

Swindon Borough Council

Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 16 September 2020

In Public Virtual Meeting - LiveStream

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Barbara Parry (Chair)
Matthew Courtliff
Oladapo Ibitoye (Vice-Chair)
Nick Martin
Bazil Solomon

Labour Councillors

Fay Howard
Carol Shelley
Nadine Watts

Co-opted Representatives

Spencer Allen, Swindon Association of Primary School Headteachers
Steve Colledge, Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers
Steve Henderson, Equalities Advisory Forum
Alison Paul, Swindon Association of Special School Headteachers
Elaine Poulter, Parent Governor
Liz Townend, Church of England Diocese
Jacquie Watt, Swindon SEND Families Voice
Carol Willis, Healthwatch
TBC, Catholic Church Diocese

Committee Officer: Shaun Banks, 07980 752051
email: sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street,
Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

Access Arrangements - The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you have any special requirements to enable you to attend the meeting or would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size, please contact the Committee Officer as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

AGENDA

NOTE:

The link for the public meeting is here:

[Public Link to Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting](#)

This link will only work from 6:00 p.m. on 16th September 2020. For help on viewing the meeting, please visit: [Teams Support](#).

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

4. Minutes (Pages 5 - 14)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2020.

5. Engagement/Participation of Young People
(Oral)

6. Appointment of Co-opted Members (Pages 15 - 18)

7. Recovery Report/ the Covid response and plans for school returns from September
(Report to follow)

8. Motion from Council - Provision of Mental Health Services for Young People (Pages 19 - 40)

9. Children's Social Care and Early Help Summary of Performance 19/20 Outturn and Quarter 1 2020/21 (Pages 41 - 58)

10. Education/Exclusion/Persistent Absence
(Report to follow)

11. Work Programme 2020/21 (Pages 59 - 70)

Date of Despatch: 08 September 2020

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). During Covid-19, you must submit your question to CommitteeServices@swindon.gov.uk with your contact details 48 hours before the meeting so the committee officer can send you details about how to participate. The deadline is 16:00 on Monday 14th September 2020 Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Chief Legal Officer, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the "Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance" available on the Council's Website. ([Link to Guidance Public Question Time](#)) or from the Committee Officer named above.

Terms of Reference:

To fulfil all the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee as they relate to –

- the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations,
 - the management of performance,
 - the monitoring of progress towards delivering relevant strategies and corporate priorities, and
 - the formulation of advice for the Cabinet, Council and other partners and stakeholders.
-
- To have specific responsibility for (but not limited to) the scrutiny of:–
 - the performance of services for children towards agreed local and national Performance Indicators,
 - the quality of provision and effectiveness of Local Authority strategies to raise standards of education within Swindon,
 - specialist social services and integrated social services for children and young people in Swindon,
 - the delivery of services to children and young people in Swindon generally.

In addition, as these relate to Children and Young People:

- the performance of services seeking to deliver healthy communities towards agreed local and national performance indicators,
- Health, health commissioning and service delivery,
- Public Health, Health promotion and the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and
- Health Integration and collaborative working and commissioning with Health agencies and providers and General Practitioners.
- Reducing Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Strategic issues around Licensing

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**CHILDREN'S HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2020

PRESENT:- Councillors Barbara Parry (Chair), Matthew Courtliff (Vice-Chair), Alan Bishop, Fay Howard, Oladapo Ibitoye, Nick Martin, Carol Shelley, Bazil Solomon and Nadine Watts.

31. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Councillor Barbara Parry made a personal and non-prejudicial declaration of interest as she worked for Ridgeway School.

Councillor Bazil Solomon made a personal and non-prejudicial declaration of interest in his capacity as a part time teacher.

32. Public Question Time

There were no Public Questions.

33. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2019, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

34. Performance Report - Education and Skills

The Committee received a joint report of the Head of Skills, Employment and Lifelong Learning and Education Place Planning and Admissions Manager setting out an overview of education and skills outcomes for children and young people in Swindon. In presenting the report officers highlighted the following points:

- There was good progress in Early Years Education with Good Levels of Development improving year on year and closing the gap on the national average.
- At the end of Key Stage 1, 91% of pupils achieve the expected standard in phonics. Key stage 1 attainment outcomes are at or above the national results in all subjects.
- Work was continuing to increase maintain nursery provision across the town and where possible with access to a qualified teacher to improve early standards.
- Primary Key Stage 1 and 2 were meeting the expected standards for phonics which was stable over three years. Key Stage 1 attainment overall was above national standards average although there had been a slight decline in achievement although this was stable.
- Writing had increased by 0.7% slightly when compared with the national expected standard. Mathematics at the expected standard has risen slightly by 2% from the previous local figures but remains 2% below national figures.

- The secondary phase had shown some steady improvement over the last three years in narrowing the gap to the national average with three secondary schools achieving positive Progress 8 scores. Swindon ranked 87th local authority compared to ranking 136th in 2017 for Progress 8 scores.
- Discussions were on-going with secondary schools regarding the delivery of the Ebacc which remained an area of concern. In 2019 17% of key stage 4 pupils secured an Ebacc standard pass against a national average of 25%.
- Securing improvements at key stage 4 maths has been a key priority for the Swindon Challenge Board. In 2019, standard passes in maths were 70% which is in line with national average.
- There had also been an improvement in English outcomes with standard passes in English at 75%, almost in line with the national average of 76%.
- In Key Stage 5 in 2019, there had been a small increase in the average point score per entry for A levels, increasing from 26.48 to 26.68. This compared to a national average of 33.77. Unfortunately the gap to the national average had not been reduced and further work was being undertaken to achieve consistent improvement and for high A level; achievement.
- A positive destination of sustained education or employment from level 3 courses (A level or equivalent) in 2018 employment was 88% which is in line with national average. Those entering work continued at a high level but more work was required to get more young people in higher education (this had improved from the previous year).
- The focus of the work on skills and employment related, in particular, to supporting vulnerable young people and putting improvements in place for Children Looked After and Care Leavers, including a case review of every case.
- The work of the Support Employment Team had been reviewed and it had helped 53 residents into work.
- Work with Swindon College and the Institute of Technology to increase the number and range of higher education courses operating in Swindon and to allow the joint college to open in 2021 following its merger. Quality improvement work to improve Adult Learning to meet the requirements of the OFSTED framework and to improve performance. Challenges included, enabling vulnerable young people to access sustained employment beyond 18 and ensuring placement sustainability for the most vulnerable and the tracking of young people not in Education, Employment or Training and to speed up the identification of the destinations of young people.
- The growth in apprenticeships has slowed recently, Swindon had achieved 62% of the overall apprenticeship target in the first 4 years of a 5 year target period set by Government (this compares with 59% nationally). Work was continuing across the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership to assess the key reasons for more employers not employing Apprentices and refreshing the plan.
- Work on schools placement with the recent trend of an increase in the number of primary school children with the resultant pressure on school placements and future need for additional secondary schools places. Engagement continued with Academies and Free Schools within the Borough. The approach had been successful with two new secondary schools coming to the town through external investment as well as secondary school provision.
- The downside of the Council not directly paying to new schools was that it lost some control over their development; however officers continued to work

with the Government to retain as much influence as possible and to ensure schools were delivered on-time.

- The on-going challenge would be educational provision for the new housing development areas and officers were refreshing data for future planning and for negotiations with housing developers for funds for new school for delivery as early as possible.
- The School Admissions Team continued to see good performance for School Admissions with 91% of secondary school parents receiving their first school preference and 99% of parents receiving one of their three top secondary school preferences. 95% of primary school parents received their first preference school and 99% received one of their three primary school preferences.
- That the Council's admissions team was processing around 2,900 applications per annum.
- The future challenge on primary school provision as the latest demographic data suggested a slow down the birth rate.
- The challenge of some schools refusing to admit pupils with challenging needs although all children would be provided a school placement, this was particularly challenging where schools became academies and made their own admissions criteria.

Following the presentation Members challenged officers in respect of:

- The need to raise the aspirations for Care Leavers, especially in respect of those in employment, education and training from the current target of 75%, especially when compared to the wider population, even though this might be otherwise seen as a challenging target given the timescales involved.
- The adverse effect on higher education statistics from losing talented children to educational establishments outside of the Borough and how this distortion might best be addressed.
- The issue of accommodating a large number of pupils from West Swindon currently being educated in Wiltshire.
- The effect of students taking gap year between leaving school and going to university, or indeed decide to further their education several years after leaving school (for instance open university), on the relevant statistics. Also that the Lifelong Learning offer needed to reflect this life choice.
- That the economic success of Swindon might sway some young people to move to employment when leaving school, especially if they were unsure as to what they wished to do. Likewise a town or city with a university might persuade their young people to continue education. This might offer apprenticeship type of opportunities within the Borough by, the Local Enterprise Partnership, officers and councillors working with local employers.
- The type of apprenticeships available within Swindon and how many of these might be seen as being the equivalent of a degree and to ensure career advice, including choices between educational advancement and differing levels of apprenticeships, would allow young people to meet their potential.
- That there was a larger proportion of young people in Swindon wanting paid employment as opposed to further education. The work with the Institute of Technology in an offer combining work and education was considered.
- Work by the Swindon Challenge Board to meet the educational attainment targets for 202/21 across all levels of education.

- The continued European Social Fund grant for the Supported Employment through the Building Bridges Programme over the next two years.
- Funding options available to the Council in respect of the provision of new schools within the Borough and the Council's previous success in attracting Free Schools to the Borough.
- The need to aspire to 95% of children achieving phonics targets in year to ensure their continued educational attainment and to enable schools to best utilise their resources.

Resolved - That the performance report on Education and Skills and the successes and challenges outlined in the report be noted.

35. Education, Training and Employment Sub-Group - Update

The Head of Skills, employment and Life Long Learning submitted a progress report in respect of the Education, Training and Employment Sub Group and highlighted:

- The outcomes of the first meeting of the sub-group held on 5th December 2019 which were set out within the report and a second meeting held on 15th January 2020.
- A breakdown of the membership of the sub-group which included members not directly related to the Council and the skills and value that members brought to the sub-group.
- The role of the sub-group in identifying opportunities and how these might be matched to young people in a streamlined manner.
- The identification of areas the sub-group wanted to focus on.
- Barriers faced by young people in employment or in accessing the mainstream education offer and stepping stones that might be put in place to allow young people to gain experience and confidence.
- The task group would look at pathways for young people where current offer wasn't meeting needs and securing support from employers. Also how the community and voluntary sectors might be assist.
- The development of a plan to progress work on areas identified.

Following the presentation of the report Members discussed:

- Ensuring maximum opportunities for vulnerable young people and also fulfilling the Council's obligation as a Corporate Parent.
- Possible links with Switch onto Swindon and the production of a toolkit to help businesses.
- The need to identify meeting times suitable for the wide range of participants.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

(2) That the Committee Officer be requested to contact Members of the Committee to ascertain their ability to regularly participate in Sub-Group meetings.

36. Engagement and Participation of Children and Young People

The Corporate Director – Children Services setting out a plan of action on how children and young people will be engaged with within the Committee for the forthcoming year 2020/21. The following issues were highlighted in the presentation of the report:

- Discussions held with the Children in Care Council regarding how they might participate in and contribute to meetings of the Committee as well as challenging the Committee in respect of services they receive.
- Step under the current contract would work with **FF** to develop a network for young children.
- Children and Young People would attend the Committee three times per annum to comment and feedback on reports that were relevant to them and a fourth meeting to present an annual report on activities they have been engaged with providing an overview of areas of success and those requiring further development.
- Representatives of the Committee would attend an external meeting led by young people once a year.
- Children and Young People would be offered the opportunity to undertake a qualification as part of their participation.
- A review list would be kept by the young person representatives to track progress on any actions proposed by the Committee.
- Councillors Barbara Parry and Carol Shelley had met with STEP and the Council's Young Person Commissioner to consider a forward plan for the Committee work for the Municipal Year 2020/21.
- Young People would have a pre-meeting prior to meetings they attended to be briefed on reports of interest.
- The video of the young people's involvement was being considered so that this could be shown to other Children and Young People.

Following the presentation officers responded to questions relating to:

- The selection of the children and young people representatives which would initially be selected through a schools currently working with STEPS whilst the network was broadened.
- Work to be undertaken to ensure representation of children and young people reflected students at Swindon schools.

Resolved – That the report be noted and the future attendance of children and young people representatives at the Committee be welcomed.

37. Performance Summary - Special Educational Needs and Disability - Area Written Statement of Action

The Strategic Commissioner Special Educational Needs and Disability submitted a report setting out an overview of the Written Statement of Action for special educational needs and disability, a requirement on the local area following the Ofsted area inspection in November 2017. In introducing the report the Strategic Commissioner Special Educational Needs and Disability drew Members' attention to

- The Written Statement of Action for Special Educational Needs and Disability was required following the OFSTED inspection in November 2018.
- The Statement of Action was approved in April 2019 and there were 18 months to deliver the action plan.
- After the delivery date of October 2020 a re-inspection was anticipated and if this happened it was anticipated that the team would primarily be composed of inspectors from the initial visit and would review progress made against

the plan and written statement of action.

- The written statement of action was approved on first submission by the Department of Education.
- The Statement of Action was ambitious with 179 actions to be reviewed by the end of January; 45% of which had been completely embedded or were RAG related green and 11% would require mitigating action. Priority would be given to those actions that needed to be delivered by the end of January
- The Local Authority was required to lead the Written Statement of Action but Inspection and Written Statement of Action was about the Swindon area and involved all key partners in the Swindon area, including children and parent forums whose work was commended.
- An outline of the work in respect of each of the eight priorities, some of which were fairly simple, for example the appointment of a designated clinical officer and a dedicated medical officer, and the Clinical Commissioning Group had appointed both.
- Other priorities were more complex and required a far greater degree of work on the move towards a more participatory approach and a large change from the tradition means of operation.
- Another clear priority was in respect of attendance and exclusion from schools and in particular those with Special Educational Needs which required a lot engagement with school leaders in the Borough.
- Work was overseen by an active Strategic Board which met bi-monthly and was also attended by representatives of the Department of Education Advisor and a NHS England Advisor who were appointed to support, monitor and challenge the Board's work and provided notes of actions following meetings they attended.
- Every Strategic Board meeting received detailed reports from the various priority leads with a move towards impact reporting and examples of work being progressed was outlined.

Following the presentation Members scrutinised:

- The role of Committee members and more widely Councillors in promoting the work relating to the Statement of Action to schools within the Borough.
- Examples of the role of young people in shaping elements of work arising from the Written Statement of Action, including the young person's roadshow, and how this was impacting service delivery.
- The high case load in respect of Education Health and Care Plans and the length of time for the completion of associated work and the restructuring of the team with the Local Authority committing an additional £500,000 into staffing. It was noted that the casework referred to in the report was case co-ordination in relation to the statutory processes and not traditional case work.
- Work was also on-going in respect of preventative work to lessen demand and provide more timely outcomes through timely intervention.
- Currently 3.2% of Swindon Children were on a health and Care Plan against the national average of 2.1% so work was needed to identify the reasons for this and to take appropriate actions.
- The outcomes of a recent staff recruitment event in Swindon with 67 people attending (there were 16 posts vacant) in an area of work that there was a national shortage.
- The creation of a neurodevelopment pathway with a different workforce and

skill mix for a spectrum of needs rather than one just for autism; this pathway was now live and was seeing a reduction in waiting times for treatment and in determining the offer for the individual child's treatment.

- The concern of speech and language problems were not being identified until children attended schools and the issues this caused families and the inclusion of an early Access Fund to support work in relation to this at an early stage.

Resolved – That the performance report and the successes and challenges outline within the report be noted.

38. Targeted Mental Health Services (TaMHS) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CaMHS)

The Principal Officer for Health and Wellbeing, Children, Families and Community Health, Swindon Borough Council and Esther Schmidt, Children's Commissioning Lead, Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group submitted a joint report setting out an update on performance and key issues relating to Mental Health Support Services in Swindon and highlighted:

- A survey of the services currently available in relation to Mental Health Services.
- The previous year had been a successful one with an additional £2.3 million being received for children and young people's mental health which helped provide some significant improvements to the service.
- Nationally there had been a 68% increase in mental health referrals for children and young people which created significant challenges.
- The prevalence of mental health issues in children and young people has changed from 1 in 10 to 1 in 8.
- The creation of a whole system approach to look at the needs of children and young people to provide the right at the right time in Swindon through partnership with the Local Authority, Trailblazer Service (40 schools), the voluntary sector the specialist health providers in Oxford Health Service.
- The single point of access managed by TAMHS and the traded service with schools which included 47 schools in Swindon and the main service provision available to every child in Swindon.
- That the majority of children accessing the service had mild to moderate mental health needs who were treated by Swindon with moderate to high needs receiving treatment from Oxford.
- An additional funding bid for further work under the Trailblazer scheme.
- The creation of a parenting hub by Swindon Borough Council and the creation of an additional post by the Clinical Group in the Specialist Hospital Liaison Service which were embedded in the wider CAMHS service.

Following the presentation Members questioned officers in respect of:

- The average waiting time between referral and treatment for CAMHS and TAMHS services and proposed measures to reduce this period.
- The waiting time for treatment following an assessment which was currently around 5 to 6 weeks for CAMHS services although all cases were triaged

- and so waiting times would vary.
- Modelling work was progressing to reduce waiting times for CAMHS and TAMHS services but this would require additional staff to be recruited.
- The extension of services to the 18-25 age group and how these services were advertised and accesses; including the role of universities in promoting mental health.

Resolved – That the the key performance messages from the performance information be noted.

39. Health Visiting Service

The Manager, Named Nurse for Safeguarding submitted a briefing note setting out an update on performance and key issues relating to the Council's Health Visiting Service and highlighted the following issues:

- The role undertaken by a highly qualified Health Visitor team, including the Healthy Child Programme for the age range 0 to 5 which had a positive impact on family's lives.
- A summary of the Universal Offer which was often the first contact with new families and parents can call health visitors for advice.
- The role of Child Health Hubs which were held weekly in three venues and support these provided to new families and which had been well received.
- A twelve weekly visit to support parents with potential mental health issues.
- The 24 to 30 month review to offer additional support to families and children and to check on the child's development; in quarter 3 the number of visits were above the national average.
- Enhanced work which was targeted to families that midwives had concerns about and might lead to a referral for other services such as baby steps and offer support to the family as early as possible.
- An update on performance and key issues relating to the SBC Health Visiting Service.
- Targeted twelve month contacts for those families requiring the most support; these visits were to be moved back within the Universal Offer in the future when additional Health Visitors were in post.
- Work over the previous 12 months including Children Looked After Reviews which were carried out every six months.
- Changes in the skills mix for health visitor teams, increased training, renewing the Baby Friendly Accreditation and improving the quality of recording to demonstrate outcomes.

Following the presentation Members scrutinised the following issues:

- The capacity of baby hubs and how families could be encouraged to visit these. At the moment these tended to be used by families when they wanted to access a service.
- Letters sent to families regarding their 12 month service setting out the type of activities children should be doing at that age and contact details in case parents want advice or help.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

40.

Work Programme 2019/20

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Legal Officer on the results of the work programme consultation and the suggested priorities for the work for the Municipal Year, 2019/20.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

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Appointment of Co-optees

Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16th September 2020

Author: Chief Legal Officer

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to confirm the appointment of co-optees to the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal year 2020/21.
- 1.2 The Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee is permitted by the Council's Constitution to appoint parent governor and diocese representatives to its membership and may choose to appoint additional co-opted members.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 To confirm the appointment of Liz Townend as the Church of England Diocese representative.
- 2.2 To consider the appointment of the following non-voting representatives:
 - Alison Paul (Swindon Association of Special School Headteachers).
 - Spencer Allen (Swindon Association of Primary Headteachers).
 - Steve Colledge (Swindon Association of Secondary Headteachers).
 - Steve Henderson (Equalities Advisory Forum).
 - Jacqui Watt (Swindon SEND Families Voice).
 - Vanessa Scott (Healthwatch).
- 2.3 To confirm the appointment of a Catholic Church Diocese representative and a Parent Governor, as and when nominations are received.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution states that the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee will appoint no more than 2 church representatives and 2 parent governor representatives to its membership as full voting members in respect of education matters. If the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee deals with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those other matters, though they may stay in the meeting and speak.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks, 079806116669, sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Appointment of Co-optees

Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16th September 2020

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- 3.2 The Committee is asked to determine whether any additional co-opted representatives should be sought to support its work programme for the year.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Committee may choose only to appoint co-optees required under the Constitution and to appoint other co-optees to support their work programme on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 Co-opted representatives are entitled to claim travel and meal allowances in order to attend Council meetings, the costs of which are met from within the Allowance budget. There are no procurement implications arising from the contents of his report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee and in any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

- 5.5 Any risks arising from the proposals contained within this report will be managed through their implementation taking into consideration feedback from the consultation exercise.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The author has consulted, where appropriate, with Corporate Directors,

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks, 079806116669, sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

Appointment of Co-optees

Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16th September 2020

Directors, Heads of Service, other officers, and relevant partners on the purpose, content, and recommendations of the report.

7. Background Papers

7.1 None.

8. Appendices

8.1 None.

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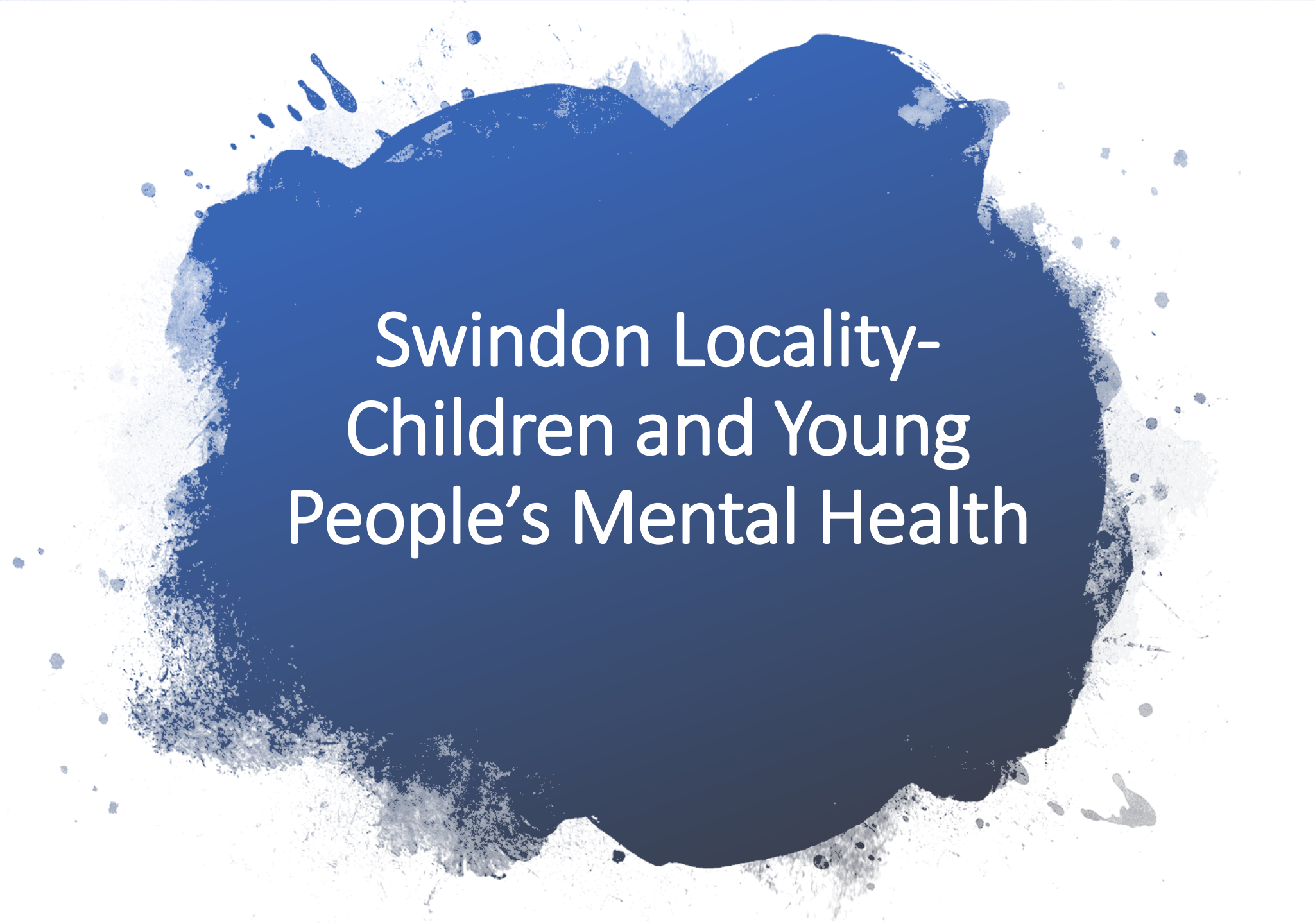


Children and YP Mental Health in Swindon

O&S Committee 16th September

Esther Schmidt Children's Commissioning Lead, BSW CCG-
Swindon Locality

Katie Currie, Public Health Consultant, SBC

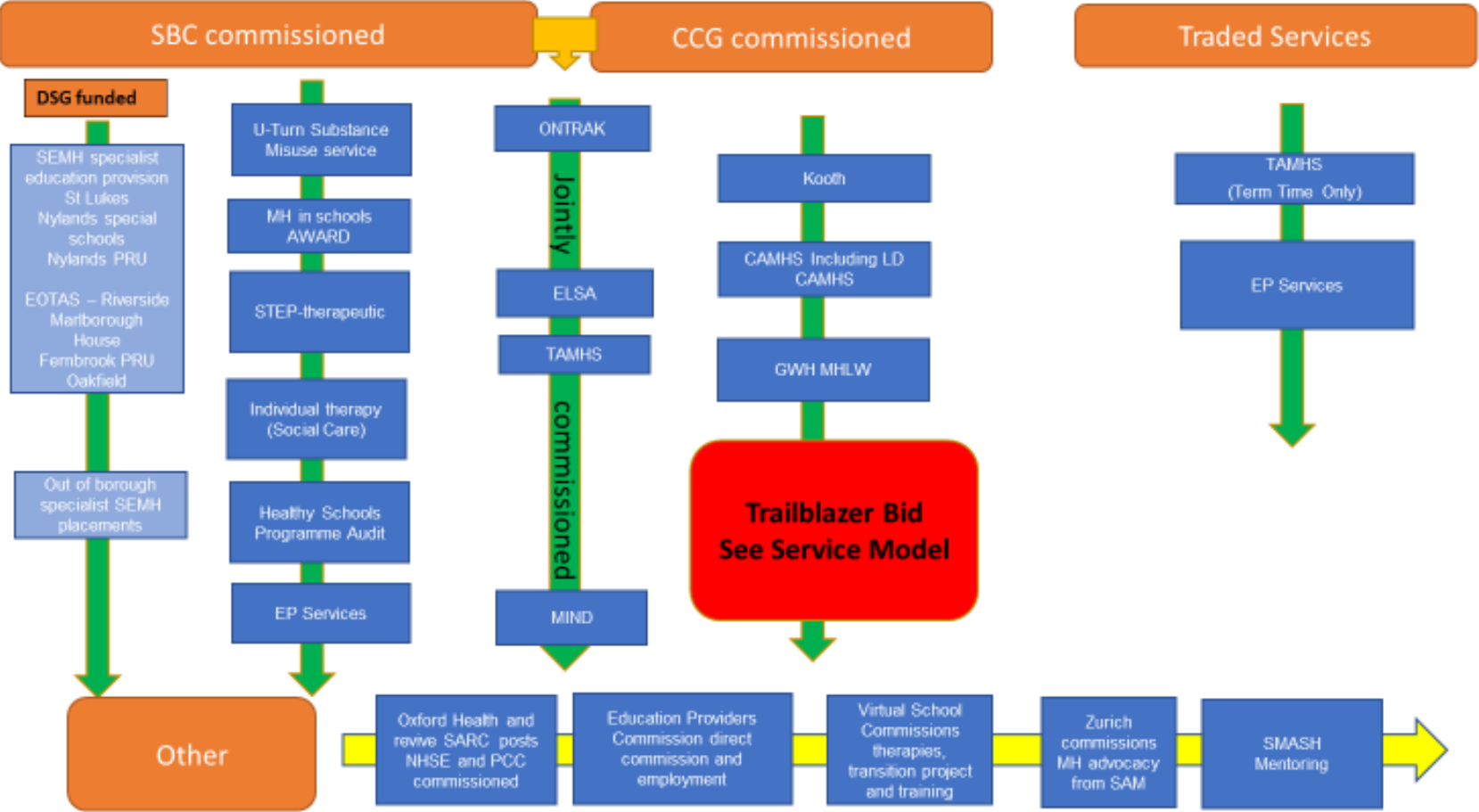


Swindon Locality- Children and Young People's Mental Health

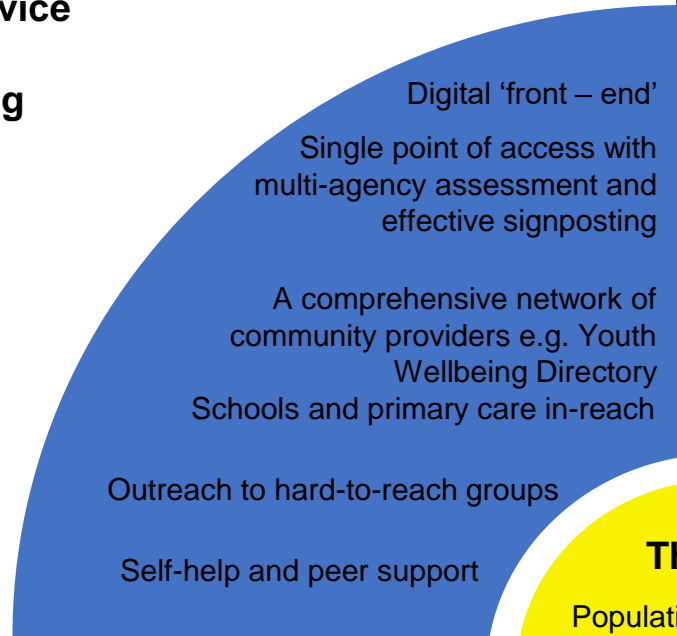
TAMHS- mild to moderate
 Targeted Mental Health Support

CAMHS- Moderate - Specialist
 Clinical Mental Health Support

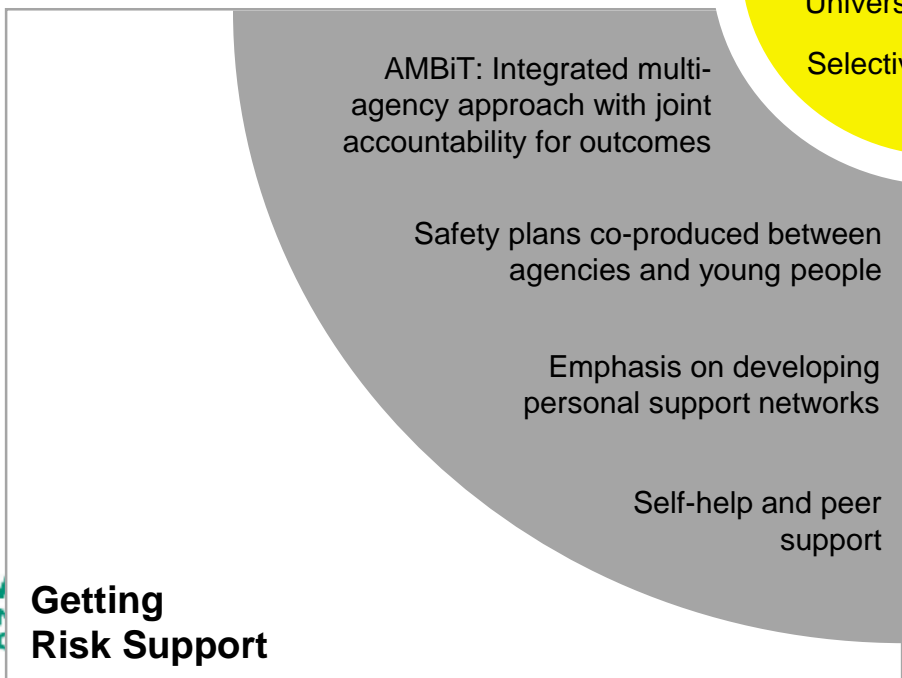
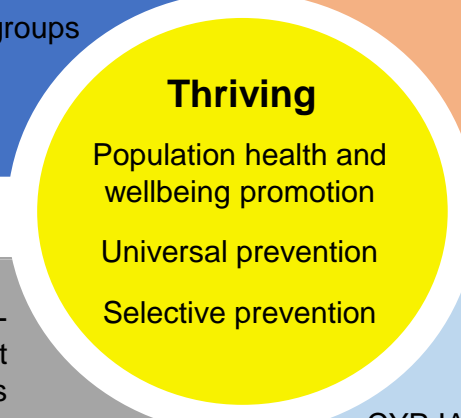
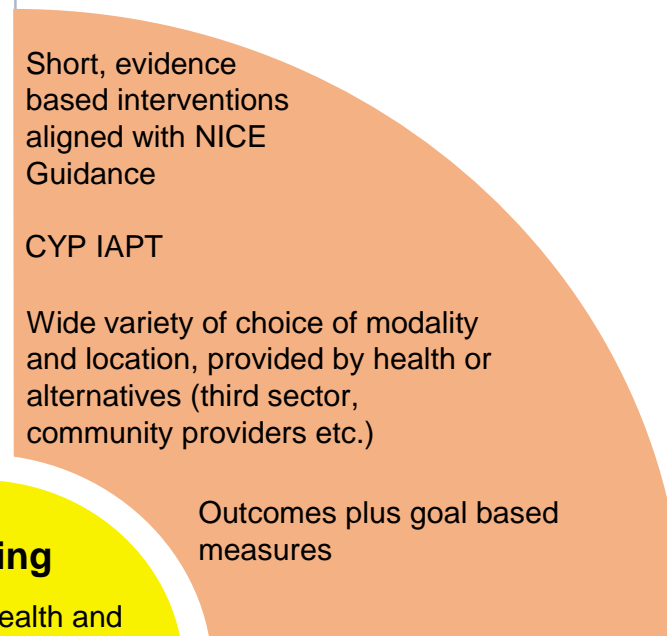
Mental Health in Swindon- overview of current service provision



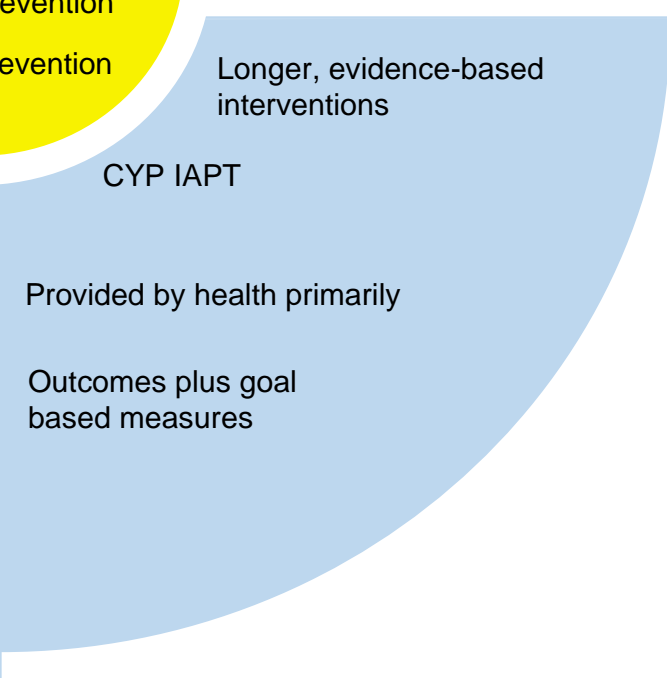
Getting Advice and Signposting

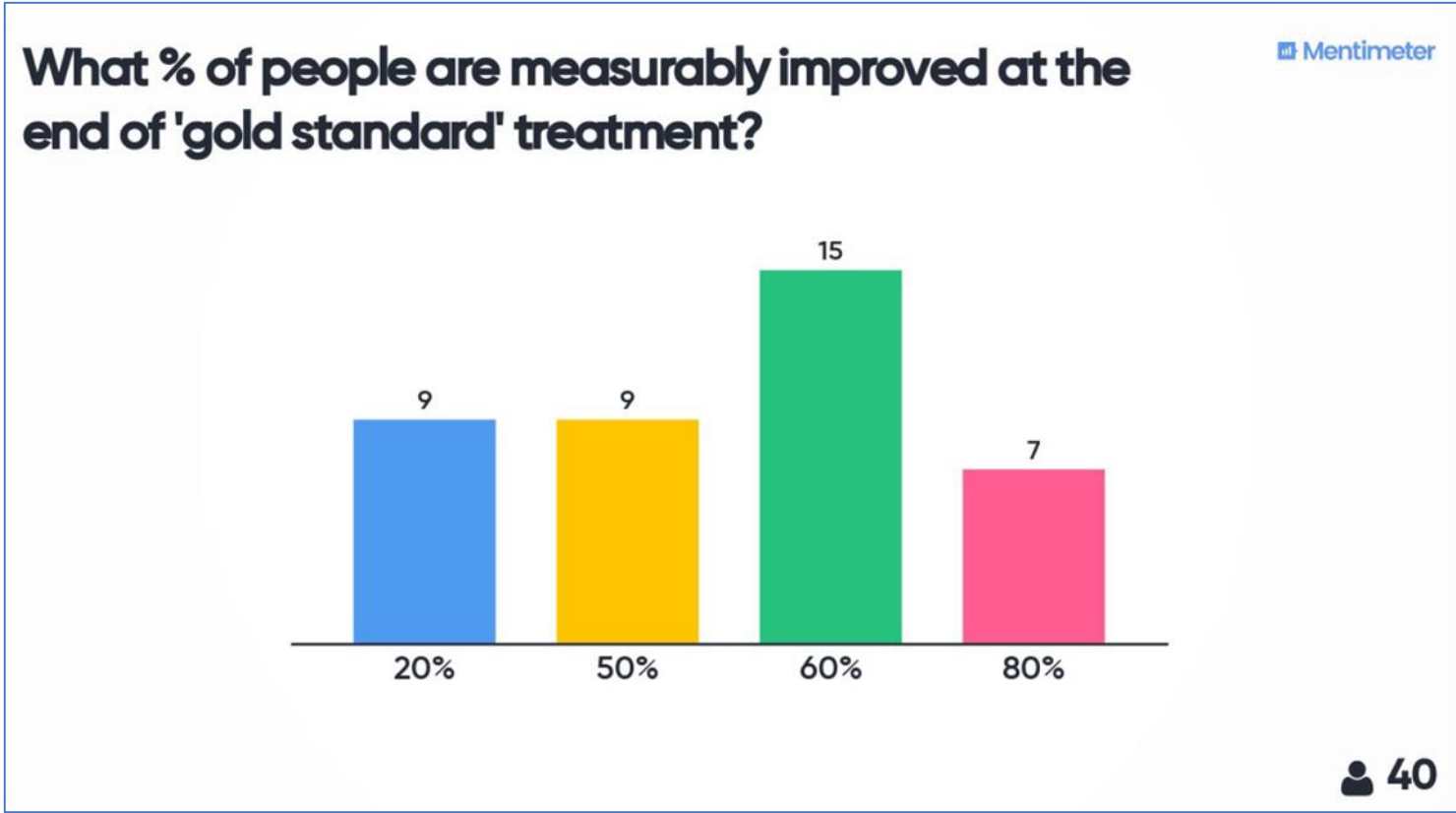


Getting Help



Getting More Help





Correct answer: 60%

CYP Mental Health Trailblazer service progress to date

- **CYP Mental Health Trailblazer** won **£3.2 m** to support mental health in schools
- **Barnardo's** national charity is lead provider: 40 schools engaged in Swindon- plans in place to expand with wave 4
- Over 634 children and young people and 101 parent/carers engaged in the Co-Production of the Swindon Model – Project Me logo co-produced by young people Praised as a model of good practice with the National Mental Health Team at NHSE
- Evaluation report of Phase 1 due in March 2021- robust data reporting in place despite Covid
- Governance feeding into BSW Thrive Board, Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board and Joint Commissioning Group- multi-agency partners
- Re-establishment of the Education Subgroup for Swindon- all remaining schools are being approached to express an interest
- Neutral premises in place in Cheney Manor operational for young people to be seen

Mental Health Support Team Referrals

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	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May 20	Jun 20
Referrals received	78	36	55	19	81	111	37	9	6	12
Referral Accepted	78	36	53	17	78	103	37	9	4	10
Signposted	0	1	2	2	2	8	0	0	2	2

School Cluster Areas



Cluster 1

Abbey Park Academy
Great Western
Academy
Lydiard Park Academy
Warneford
Tregoze Primary
Peatmoor
Oakhurst
Tadpole
Red Oaks
Orchid Vale
Haydon Wick
Abbey Meads

5982 pupils

Cluster 2

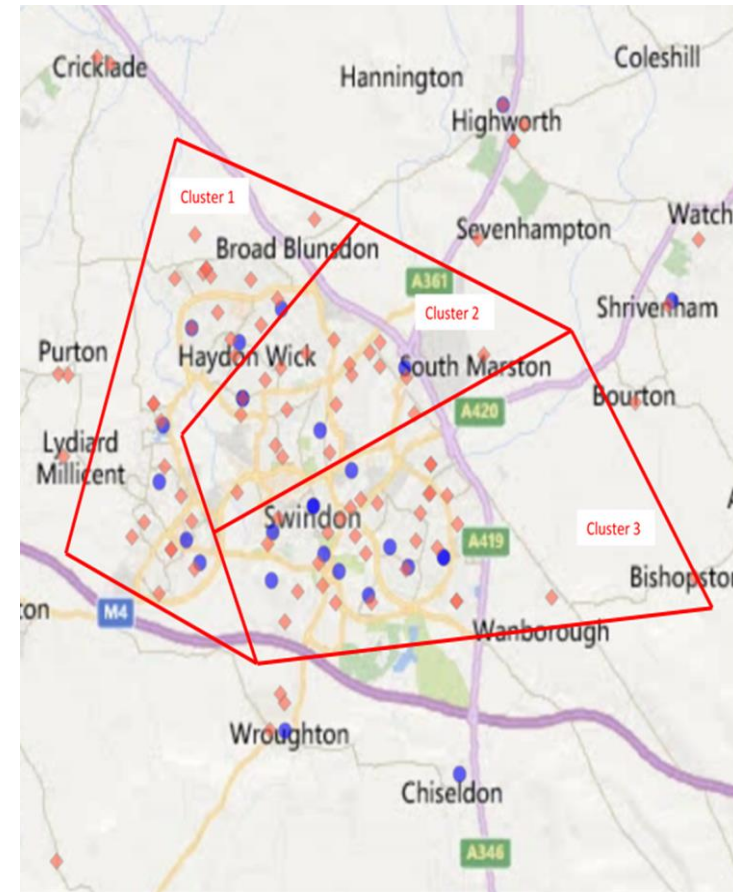
Kingsdown School
Nova Hreod
Swindon Academy
St Lukes
Moredon
Rodbourne Cheney
Swindon Academy
Sevenfields
Beechcroft Infants
Ruskin Junior
Ferndale
Even Swindon
Gorse Hill
Grange Junior

6852 pupils

Cluster 3

Lawn Manor
Academy
Dorcan Academy
Commonweal
Swindon College
New College
Robert Le Kyng
East Wichel
Drove Primary
Mountford Manor
Lainesmead
Oaktree
Goddard Park
Eldene
Liden

8266 pupils



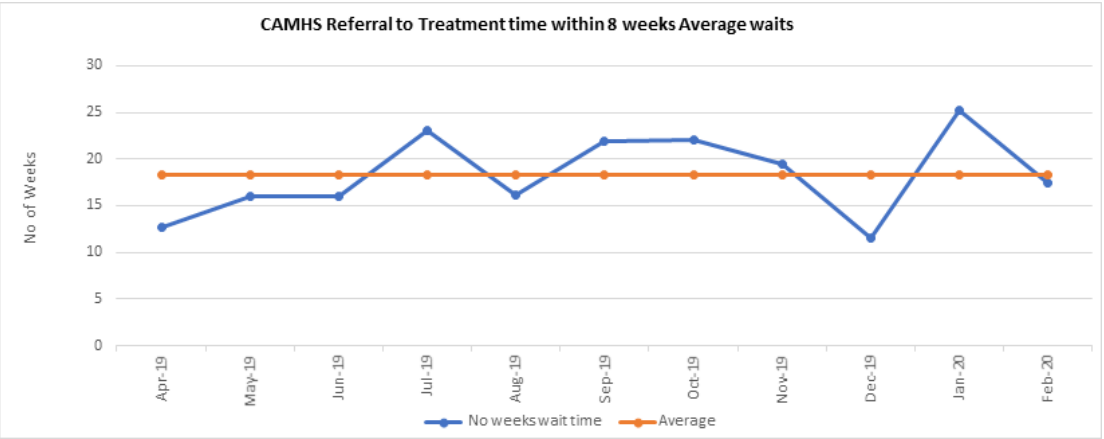
How mental health services are working together in Swindon

- There is a single referral and joint triage system for TaMHS and CaMHS
- Development of a 'no wrong front door for Swindon'- To ensure CYP get the support they need easily. Engagements from TaMHS (SBC), CaMHS (OHFT), Trailblazer (Barnardo's) since July 2020
- Links with Strategic CCG developments- Professional Leadership Network (100 + strategic partners involved) and development of Integrated Care System (by April 2021 for full implementation) – Focus on how we work together well to improve people's experience of services and improve outcomes

Oxford Health Specialist CAMHS

- CAMHS (Oxford Health) provide assessment and specialist evidenced based intervention for those young people who are suffering with moderate to severe mental health difficulties. CAMHS can offer intervention for longer than six sessions if appropriate. CAMHS aim to help young people and families to build resilience and step out of NHS services.
- CAMHS has a multidisciplinary team which includes; Nurses, Social workers, LD nurses, Psychologists, Psychotherapists, Family Therapists, Assistant Psychologists, Support workers, Parenting workers and Consultant Psychiatrists.
- Reporting has paused due to COVID-NHSE directive
- Review of current provision through BSW Lead commissioner in progress focussing on alignment- reporting is re-starting
- Swindon is reporting a 125% increase in MH presentations at the GWH
- Contract held by NHSE until March 2021 when new service specifications will be in place

Area	Standard	Service Area	Target	Method of Measurement	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Target	YTD
Referral to treatment waiting times	Referral to treatment time Community CAMHS (as per local definition - 2 f-t-f contacts (excludes ED)).	No. Within 8 Weeks	50%	Numerator: Those who have a wait time 8 weeks or less from referral to treatment. Denominator: No. of patients who have had a 2 F2F contacts.	41%	21%	26%	17%	18%	34%	20%	23%	39%	8%	32%	50%	26%
					11	6	7	5	2	10	5	7	9	2	8		72
					27	28	27	30	11	29	25	30	23	26	25		281
		Average Time (weeks)	n/a		12.7	16.0	16.9	23.0	16.2	21.9	22.1	19.4	11.6	25.2	17.4		18.4



Key Takeaway: The average referral to treatment wait time as of February 2020 for CAMHS is 18.4 weeks. The average waiting times have remained fairly stable.

Source: CAMHS, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

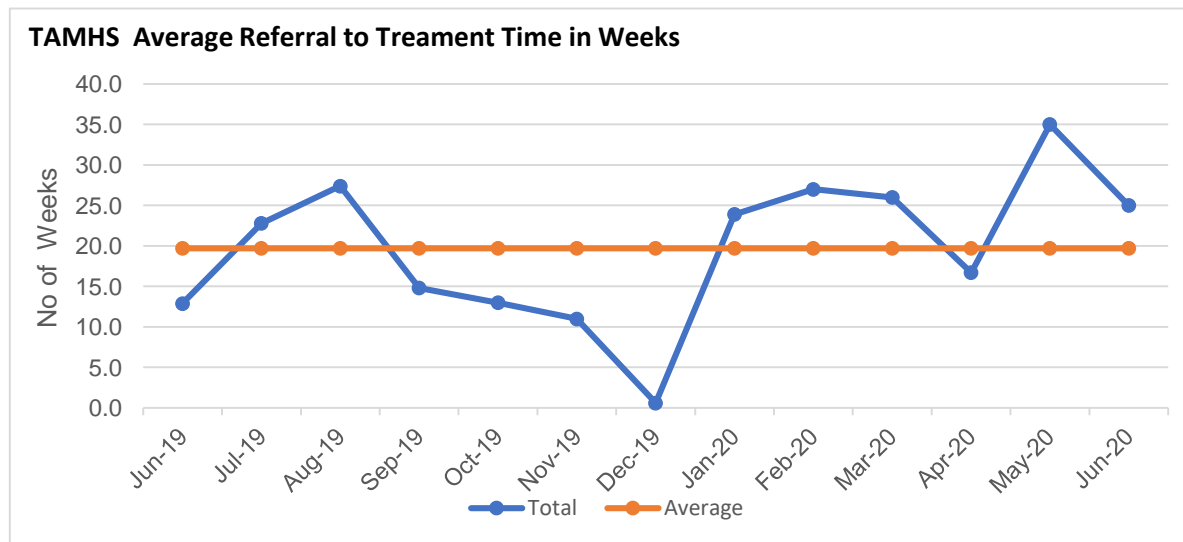
TaMHs Service Update (provided by SBC)

Provides help for mild to moderate mental health needs to CYP.

Progress

- Reduction in waiting times for assessment
- Waiting times for treatment are beginning to reduce. Funding of 2.1 extra workers from the CCG will create a faster reduction
- Helpline implemented to provide crisis support for CYP. Strong links with the Early Help System and MASH/ Safeguarding Hub-single referral form for all things mental health, prioritizing self-referrals and GP-referrals to improve access
- Activity (contacts with CYP) has increased during lockdown, though mostly virtual (video call, phone call)

Area	Service Area	Month Variance		YTD	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20
National Waits	Average referral to treatment time (as per national definition).	NA	Weeks	25.6	12.9	22.8	27.4	14.8	13.0	11.0	0.6	23.9	27.0	26.0	16.7	35	25
	Number on waiting list at month end.	NA	No.		373	387	400	428	428	459	456	445	499	550	319	379	413



Key Takeaway: The YTD average wait time as of June 2020 is 25.6 weeks. The number on the waiting list saw a decrease from April 2020 due to COVID-19 however there is a steady increase in the numbers of children on the waiting list from May 2020.

The number of children with an EHCP open to TAMHS as of June 2020 is **120**.

Source: TAMHS, Swindon Borough Council

Kooth Online digital counselling 11-25 year olds

- **Data Headlines**
- **259** new registrations between April - June 2020, this is a slight decrease (12%) on Q4 2019/20 which reported **380**. Of the **335** new registrants, **187** were female, **65** male, and **4** gender fluid. **41** of the **259** registrations were BAME (16%).
- Top 3 ages of the new registrants are 14,15 and 17 years of age, most reported signposting from the registrants was that they have heard of Kooth either from their school, teacher or friend.
- The most common time the service is used (logged on to) is during the hours of 5pm and 9pm with Tuesday seeing peak (highest number of log ins).
- Themes arising from new goals set: self help, emotional exploration, getting professional help in service, and feeling happier.
- Key presenting issues during chats or sessions: anxiety and stress, suicidal thoughts, self-harm and family relationships.



Kooth Case Study- Online Digital Counselling

Background: Rae (pseudonym) struggles with anxiety. When issues became overwhelming, she took the amazing step to visit her GP who referred her to CAMHS. Due to the length of time she had to wait before sessions to start, she came to Kooth for interim support.

Intervention:

We offered Rae Key work sessions with a member of the team. This work was focused on reducing her anxiety and eating disorder symptoms immediately through psycho education and counselling as well as helping her become 'therapy ready' once her sessions with CAMHS began.

Conclusion:

Rae was held by Kooth until sessions with CAMHS began. She worked hard to build a toolkit of self help and soothing skills to reduce anxiety and disordered eating. These strategies included personal coping mechanisms such as breathing techniques, counselling and engaging in self care. Kooth can support young people who await face to face services to ensure they do not deteriorate, requiring more intensive support.

Prevention and Self Care – What is available

- **Family Intervention Support Service** – School Nurses, Health Visiting, Parenting Hub, Family Support workers can all provide early help for families who need it
- **ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) service: 2 Teaching assistants have been trained in each school**, in all schools commissioned by Virtual School, CCG and Public Health- gap analysis will be undertaken due to Covid and the this will become part of the Healthy School Mental Health Award- currently no impact measures available
- **Youth Mental Health First Aid** is for anyone who works with, lives with or supports young people aged 8-18. This training helps the adults in a young persons's life to have the skills and confidence to step in, offer first aid and guide them towards the support they need.
- **Healthy Schools Award** supports schools to create health promoting environments. The Swindon award has a strong emphasis on mental health - linked to the local offer and SEND agenda, including lanyard scheme for children and young people rolled out to trailblazer schools
 - 83%of Swindon schools are engaged with the Swindon Health Schools Programme



Swindon Town Football current provision is to **children** with SEND, in Care, at risk of offending, Premier League Kicks 8-18 inspiring cyp to improve their health and wellbeing, commissioned by SBC

The Arts-

Due to Covid this is just re-starting and Create Studios in Swindon have secured CCG funding from a national project to produce short videos of and for young people accessing mental health services.

Key messages

- Not all young people need clinical help-It is important to recognize that ups and downs in life are normal.
- Professional services can't "fix" young people- trickiness of puberty and physiological challenges of adolescence
- The majority of young people choose access support from family and friends before wanting to speak to a professional

Next Steps

- Kooth Online counselling procurement in progress (Banes and Swindon localities)
- Creation of a strategic mental health framework for Swindon January 2021.
- This will create a joint vision for how we improve and support the mental health of children and young people in Swindon.
- Continue to develop strong links with BSW Mental Health Work and governance , whilst taking a place-based approach in Swindon
- Development of a 16-25-year-old mental health services with Adult Mental Health providers

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 9 JULY 2020

22. Motion - Provision of Mental Health Services for Young People

Councillor Barbara Parry moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

“This Council:

- Believes that Children’s mental health is everyone’s business.
- Note with concern that mental health problems amongst young people have for some time, been on the increase nationally, with a rising demand on services and increasing complexity of need and that COVID19 and the resultant uncertainty for young people including the uncertainty, the anxiety, the fear of becoming ill or seeing a loved one become ill, the loss of our normal routines, the difficulties of social connection, and in many cases the disruption to education will have exacerbated the issue.
- Welcomes the fact that Government has made mental health a priority and the NHS is urged to give mental health parity with physical health in the COVID Recovery Plan.

This Council further:

- Recognises that, despite increased investment in, and policy focus on, mental health services for children and young people, the numbers of children and young people requiring support are going up. Direct access and universal services at the point of need are available, however thresholds for accessing some services mean that waiting times can be long.
- Notes that the Trailblazer is providing good support from those schools who are part of the scheme but that we still have a number of young people, desperately unhappy and in need of support, some of them urgent support.

This Council requests that:

- The Leader of the Council in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services Council write to Central Government to lobby for the much needed additional funding to support mental health services to young people and the earliest possible intervention to remove waiting lists and ensure that young people, and those caring for them, are able to get EARLY help quickly and easily.
- The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services conduct a review and brings a report to the September Children’s OS committee setting out the current position, scope and progress to date by the council and its partners with recommendations to the January 2021 Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to ensure that there is a

robust mental health strategy covering prevention, self-help, treatment and support. This should include:

- o Improved partnership working between TAMHS and CAMHS to continue to reduce waiting times and that any young person has their needs met by one of the organisations
- o Innovative ways to promote the benefits of young people engaging with sport and the performing arts
- o Working with schools to improve the current training given to staff working directly with young people so that they can spot the signs of poor mental health in children and know who and where to get help and extending specialist training to all support staff to equip them to deal with low level issues and provide support at the earliest stage.”

The Motion was put the vote and declared carried.

Children's Social Care and Early Help Summary of Performance 2019/20 Outturn and Quarter 1 2020/21

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Date 16th September 2020

Author: Angela Clarke – Interim Director of Children's Social Work
Wards: ALL
Locality Affected: ALL
Parishes Affected: ALL

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This performance summary provides an overview of performance in children's services for 2019/20 as well as the direction of travel for the first quarter of 2020/21. The report captures key performance information and provides additional service context and interpretation of data.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee need oversight of Children's Services' performance in order to scrutinise, challenge and hold the service to account. The report highlights areas of performance which are positive as well as areas where there are challenges and further improvement required. The report enables the Committee to have an understanding of the areas of performance where Swindon is compared with other Local Authorities and how that information is used by the Council and external bodies such as the Department for Education and OFSTED. The latest national benchmarking data is referenced to give comparator context.
- 1.3 Children's Services social care performance contributes to the Council's Corporate Priority in terms of safeguarding and protecting vulnerable children and young people. Partnership working is key to improving outcomes for children and this report helps to indicate where stronger partnership working may be required.
- 1.4 Children's Services Early Help and Social Care helps deliver the Council's priority to protect vulnerable children and achieve the Council pledges 20, 21 and 22 which focus on increasing the capacity of local foster provision, safeguarding children and the provision of effective early help interventions through working within the Troubled Families Programme.
- 1.5 Early Help services are key to providing effective early support and intervention that can prevent children from needing help from more specialist and statutory services, including social care. Early Help services cover a broad range of single and multi- agency services which contribute to improved outcomes for children and young people. They aim to prevent the escalation to children's statutory services.
- 1.6 Where appropriate the performance and activity outlined in this report is linked to key success measures for the delivery of the Children's Service Improvement

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Plan, particularly in relation to the delivery of Pillar 4 (Quality of Practice), and Pillar 6 (Children Looked After and Permanency Planning). Progress against the plan is monitored internally by the Children's Leadership Team, Corporate Management Team and the Leadership Advisory Group. There is currently a review of the pillar plan underway with the aim of streamlining service improvement plans and ensuring that quality assurance processes drive the focus for key pieces of work, which is linked to further strengthening practice. The service is keen to identify innovative ways to improve services and maximise efficiency. Examples of this include The Family Safeguarding Model which is due to be implemented in Swindon in 2020/21 and the recent successful bid for Social Workers in Schools which is being piloted at the end of September 2020.

- 1.7 This report includes a section (3) on the Children's Services response to COVID 19 and the impact on performance experienced to date. COVID 19 factors are also included in the main performance detail of the report in Section 4.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the key performance messages in relation to 19/20 outturn position, as well as the latest performance for quarter 1 of 2020/21 for Children's Early Help and Social Care services.
- 2.2 Identify, challenge and scrutinise areas of concern that require further scrutiny and investigation. These will be owned by the Corporate Director of Children Services with the support of appropriate Heads of Service and Corporate Senior Managers depending on the areas of performance that they relate to.

3. COVID Response and evidence of impact in Children's Social Care and Early Help Services

- 3.1 The response to COVID within children's social care was swift in terms of implementing communication with children, families, and professionals via Skype and Microsoft teams to ensure minimum disruption to business continuity at the commencement of 'lockdown'. Staff were supported with moving rapidly to a remote working environment, with skeleton staff continuing to work from the Civic campus. COVID reviews were completed with families in need of help and protection to ensure that any additional risks were assessed and managed; and that risk assessments were updated as part of routine visits. Face to face visits to children and families with the greatest needs continued, with social distancing, or where appropriate PPE. Children at higher risk of harm continued to be seen frequently. Staff have been committed and creative in ensuring visits continued to take place during the height of lockdown. Where virtual visits are undertaken the reporting system has been adapted to enable the close monitoring of this and

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managers have oversight of the visit type of visits taking place. The table below shows the data at the end of July 2020 and shows that 100% of children who are the subject of a child protection plan were visited 'face to face' for their latest visit:

Visit Type	Children in Need	Children on a CP Plan	Children Looked After
Face to Face	544	140	233
% of Face to Face	80%	100%	75%
Skype/Teams	137	0	78
Total visits	681	140	311

- 3.2 COVID impact on contact and referrals: Police are always the highest referrer into MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) and this has remained consistent during the pandemic. During the first three weeks of lockdown there was a decrease in reports of domestic abuse from the average weekly total of between 120 and 180, to less than 100. Most of the Police domestic incident notifications continued to be assessed as 'standard' or 'medium' risk and were referred to the Early Help Hub for engagement with families in terms of an Early Help service offer. There was not an increase in the number of domestic abuse referrals reaching the threshold for a social work assessment during the pandemic.
- 3.3 As expected, there was a drop in school referrals received in the MASH with 48 referrals received for April 2020, whereas typically MASH received around 200 referrals per month from schools. Schools completed their own risk assessments of children being at home during lockdown and whether being at home placed them more at risk. Schools have used the risk assessments for each child to assist them in determining who to keep in contact with for those families that need it. Any safeguarding concerns are referred into MASH and the majority received an outcome of advice and information provided, or a referral made to the Early Help Hub. This is consistent with the Police referrals of medium and standard risks and low referrals rate for schools and therefore this has impacted on the lower conversion rate for those families needing a statutory assessment or intervention. The conversion rate from contact to social care referral fell considerably to 9% in April 2020 (92 out of 1015 contacts). This is a reduction from 12% in March and 16% in February 2020.

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- 3.4 The number of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) has shown a decreasing trend throughout 2019 and 2020 to date, and the trend continued during the lockdown period. 31 children, from 13 families, ceased to be the subject of a CPP during May 2020. Given the context of COVID and through our usual quality assurance processes, an analysis was completed by the Quality Assurance Manager to provide assurance that CP plans were only being ceased where risk had reduced and children continued to be supported at children in need level or by early help services where required. Further detail in relation to the activity and performance data for children on a CPP is included in Section 4 of the performance report.
- 3.5 As lockdown eased at the beginning of June 2020, there has been a corresponding increase in the number of referrals made to MASH, and this was evidenced in a return to usual levels in June 2020. Details of this are outlined in the performance detail in Section 4 of this report. A higher rate of contact and referrals is anticipated in September 2020. Demand modelling has been undertaken to understand the staff resourcing and financial implications of an increase in demand, particularly between September and December 2020.
- 3.6 There is no doubt that Covid-19 and the restrictions imposed to control it have impacted on the level of demand for child protection services, and the way in which the service is responding to, and providing services for, children in need of help and protection. With most people confined to their homes, and most children not attending any universal health or education provision, it was inevitable that contacts and referrals for social work services would reduce. Many police contacts to the MASH did not meet the threshold for social work assessment, and families have been given advice or referred to family support services via the Early Help Hub. Where concerns have been referred, children have been seen and their needs assessed.
- 3.7 Children's social care implemented its new case management system, Care Director, on 3rd August which was positive in that COVID did not cause delays to the implementation of the new system. This was a key milestone in terms of recovery and in providing Social Workers with a fit for purpose tool for recording and accessing case information, which is even more critical in a remote working environment.
- 3.8 The COVID Recovery Plan includes priorities for all of Children's Services and encompasses children in education, well-being of children, families and our workforce, as well as cross cutting priorities linked to partnership working.
- 3.9 Whilst many services continue to be delivered remotely, the recovery plan has included bringing some services back to 'face to face' operations where it has been necessary and safe to do so. This has been the subject of thorough risk assessment processes and has included:

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- Supported direct 'family time' for children in our care and their parents and wider family members
- Specialist therapeutic and support services for children with disabilities and their families at the Saltway Centre
- Resumption of some Child Protection Conferences being held at the Civic Centre
- Some counselling and other family support services being delivered from SBC workspaces

4. Key Performance Headlines: 19/20 outturn and Quarter 1 position 20/21.

- 4.1 Early Help: There is a wide range of multi-agency services within Early Help in Swindon. These include the Early Help Hub and the Family Intervention and Support Service. A Parenting Hub has also been established; building on the good work of Butterflies Family Centre to deliver pre-birth to 16 years parenting support. This includes the introduction of evidence based parenting programmes in Swindon. Swindon has integrated Locality Teams which have continued to operate virtually since March 20 and includes: Education Welfare; Health Visiting; School Nursing; Family Nurse Partnership; New Beginnings; Baby Steps; Youth Engagement; Targeted Mental Health Services (TaMHS); and Family Group and Restorative Conferences.
- 4.2 Early Help Hub: The Early Help Hub received 1,979 requests for new involvements throughout 2019/20. On average, 99.4% of these involvements received an outcome review within 5 working days. During the first quarter of 2020/21 the number of new involvements was 485 which is slightly lower than the 571 received in Quarter 1 of 19/20 and the decrease is directly linked to the initial impact of lockdown between the end of March and June 2020. Following the easing of some lockdown restrictions in June 2020, there was a return to usual levels and the Early Help Hub received 208 new involvements, 100% of which received an outcome review within 5 working days. The responsiveness of the Early Help Hub is critical in terms of the effectiveness of an early help service offer to families, and this performance provides assurance that responsiveness to families is at a high level in order to engage them in early help services at the right time. The proportionate increase in referrals from MASH to the Early Help Hub during the pandemic has been consistent and is showing continued signs of increase into quarter 2. A significant number of involvements are referred from MASH and relate to lower level domestic abuse notifications from the police. The demand forecasting work undertaken includes predicted capacity requirements

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for the Early Help Hub in terms of increasing numbers of families being referred during the Autumn 2020.

- 4.3 The Troubled Families Programme in Swindon continues to be a key approach to working with families to provide effective early interventions. At the end of June 2020, the programme had claimed for 1,333 families, and has 1,996 families actively being worked with to date.
- 4.4 The Edge of Care Service was launched in September 2019, and is currently working with 32 families of which 27 have been supported to avoid the need for their child to come into care. A further five children or young people are being effectively supported to be reunified with their families. This service is working closely with social work teams to help find alternative solutions to support children without the need for them to come into care. The impact of this service is evidenced in the overall reducing trend of children needing to become looked after, which is referenced later in this report.
- 4.5 The Family Group Conference (FGC) Service is working closely with the Edge of Care team to embed FGC practice and Restorative Conferences (RC). This service aims to reduce conflict in families, and draw on wider family support for children who may be at risk of coming into care. Engagement with service users in Family Group Conferences remains high and Restorative Conferencing has been extended to support those families being worked with by Social Work teams, as well as across Early Help and the Edge of Care Service. The service was working with 83 families at the end of June 2020 (an increase from 59 at the end of July 19).
- 4.6 Healthy Child Programme: The Swindon Health Visiting Team deliver the 0-5 years Healthy Child Programme as agreed with the Public Health commissioners. There are currently national challenges in the recruitment of Health Visitors, which Swindon is also experiencing, leading to vacancies in these roles. This has required a detailed risk assessment that targets Health Visiting resources according to vulnerability, and prioritises new birth, 6-8 week and 2-2.5 year visits to children. The service is completing a full remodelling process to ensure the delivery of a modern, efficient and effective Health Visiting service within the resources available. There is a proactive recruitment programme and 5 Swindon Nurses began the specialist training to become Health Visitors in January 2020.
- 4.7 In Swindon 94.2% (598 out of 635) of new mothers received a new birth visit during quarter 4 of 19/20, which is slightly lower than the England average of 97.9%. During Quarter 1 of 20/21 performance improved to 95.4% (559 out of 586). The introduction of virtual visits during the pandemic has increased the capacity and coverage that Health Visitors were able to provide due to less travel and families being more available. However, the service has now re-established

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more 'face to face' contact with the appropriate PPE and COVID- 19 risk assessment processes in place.

- 4.8 The 6-8 week contact rate reached 90% in Quarter 4 of 19/20 (562 out of 628), and this was sustained during quarter one of 20/21. There is no England comparator for 6-8 week contact data. Positive performance continues in relation to infant's breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks with 48% (285 out of 594), breastfeeding compared to 47.9% in England. Breastfeeding is a strong protective factor for infants, promoting good health and attachment.
- 4.9 It is positive to report that performance in relation to completion of 2-2.5 year visits reached 82.4% for Quarter 4 of 19/20 (637 out of 773), which was above the England average of 76.6%. Performance has improved during the first quarter of 20/21 to 86.9% (670 out of 771 children). The service has been proactively working with Early Help Family Practitioners to maximise resources and these staff have been trained and are assisting in the completion of 2-2.5 year contacts. The essential prioritisation of resources inevitably impacts on performance for other aspects of the programme, which means that antenatal contacts by Health Visitors remain lower than optimum level. Midwifery services are providing universal contacts during this period and Health Visitor contacts are targeted for vulnerable children and families
- 4.10 The service continues to try to attract new Health Visitors, alongside increasing the use of skills mix in the staffing structure in order to increase capacity. This skills mix includes the use of Early Years Family Practitioners who are a valuable asset to the service. The service is working on retaining the existing staff through offering opportunities to develop and progress whilst strengthening the quality of our delivery. Senior Practitioner posts have been created for both Health Visitor and Early Years Family Practitioners. A review of recruitment and retention is underway with support from HR specialists, with a view to increasing the number of Health Visitors in Swindon and ensuring retention of staff in the longer term.
- 4.11 School Nursing: The school nursing team prepared and delivered a webinar that was aimed at parents whose child would be starting Secondary school in September 2020, recognising that COVID 19 meant the usual transition process was disrupted. Eighteen secondary schools were offered this service and nine accepted. Uptake and feedback from parents was positive and many have requested this becomes an annual activity. Public Health England requested a copy of the presentation used in the webinar as an example of good practice in the response to Covid-19. In addition the service developed virtual clinics for children and young people who attended school settings during lockdown
- 4.12 Social Care Contacts and Referrals: 14,748 contacts were received into MASH during 2019/20. This is an average of 1,229 per month and an increase of 21% on the previous year. Of those referrals that were screened by MASH at contact

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stage, 3,166 cases progressed to a social care referral. This is slightly lower than 3,242 referrals received in the previous year. Swindon is narrowing the gap with national average in relation to the referral rate, but was still above average in 19/20 with 630 referrals per 10,000 of the population aged under 18, compared with 544 nationally, and 566 for Swindon's statistical neighbours. Quarter 1 of 20/21 experienced a decrease in referrals with 87 and 104 received in April and May 2020, which was below the usual monthly average. This is directly attributed to the lockdown and a reduction in requests for help and support. However, the rate of referrals in June 2020 increased back in line with expectations at 223. It is anticipated that the referral rate will increase during September 2020 as schools fully re-open and the easing of lockdown continues.

- 4.13 Social Care Re-referrals: 27% (841 out of 3,166) of referrals during 2019/20 were children who had been re-referred within 12 months. This compares with 22.6% nationally. During quarter 1 of 20/21 this has increased slightly to 28.5% (117 out of 418 referrals). The decrease in the number of referrals during quarter 1 of 20/21 will be impacting on the ratio of re-referrals. The re-referral rate for quarter 1 of 19/20 was 23.5% (210 out of 895 referrals). Whilst there will always be instances where families are re-referred for different reasons to those presenting at the original referral, this measure can be an indicator of whether first time interventions have been effective. Where the re-referral is ostensibly for the same reason as the previous referral, it is important to understand if there is a need to reflect on the quality of practice. Service Managers routinely audit case files to determine any required learning and improvement and this is disseminated through the service. As the re-referral rate has been showing signs of a slight increase, and is above national average, a regular audit is being undertaken of all re-referrals to check that children are receiving an effective first intervention. The oversight of this is undertaken monthly at the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Board.

Statutory Assessments: The number of statutory assessments completed remained at a high level with 4,438 completed during 2019/20 compared with 4,389 in the previous year. During Quarter 1 of 2020/21 a total of 684 assessments have been completed compared with 1,447 for the same quarter in the previous year. This lower rate is expected given the reduction in referrals during the lockdown period. However, taking the decrease into account Swindon still has a higher assessment completion rate comparatively. This is due to the good practice of assessments being refreshed annually as part of ensuring the child's needs are still being met, with plans in place. The Director of Children Services requests an update of the status of all outstanding assessments with a trajectory for completion to each Quality Assurance and Improvement board. This ensures all managers have reviewed overdue cases and any delays are addressed as well undertaking any data cleansing activity where assessments had been duplicated in error. The new Care Director system will help prevent

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these issues going forward as only one assessment can be open on the system at any time. Completed assessments during quarter one of 2020/21 shows that just under 80% were completed within 45 days, which is the statutory timescale. The national average is 83%. However, when considering performance for all assessments that were started during the quarter (and not linked to data cleansing activity for legacy cases), performance is very strong at 99%. The average duration of assessments completed in June 2020 was 16 days.

- 4.14 Children In Need: 775 children were assessed as being in need of Social Work support (but not the subject of a Child Protection Plan or Looked After), at the end of March 2020. This is a reduction from 1,284 at the end of March 2019. In Swindon the rate of Children In Need per 10,000 of the child population has been higher than comparator averages in the last 4 years, but Swindon is now at 155.8 which is just below the statistical neighbour average of 160. The national average is higher at 185.7. The number of children in need at the end of June 2020 was 782. There was a dip in April and May 2020 to 712 and 717 respectively, which is directly linked to the lower referral rate experienced in this period.
- 4.15 Work continues to ensure that practice for children in need is timely and compliant. The local priority measures report continued improvement throughout 2019/20 and in the first quarter of 2020/21. The percentage of children with up to date assessments has increased from 74% in April 2019 to 91.2% in June 2020. The frequency of visits reports an improvement from 66% in April 2019 to 93.2% (373 out of 400) of children receiving timely visits. 89.8% (378 out of 421) of children in need had a review undertaken within 3 months, which is an improvement from 61.8% in April 2019. Progress against these measures is monitored at monthly performance clinics and exception reporting is in place. There is no comparator data for these local measures but the local targets deliberately set a high standard of practice expectations and have enabled strong management oversight and identified where performance management is required.
- 4.16 Recruitment and retention of Social Workers remains an area of focus and turnover of staff has been higher than we want it to be. This can affect continuity for children and families, and has at times led to variability of Social Worker caseloads across the service. Despite the national challenges we have seen a reduction in the percentage of Agency Social Workers from over 60% in November 2019 to 51% in June 2020. A "Temp to Perm" roadshow was held last May 2019, and efforts to support more locums to take up permanent positions have continued. Thirteen student placements went live during October and November 2019 and seven Frontline student Social Worker placements were made during September 2019. As a result of increasing the numbers of student placements, the successful recruitment of 17 permanent posts for Assessed and Supported First Year in Practice (ASYE), has taken place. These staff will all

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have started by the end of September 2020 and will further reduce the dependency on agency Social Workers.

- 4.17 In October 2019 the service had a recruitment stall at a Community Live event in London. The event enabled the promotion of Swindon offer to Social Workers at all level of experience from students to experienced Social Workers and managers. It was also an arena to raise awareness of Swindon's rating as a good authority and to inform of the developments underway to support social work including the Social Work and Leadership Academy which was launched in November 2019. As a result of the event, 151 initial enquiries have been made in relation to social work posts in Children's Services. A further recruitment stall took place in February at the University of Gloucestershire's Health and Social Care Fair and another was planned at the Compass Fair in Birmingham in March however this was unfortunately postponed due to Covid-19, but once re-scheduled Swindon will ensure attendance.
- 4.18 Alongside these recruitment events there remains a rolling externally advertised programme with a monthly schedule of interviewing in place to ensure any applications are considered in a timely manner. During November a reduction was made to the package offered to Agency staff to encourage them to consider moving to permanent. There has also been an internal drive for permanent staff to take the opportunity to apply for promotional posts and 13 staff were successful during October 2019 to June 2020. This has assisted with the retention of permanent staff. A programme of overseas recruitment has taken place with the support of an agency and in July 2020, 6 workers were appointed pending relevant paperwork.
- 4.19 Children's Services managers have been actively involved in the wider corporate work reviewing the pay and progression scheme. Work has taken place in this quarter to contribute to the development of the Health, Care and Wellbeing Career Family.
- 4.20 A new work-based Social Work Apprenticeship programme with the Open University has been implemented, enabling existing staff to train 'on the job' to qualify as a Social Worker. The shortlisting and interviewing has taken place and 3 staff members commenced this in February 2020.
- 4.21 Performance management within social work teams continues to be strengthened, with a more focused use of exception reporting for the purpose of ensuring strong management oversight and practice 'grip'. The Team Managers report to their Service Manager on a weekly basis the details of any children and young people that have not received a visit within timescales or who have an overdue or out of date assessment. The exception report gives a strong focus on practice at child level and provides the operational managers with the tools to challenge and support Social Workers to undertake timely visits and

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assessments. The Service Manager has visibility of any children who have not been visited or who are experiencing drift or delay in having their needs met. Actions to address any late visits or out of date assessments are agreed with the Social Worker and tracked through the weekly worker level performance reports. Exception reporting takes place at monthly performance clinics for each service and is escalated by exception to the monthly Quality Assurance Performance Improvement Board (QAPIB) chaired by the Director of Children Services

- 4.22 Child Protection: There were 125 children at risk of significant harm and therefore the subject of a Child Protection Plan at the end of June 2020 which was a decrease from 170 at the end of March 2020. This places Swindon below its comparators with 25 per 10,000 population aged under 18 on a child protection plan compared with 43.7 nationally. However, up to date comparator data is not available, so it is likely that other Local Authorities have also experienced a reduction in their rate of Child Protection Plans and the latest national benchmarking data for 18/19 reported a 4% decrease. The number of children involved in child protection processes at the end of June 2020 was lower as this is linked to a decrease in the referral rate. The data for July 2020 shows an increase in the number of children who are the subject of CP Plan to 141.
- 4.23 The longer term decrease in Swindon is attributable to the impact of a targeted and systematic approach to reducing the number of children on a child protection plan which experienced a peak in August 2018 and was significantly higher than the national average. Quality and performance analysis indicated a need to prevent unnecessary escalation to child protection processes where families could be effectively supported as children in need. A review of thresholds and work with the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership ensured a more consistent approach to multi agency decision making. The child protection conference chair function received specific workforce development in relation to decision making to ensure that the right children became the subject of child protection plans at the right time.
- 4.24 The response rate for children where a conference is required is timely; 84.6% of child protection conferences took place within 15 days of the decision to hold a conference during quarter 1 of 2020/21 and this remains above the national average of 78.8%. June 2020 data reflects that 100% of children on child protection plans have an up to date assessment and 96.6% of children on plans during the month received a fortnightly visit by a Social Worker. Children on CP Plans continued to be visited throughout the lockdown period. For the small number of children where face to face visits were not possible due to medical needs, virtual visits were in place. Audits of unsuccessful visits are undertaken by Team Managers and these demonstrate the service is taking appropriate action to ensure children are seen.

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- 4.25 98.1% of child protection review conferences were held on time during 2019/20. Eight children had a late conference and reasons for this were understood with exception reporting in place. All late conference requests have to be signed off by the Safeguarding Manager and exception reporting is in place to ensure that delays in conference are the best course of action in the interests of the child. Of the 69 child protection reviews that took place during quarter one, 100% were on time. This is strong performance in the comparator context (90.5% nationally). Conferences were held virtually during the lockdown period, but face to face conferences have now been re-established with the appropriate COVID risk assessments.
- 4.26 Children becoming the subject of a subsequent CP Plan 12.9% (31 out of 240 children) starting a child protection plan during 2019/20 had previously been the subject of a CP plan. This will not necessarily be for the same reason, acknowledging that some children will be the subject of a subsequent child protection plan due to family circumstances that are not linked to the original concerns. The national and statistical neighbour average is 21%. During quarter 1 there has been an increase to 28.1% (9 out of 32 children starting plans). This is directly linked to a lower number of children becoming the subject of a plan during the period, rather than an increase in the number of children becoming the subject of a subsequent plan. 10 out of 53 children had a second or subsequent plan during quarter one of 19/20 and so the overall number of children in receipt of a subsequent plan actually decreased by one. It is the lower number of conferences completed in Quarter 1 of 2020/21 that is skewing performance. Auditing is undertaken for children who are the subject of a second or subsequent plan to ensure any practice learning is shared with staff as appropriate.
- 4.27 Serious Case Reviews (SCR): A Serious Case Review is undertaken when a child has died or received a life-threatening injury due to abuse or neglect. Swindon Safeguarding Partnership conducts formal reviews of these and other serious child abuse cases in accordance with Central Government guidance contained in Working Together to Safeguard Children July 2018. Learning events have taken place and the action plans have been monitored at the Safeguarding Partnership Practice Review Group. All of the actions for the Local Authority have been completed.
- 4.28 Children Looked After: 317 children were Looked After at the end of June 2020; up from 302 at the end of March 2020. This represents 63.1 per 10,000 population aged under 18 and is slightly below national average of 65, but in line with statistical neighbours (63.2). The increase in quarter one was mainly attributable to a higher number of new entrants to care in May 2020. A number of these were longer term child protection cases where risks to the children had not reduced, and a decision was made to put matters before the court, to bring the

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child into the care of the local authority. There were a number of sibling groups in the cohort and the reasons for these children becoming looked after has not been directly linked to COVID 19. Audits are undertaken routinely of the last 10 children becoming looked after to ensure the practice and decision making for these children is appropriate and timely.

- 4.29 There were 14 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the care of Swindon Borough Council at the end of March 2020, and this reduced to 12 at the end of June 2020. The authority also has a number of care leavers who are UASC, to support them with the transition into adulthood.
- 4.30 Twenty four children experienced 3 or more care placements during 2019/20 which represents 8% of the children looked after at the 31st March 2020. The national average is 10%. At the end of the first quarter of 2020/21 nine children had experienced 3 or more placement moves in the previous 12 months which represents 2% of the number of children looked after at the end of June 2020. This measure does increase through the year as it counts the number of placements from 1st April. The rolling 12 month average (June 2019 to June 2020) was higher at 12.9% (41 out of 317 children).
- 4.31 Long term stability of children's care placements continues to be lower than the national average, which has led to a number of actions that have taken place to address this. These include the introduction of stability meetings which are convened when a placement is at risk, and work with carer providers to prevent placement breakdowns. Tracking systems have been embedded to provide senior management oversight of the progress to permanency for children. There has been a reduction in the number of children looked after placed more than 20 miles from Swindon from 33% (112 out of 339), at the end of June 19 to 28.1% (89 out of 317) at the end of June 2020. Progress to reduce this number is positive but it is recognised that significant further decreases are not anticipated in the short term given the need to retain continuity of care for those children who are settled. A further shift towards local provision is something that will happen over time as other improvement work takes effect. There is a definite increase in the use of local placements (Local Authority and Independent) and the placements team are strengthening the matching assessments to enable more effective placement suitability at the outset. There will of course be some instances where it is in the best interests of the child to live at a distance from the Borough and some types of specialist placements are the best option for children. Any potential placement change involves careful consideration to make sure any changes are in the best interests of the child.
- 4.32 Permanency for Children Looked After: The increase in the adoption rate during 2019/20 has been notable and directly attributable to a concentrated focus on achieving permanency for both legacy and newly Looked After Children in the

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Local Authority. The data is now demonstrating the impact of this work with 20.1% of children ceasing care during 2019/20 having being adopted, (30 children). This is significantly above the national average of 13%. Permanency planning is a key priority for Swindon. The work with Adoption Thames Valley (ATV) to match adopters to children in Swindon on Placement Orders (where a court has determined the child should be placed for adoption) is getting stronger. The number of children who remain on a Placement Order has reduced from a higher level of 49 in June 2019 down to 30 at the end of June 2020. For some children the length of time they have been subject to a Placement Order has been too long and this has been addressed through strengthened management oversight and the introduction of a fortnightly permanency tracker for all children on Placement Orders. Work has been completed to ensure that all children with plans for adoption still require this permanency route; there are some children where the plan needs to change away from adoption to long term fostering, and so matters are being returned to Court to change the plan.

- 4.33 A high percentage of children looked after have received timely visits by a Social Worker during 2019/20 with 96.2% visited within timescales. Exception reporting by managers for children not visited on time is in place and where a visit is late, the reasons are recorded. 90% of children were reviewed on time and this is in line with the national average.
- 4.34 Health outcomes for children looked after during 2019/20 was positive with 91.7% (276 out of 301 children looked after for more than 12 months) having an up to date health assessment of their needs. A new process has been established for health assessments for children placed out of borough which ensures timely notification to health of a child being placed out of borough in order for the assessment to be completed.
- 4.35 Care Leavers: 62.4% of Care Leavers were in Education, Employment, or Training (EET) at the end of March 2020 (116 out of 186) young people. This compares with 52% nationally and is strong performance. The performance for quarter 1 has not been as strong but this is due to the impact of Covid19. Eighty four percent, (157 out of 186), of Swindon's Care Leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2020 and this improved to 87.8% at the end of June 2020 and is above comparators (Nationally 84% and statistical neighbours 82%). The service consistently tracks and works with the young people who need suitable accommodation. When inspected in March 2019 by Ofsted, they recommended that Swindon Care Leavers would benefit from a greater range of bespoke housing options. In order to deliver these improvements the Housing Panel has continued to meet fortnightly and has successfully supported 70+ young people. Positive outcomes include:
- Care leavers are now being prioritised for suitable vacancies

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- 4 care leavers have gone straight into social housing without having to go into temporary accommodation
 - The panel discusses young people well in advance of their 18th birthday to ensure that they have a plan in place and are receiving appropriate support to prepare them for independence
 - Greater management oversight through a quarterly reporting approach to the Quality Assurance and Improvement Board.
 - Improved multi-agency approach (combining knowledge and skills from different disciplines)
- 4.36 Elective Home Education (EHE): The number of children registered as electively home educated (EHE) within Swindon at the end of June 2020 was 278, this includes 53 young people who would normally have been removed from the register as they are above the statutory school age, but have remained on the register this year to enable the service to report on their future destination as part of the wider local authority responsibility for monitoring those who are NEET (Not in education, employment or training post 16). Swindon is currently below the national average for EHE pupil's per school population. EHE continues to be a priority area for the Education Welfare Service who are currently reviewing the new guidance published by the Department of Education in regards to the use of School attendance orders (SAO), for those families who do not engage with the Local Authority. Appropriate information sharing with our partners in MASH, Social care, Education, Health and Early Help ensures that any safeguarding concerns are responded to in a timely manner. A dedicated Home Education Support officer has been identified within the Education Welfare Service in order to build on the positive relationships that have been developed with many EHE families.
- 4.37 A full audit of those registered as EHE, focusing on 'has the child been seen' and is the quality of the education deemed suitable' has been completed and enables the identification for children where there are causes for concerns and includes actions required to address. Work has commenced with admissions, early years commissioners and health to help identify those children who are not going to be registered with a school setting but will take the EHE route for education. This partnership will help to identify those families that we may not otherwise get to know about as it is not mandatory for families to alert the local authority of children who are being home educated.
- 4.38 The Elective Home Education strategy and multi-agency implementation plan continues to be delivered. The Education Welfare Service continues to promote with partners and colleagues potential vulnerability factors for children who are EHE, raising awareness of the need to ask about the education provision for all

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children, and bringing EHE children to the notice of the Education Welfare Service when they have come into contact with other services.

- 4.39 Children Missing from Education: The number of children being tracked as children missing education (CME) within Swindon at the end of June 2020 was 66 children. This is an increase of 14 pupils compared to the same period for the previous year (19/20), but is a reduction of 11 pupils compared to the previous month (May 2020). Swindon has a policy of keeping pupils identified as CME whereabouts unknown, on a monitoring document far beyond the time when all reasonable checks have been made to find the child. This is a practice that will be reviewed as many Local Authorities remove the child from their monitoring once all reasonable enquiries have been made. Swindon will look to ensure that best practice is maintained in any decision on changes to this process.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are no alternative options for consideration within the context of this report.

6. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

- 6.1 There is no Diversity Impact Assessment associated with this report. Where there are areas of performance improvement, the measures are referenced within the relevant service improvement plan and progress monitored via the monthly Children's Social Care and Early Help Quality Assurance Improvement Board.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 For 2020/21, the budget for Children's Social Care and Early Help Services is £42.050m. The forecast outturn position as at the end of June 2020 was a £3.236m over-spend. £3.158m of the forecast over-spend relates to pressures resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Pressures include anticipated future demand for services which will impact on resourcing and placement requirements. This will be closely monitored as the financial year progresses. There are also pressures relating to income and penalty charges as a result of Covid-19.

8. Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 8.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) requires every Local Authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance report.

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All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 8.2 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and in any recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

9. Consultees

- 9.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

10. Background Papers

- 10.1 There are no background papers associated with this report.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 None

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Work Programme 2020/21

Children's' Health, Social Care and Education

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16th September 2020

Author: Chief Legal Officer

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

1.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to have a work programme that details the activities that it will be undertaking during the Municipal year.

1.2 The work programme details the various topics and issues that each Committee intends to look into during the coming year with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies/bodies to consider.

1.3 Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to agree a work programme at the start of the municipal year outlining their priorities and likely outcomes of considering these issues.

The work programme is developed taking into account:

- Corporate priorities and objectives, including the Cabinet Forward Plan.
- Partnership strategic priorities and objectives.
- The interests and concerns of Members, Council officers, members of the public and other stakeholders such as community and voluntary groups and local businesses.

1.4 Committees are encouraged to review the work programme on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and to prioritise the workload of the Committee.

1.5 Members are reminded that the work programme must also take into account:

- The workload of the Committee and of individual members.
- The capacity of the Scrutiny Unit and other officers to support a review.
- The resource implications of carrying out a review.
- The timescales for a review.
- The most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review.

1.6 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have presented the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a role, remit and powers regarding local health matters.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Contact Shaun Banks, 0789752047, sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Work Programme 2020/21

Children's' Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16th September 2020

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- 1.7 The Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to be mindful of its role and remit when considering a work programme for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- Consider and discuss the Chair's proposal for the 2020/21 work programme.
- Approve the proposed Work Programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal year.

3. Detail

- 3.1 It is important that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Council and the Borough and produces tangible outcomes for local people that result in real service improvements. Selecting the right topics is crucial to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny will be effective.

The work programme will be reviewed at every Committee meeting or as the Committee sees fit to ensure that it remains relevant and that Members and Officers have sufficient capacity to effectively achieve its objectives.

- 3.2 The Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 includes these suggestions and the Committee is asked to approve the work programme for the 2020/21 Municipal year.
- 3.3 Attention is drawn to the Scrutiny Process Flowchart, attached at Appendix 2, which is aimed at assisting the Committee in identifying how they could influence policy development.

Task Group Reviews

- 3.4 The Committee is required to undertake individual reviews throughout the municipal year and proposals for reviews should be proposed and discussed at the Committee meeting.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Committee can choose not to have a detailed work programme although it is recommended that it is best practice to do so.

Work Programme 2020/21

Children's' Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16th September 2020

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising as a result of this report. Any expenditure arising as a result of an item on the Committee's work programme will be met by the Overview and Scrutiny Support budget, subject to the approval of the Committee.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee and in any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment is required at this stage, any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

- 5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The author has consulted, where appropriate, with Corporate Directors, Heads of Service, other officers and relevant partners on the purpose, content and recommendations of the report.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Work Programme for 2020/21.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Contact Shaun Banks, 0789752047, sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Work Programme 2020/21

**Children's' Health, Social Care and Education
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Date: 16th September 2020

8.2 Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Process Flowchart.

Children's Health, Social Care and Education
Work Programme 2020-21

Terms of Reference of the Committee

To fulfil all the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee as they relate to: –

- The review, scrutiny, and development of policy recommendations.
- The management of and monitoring performance.
- The monitoring of progress towards delivering relevant strategies, corporate priorities, and the Councils pledges and priorities.
- The formulation of advice for the Cabinet, Council and other partners and stakeholders.

To have specific responsibility for (but not limited to) the scrutiny of:–

- The performance of services for children towards agreed local and national Performance Indicators.
- The quality of provision and effectiveness of Local Authority strategies to raise standards of education within Swindon.
- Specialist social services and integrated social services for children and young people in Swindon.
- The delivery of services for vulnerable groups, particularly those vulnerable to criminal exploitation, poor school attendance and attending alternative education provision.

In addition, as these relate to Children and Young People:

- The performance of services seeking to deliver healthy communities towards agreed local and national performance indicators.
- Health, health commissioning and service delivery.
- Public Health, Health promotion and the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Health Integration and collaborative working and commissioning with Health agencies and providers and General Practitioners.

In accordance with Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 (as amended), the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee will undertake scrutiny of local health service providers jointly with the Adult's Health, Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Review of the Work Programme

The work programme will be reviewed at every meeting of the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee to ensure that it remains relevant, to ensure that Members and Officers have sufficient capacity to deliver the work programme and to include any additional items on the work programme, if appropriate.

Contact details

Committee Officer: Shaun Banks
Email: sbanks@swindon.gov.uk
Tel: 07980 752 047

Pillars of Improvement:

- Workforce
- ICT
- Quality of Social Work Practice
- Placement stability and sufficiency
- Early Help Hub, Troubled Families and Early Help Offer (combine with partners pillar)

16th September 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Co-optees Appointment	To confirm the appointment of Co-optees to the Committee.	Chair
Engagement/Participation of Young people	To receive feedback from Young People	Fiona Francis
Recovery Report/ the Covid response and plans for school returns from September.	To provide a detailed report to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A review of 2020 GCSE & A Level grading system (has it put any of our young people at a disadvantage?), (ii) What plans are in place in the event of the Government deciding to delay summer 2021 exams? (Are current Swindon Y10 & Y12 students likely to be disadvantaged and if so, what measures can be put in place to support them, (iii) EET opportunities, (iv) Apprenticeships/and Sub-Group updates; and (v) Educational Outcomes Performance. 	Sally Burnett
Motion to Council - Provision of Mental Health Services for Young People	To scrutinise and comment upon the response to a Council Motion (Minute 22 of the Council refers)	Katie Currie/Esther Schmidt
Education/Exclusion/Persistent Absence	To provide information on implementation on Education, Exclusion and Persistent Absence and to challenge officers	Nigel Pickering
Children's Social Care and Early Help Performance Report	To challenge and scrutinise the and challenge officers, including the Covid-19 Response and Recovery To update the Committee on the preparatory work being undertaken.	Angel Clark/Jo Ash
Work Programme discussion	To set the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year.	All

25th November 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Education and Learning Strategy –	To scrutinise strategy during consultation stage – Autumn Meeting	
0 – 5 Early Years and Outcomes Strategy	To scrutinise strategy during consultation stage	
Children's Summary of Performance 20/21 from End of Quarter 2 Data Position	To challenge and scrutinise	
Progress on SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA)	To review and scrutinise progress on the eight priorities	
Multi-agency response to Young Offending (YOT)	To receive, challenge and scrutinise an Annual Report from the YOT Board	
- To receive, challenge and scrutinise an Annual Report from the YOT Board	To receive, challenge and scrutinise an Annual Report from the YOT Board	
Multi-agency response to Child Exploitation (include CE and CSE)	To scrutinise and consider greater engagement of community leaders, and wider multi-cultural communities, can be facilitated in the work of partner organisations in order to prevent Child Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation	
Work Programme discussion	To review the work programme.	All

24th February 2021		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Children's Summary of Performance 20/21 from End of Quarter 3 Data Position	To challenge and scrutinise	
Children's Social Care and Early Help Performance Report	To challenge and scrutinise data and challenge officers	
Educational progress and Outcomes across all key stages	To consider Education Standards and Improvement, and validated data. (The published Educational outcomes for 2019 at all key stages, post 16 and HE. To receive and challenge a report from Swindon Challenge Board in quality of educated provision	

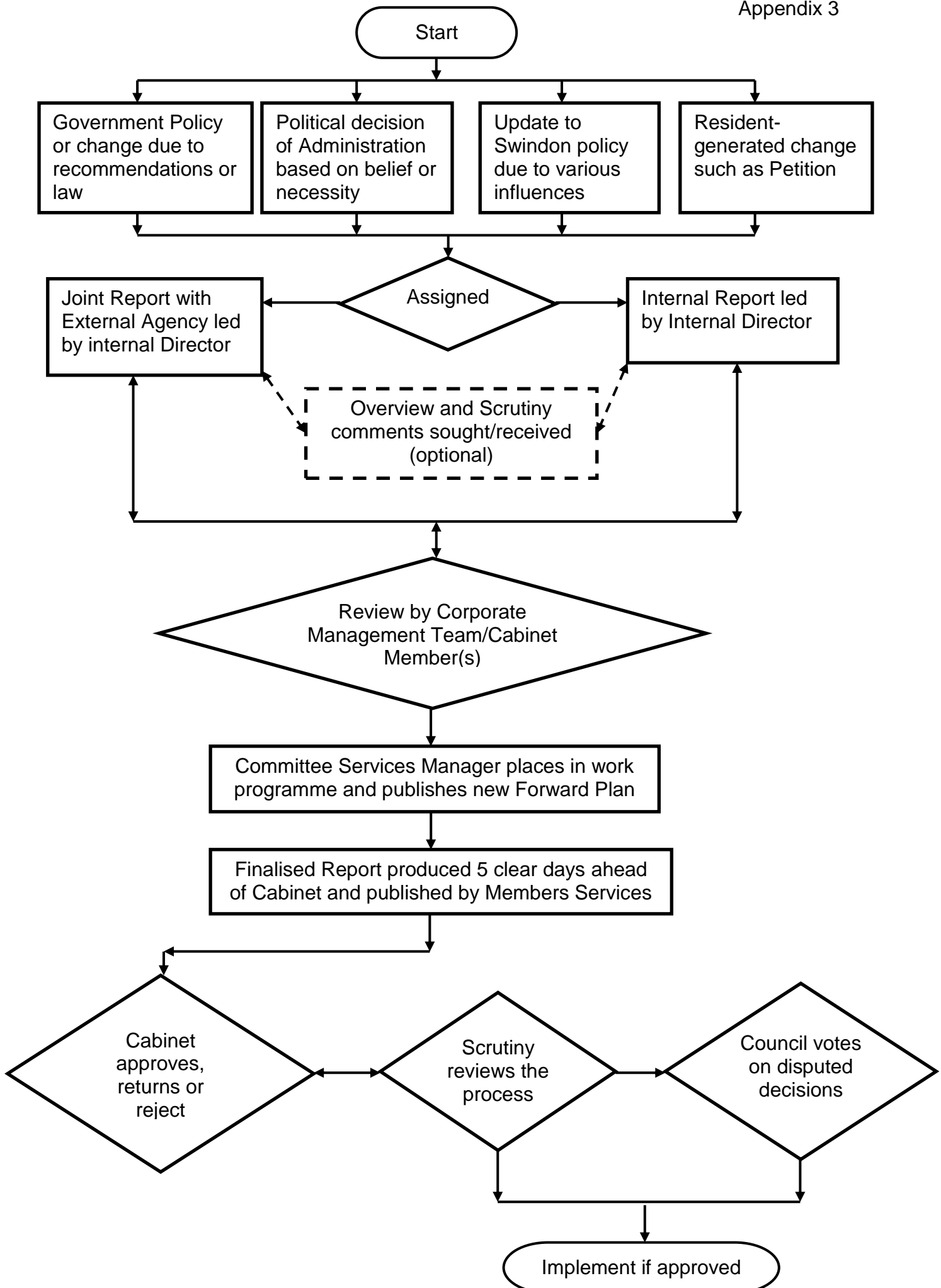
24th February 2021		
Educational attainment BAME school-age children	To scrutinise the educational compared to their white counterparts and if so, what are the outcomes for them and what steps are being taken to support them and eradicate this? To review if schools considering running a programme similar to the one in Glenthorne High School in south London <u>The School That Tried to End Racism - All 4</u> www.channel4.com › programmes › the-school-that-tri... if not, can this be reviewed and explored?	
Bullying	To review current position in Swindon schools and scrutinise its reporting, preventative measure being undertaken improvement plans and referrals to our mental health services where bullying maybe the underlying cause	
Progress report on the Pillar improvement plan	To challenge and scrutinise progress and challenge officers on further work	
Work Programme discussion	To review the work programme.	All

28th April 2021		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Children's Social Care and Early Help Performance Report	To scrutinise work undertaken and data available	
Progress report on MASH improvement	To review and scrutinise progress made and work outstanding	
Impact study of isolation units (social and attainment impact)	To scrutinise options available and make recommendations to officers	
Update on Children Missing Education, Elective Home Education and Part-time Timetables.	To scrutinise options available and make recommendations to officers	
Options and opportunities available to assist Care Leavers who are classified as Not in Employment, Education or Training	To scrutinise options available and make recommendations to officers	

28th April 2021		
Update on Serious Case Reviews	To consider how the Committee can best scrutinise Serious Case Reviews and the current process for undertaking them	
Work Programme discussion	To review the work programme.	All

Task Group
Task Group with members of the Growing the Economy O&S to be set up to review how NEET and children in care were engaged with to get into work. Report to be submitted to Cabinet.

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