following topics also be included in the work programme: - Valley View Home Closure; - Child Sexual Exploitation Child Thematic Safeguarding Practice Review; - Private Fostering; - Better Start Bradford.	Amendments to work programme and to continually
Meeting date: Wednesday, 22nd September 2021 in City Hall, Bradford		
1 Children's Services Improvement Journey.	1 This Committee requests that an informal and remote session be arranged with the Commissioner and members of this Committee at a date and time to be decided, to discuss the remit of the work to be undertaken and any key findings to date.	Arranging informal session with the Commissioner and committee members, to discuss areas of work.
	2 This Committee requests that the Improvement Plan be presented to the Committee, at its meeting on Wednesday 17 November 2021.	Consideration of Improvement Plan.
	3 That the Annual Report for Looked After Children, be presented to this Committee, at its meeting on Wednesday 17 November 2021.	Scrutiny of the Annual Report for Looked After Children.

Report of All Outcomes for Childrens Services O&S Committee - 2021/22 (continued)

Agenda item	Resolution	Outcome
2 Workforce development aspect of the Children's Services Improvement	1 This Committee requests that a more detailed report be presented in six months, which also specifically focuses on the activities being undertaken and the progress being made on increasing the number of salaried employees and reducing the number of agency workers.	For a more detailed report to be presneted which, focuses on the key areas as set-out by members of the Committee.
3 School organisation including, school expansion programme, education capital funding and academy conversations.	1 This Committee requests that in future, annual electronic updates be provided to the Committee, with members having the option to discuss this formally if	Annual electronic updates to the Committee.
4 Work Planning.	1 The Committee discussed and amended the 2021-22 work programme.	Ammendments made to the work programme.

Meeting date: Wednesday, 6th October 2021 in City Hall, Bradford

1 Child Sexual Exploitation Child Thematic Safeguarding Practice Review.	1 This Committee requests that a report be presented in December 2022 that focuses on the: - Work undertaken to date; - Progress against the review recommendations.	Further overview of work undertaken and progress againstthe review recommendations.
	2 That a Cross-Party Working Group be set-up from within this Committee to review the evidence against the actions that have been completed.	Formation of cross-party working group.
2 Valley View Home Closure/Bradfords Care Homes.	1 This Committee requests that the actions being taken to improve the Children's Residential Homes, be presented to this Committee, as soon as possible.	Scrutiny of actions being taken to improve Children's Residential Homes.
	2 That the findings from the external review of the quality of provision across each of the Children's homes be presented to this Committee in January 2022.	Consideration of external review of the quality of provision.
3 Work Planning.	1 The Committee discussed and amended the 2021-22 work programme.	Members ammended the work programme.

Meeting date: Wednesday, 17th November 2021 in City Hall, Bradford

1 Troubled Families Programme.	1 This Committee welcomes the progress made in 2021-22 and requests that a progress update be provided to this Committee in 12 months' time; to also focus on key outcomes delivered by the programme.	Further progress update.
	2 This Committee requests that officers explore more sustainable approaches to the continuation of the programme, if it were not to be funded beyond the currently known three-year period, 2022-25.	Options for more sustainable approaches, to ensure th continuity of the programme.

Report of All Outcomes for Childrens Services O&S Committee - 2021/22 (continued)

Agenda item	Resolution	Outcome
2 Mental Health issues relating to Children's Social Care.	1 The Committee notes the progress of the Crisis Protocol work as part of the Act as One Children and Young People's Wellbeing programme.	Consideration of work undertaken to date.
	2 The Committee requests that relevant Bradford Metropolitan District Council Officers have an early sight of the business case for proposed joint commission of a local alternative to hospital for children and young people in crisis.	Circulation of business case.
	3 The Committee requests that a report illustrating the targeting of improved timeliness of autism assessments and diagnosis be brought before it by Autumn 2022.	Overview of the targeting of improved timeliness of autism assessments.
3 Work Planning.	1 Members discussed and amended the 2021-22 work programme for the Committee.	Review of the work programme.
Meeting date: Wednesday, 15th December 2021 in City Hall, Bradford		
1 Improvement Plan.	1 The Committee requests that the Outcomes Improvement Plan also contains within it, an outcomes	Plan to focus on outcomes.
	2 For the Committee to keep and overview of the revised Outcomes Improvement Plan and at its meeting on Wednesday 23 March 2022, members request a report which specifically focuses on one aspect of the priority area in the Outcomes Improvement Plan; with that priority area being children and young people recognising Bradford Council as good Corporate Parents.	To keep and overview.
2 Exploitation Annual Report.	1 The Committee would like to thank officers for their attendance.	Acknowledgement of work undertaken.
	2 This Committee requests that a progress report be presented in 12 months.	Further progress on work undertaken.
	3 This Committee requests the review into existing CSE services and development of the Multi-Agency Exploitation Hub, be presented to this Committee in the new Municipal Year.	Scrutiny of review into CSE services and the development of the Multi-Agencu Exploitation Hub.
3 Annual Report for Looked After Children.	1 The Committee would like to thank officers for their attendance and contributions.	Acknowledgement of work undertaken.
	2 This Committee requests that a report be presented in 12 months.	Further progress update.

Report of All Outcomes for Childrens Services O&S Committee - 2021/22 (continued)

Agenda item	Resolution	Outcome
3 Annual Report for Looked After Children.	3 That more up-to-date statistics in relation to the timeliness of Children's Health Assessments, be circulated to members of this Committee in three 4 This Committee requests that the findings from the review into children's health assessment caseloads be presented to the Committee, in the new municipal year.	Consideration of children's health assessmnets statistics. Findings of review into children's health assessmets caseloads.
4 Youth Offending Team.	1 This Committee recognises the progress and improvements that the service has made and requests that a further report be presented late in the New Municipal Year, specifically focusing on the Next Steps, which include: - Improving participation with young people and families to understand their experiences of the services they have received; - Starting to address themes that arise from the audit feedback; - Using data to drive the service and its impact; - Continued Thematic Inspection reports within the service; - Embedding the pathfinder model to focus on prevention; - Continuing to improve quality and embed the audit	Further details to be considered by the Committee.
5 Work Planning.	1 Members discussed and amended the 2021-22 work programme for the Committee. 2 Members agreed the amended Terms of Reference for the Elective Home Education Scrutiny Review. 3 That an additional meeting take place in late January 2022, to consider the findings from the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, after it is published.	Ammendments made to the worjk programme - ongoing. Ammendments made the the Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Review. Additional meeting to me arranged to consider the findings from the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.
Meeting date: Wednesday, 9th February 2022 in City Hall, Bradford		
1 Audit findings relating to the quality of Social Work Practice.	1 That a further report be presented to the Committee in 12 months which particularly focuses on the actions being taken to address the areas of practice that currently, most often are shown to require improvement	Focusing on areas that require improvement.
2 Raising Attainment Strategy.	1 That a report be presented to the Committee that demonstrates key outcomes, with particular emphasis on the delivery of the Raising Attainment Strategy.	Delovery of the strategy and improvements made.

Report of All Outcomes for Childrens Services O&S Committee - 2021/22 (continued)

Agenda item	Resolution	Outcome
3 Workforce Development - Children's	<p>1 That a further report be presented to the Committee in the new municipal year which also specifically focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The effectiveness of the new recruitment campaign; - Retention of staff; - Progress on training and growing our own staff; - The exact breakdown of workforce establishment for social workers and the level of vacancies at each grade 	Further report requested, which focuses on more detailed information.
4 Work Planning.	1 That the Children's Services Commissioners Report relating to the options for Children's Services, be presented to the Committee in March 2022.	Consideration of key findings from the Commissioners
Meeting date: Wednesday, 9th March 2022 in City Hall, Bradford		
1 £2m Procurement Contract.	1 This Committee requests that the comments raised by members, be considered as part of this procurement exercise.	Discussed the procurement process.
2 Residential Children's Homes & Related Issues.	1 The report sets out in detail some challenging shortcomings in the operation of some of our Children's Residential Homes. This provides good guidance for departmental action and informative background for members. However, it is clear that further improvement is required.	Discussed and highlighted that further improvement is needed.
3 Educational Standards - Early Years to Key Stage 4.	1 That a report relating to the impact of Opportunity Funding across the District, be presented to the Committee in the new municipal year.	Scrutiny of Opportunity Finding across the District.
	<p>2 This Committee requests that a report be presented in the new municipal year, which specifically focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More up-to-date data; - Approaches being used to improve educational attainment across the District. 	Further detailed information requested.
4 Sufficiency Strategy, to also include In-house Fostering Service and Adoptions.	1 That the comments and views raised by members be considered as part of the ongoing developments of the strategy and the documented presentation thereof.	Members discussed and commented on the developments relating to the strategy.
	2 This Committee requests that a report be presented in 12 months, which specifically focuses on the progress being made against the Sufficiency Strategy Action Plan.	Consideration of the Sufficiency Strategy Action Plan.
5 Work Planning.	1 Members discussed and amended the work	Amendments made to the work programme.

Report of All Outcomes for Childrens Services O&S Committee - 2021/22 (continued)

Agenda item	Resolution	Outcome
Meeting date: Wednesday, 23rd March 2022 in City Hall, Bradford		
1 Monitoring of the Improvement Plan.	1 This Committee requests that the next Improvement Plan report focuses specifically on Priority 2 Caseloads across all Social Work Teams.	To specifically focus on priority 2 of the improvement plan.
2 Young Carers.	1 That a further progress report be presented in 12 months, which includes measures of performance and details of outcomes delivered.	To scrutiise the measures of performance and details of outcomes delivered.