



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

AGENDA PAPERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 5 July 2022

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Place: Committee Rooms 2&3, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford,
M32 0TH

A G E N D A	PART I	Pages
1.	ATTENDANCES	
	To note attendances, including officers, and any apologies for absence.	
2.	COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	1 - 2
	To note the Membership of the Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year, including the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair, as agreed at the Annual Council Meeting on the 25 th of May 2022.	
3.	TERMS OF REFERENCE 2022/23	3 - 6
	To note the Committee's Terms of Reference for the 2022/23 Municipal Year as agreed at the Annual Council meeting on the 25 th of May 2022.	
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Members to give notice of any interest and the nature of that interest relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.	
5.	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC	
	A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to public questions submitted in writing to Democratic Services (democratic.services@trafford.gov.uk) by 4 p.m. on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must be relevant to items appearing on the agenda and will be submitted in the order in which they were received.	

6. **MINUTES** To Follow
- To receive and, if so determined, to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 9th February and 15th March 2022.
7. **OFSTED MONITORING** To Follow
- To consider the attached report.
8. **SOCIAL CARE REVIEW** 7 - 24
- To consider the attached presentation.
9. **SCHOOL FUNDING** 25 - 28
- To consider the attached report.
10. **ELECTIVELY HOME EDUCATED** To Follow
- To consider the attached report.
11. **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23** 29 - 32
- To consider and discuss the draft work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year.
12. **URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

Any other item or items which by reason of:-

- (a) Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the Chairman of the meeting, with the agreement of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman, is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency as it relates to a key decision; or
- (b) special circumstances (to be specified) the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

SARA TODD
Chief Executive

Membership of the Committee

Councillors D. Western (Chair), Miss L. Blackburn (Vice-Chair), J. Bennett, L. Dagnall, R. Duncan, F. Hornby, S. Maitland, S. Procter, M.J. Welton, G. Whitham, A.M. Whyte, D. Acton (ex-Officio) and M.P. Whetton (ex-Officio).

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

Alexander Murray,

Tel: 0161 912 4250

Email: alexander.murray@trafford.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on **Monday, 27th June 2022** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall; Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH.

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TRAFFORD COUNCIL**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2022/23****Notes on Membership:**

(1) The Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee shall have a membership of 11, or, where this does not achieve the political balance required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, whatever figure is necessary to reflect the proportional representation of political groups.

(2) The Scrutiny Committee shall be chaired by a Councillor who is a member of the largest political group on the Council. The person appointed as Vice-Chair shall not be a member of the same political group as the person appointed as Chair.

(3) The Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee shall appoint co-opted Members when that committee considers education matters.

(4) The Chairs of both the Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee shall be appointed as ex-officio Members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee.

COMMITTEE		NO. OF MEMBERS	
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		11	
		(plus the Chair of Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee as ex-officio Non-Voting Members)	
		+ 5 CO-OPTED MEMBERS + 3 NON-VOTING MEMBERS (when considering Education matters)	
LABOUR GROUP	CONSERVATIVE GROUP	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP	GREEN PARTY GROUP
Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:	Councillors:
Joanne Bennett Louise Dagnall Fionna Hornby Sue Maitland Shirley Procter Denise Western CH Graham Whitham Amy Whyte	Miss Linda Blackburn V-CH Rob Duncan	-	Michael Welton
TOTAL	8	2	0
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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

1. The Committee will be responsible for the review and scrutiny of decisions made or actions taken in connection with the provision, planning and management of education in the borough of Trafford and, in particular, all of the functions of the Council as an education authority under the Education Acts, School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time. Co-opted Members will be appointed to discuss education matters and will attend the Scrutiny Committee when they consider education matters.
2. To review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with:
 - (a) the provision, planning and management of children's and young people's services and community lifelong learning in the borough of Trafford;
 - (b) all functions of the council insofar as they relate to the provision of opportunities for education, training and learning outside the school environment, including pre-school, adult and community learning.
3. The development of the council's LEA Strategic Plan (incorporating the Education Development Plan) and the Early Years Development Plan.

General Role

4. Subject to statutory provision, to review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge by the Council of its functions and by relevant partner authorities.
5. In relation to the above functions:
 - (a) to make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, Executive of the Council, any joint committee or any relevant partner authority as appropriate.
 - (b) to consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants.
6. To put in place and maintain a system to ensure that referrals from the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee to the Executive, either by way of report or for reconsideration, are managed efficiently and do not exceed the limits set out in the Constitution.
7. At the request of the Executive, to make decisions about the priority of referrals made in the event of reports to the Executive exceeding limits in the Constitution, or if the volume of such reports creates difficulty for the management of executive business or jeopardises the efficient running of Council business.

8. To report annually to full Council on its workings, set out their plans for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

Specific functions

9. Identify the Committee's strategic priorities and determine the Overview and Scrutiny work programme to facilitate constructive evidence based critical-friend challenge to policy makers and service providers within the resources available.
10. Assist and advise the Council in the continued development of the Overview and Scrutiny function within Trafford.
11. Receive, consider and action as appropriate requests:
 - (a) from the Executive in relation to particular issues; and
 - (b) on any matters properly referred to the Committee.
12. Identify areas requiring in-depth review and allocate these to an appropriate Topic Group. The Committee in consultation with the leader of the relevant Topic Group will set the terms of reference, scope and time frame for the review by the Topic Group.
13. In relation to the terms of reference of the Committee it may:
 - (a) assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
 - (b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
 - (c) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - (d) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the overview and scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance;
 - (e) conduct research, community and other consultation as it deems appropriate in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
 - (f) question and gather evidence from any other person with their consent.
 - (g) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;

- (h) question members of the Executive and/or committees, senior officers of the Council and representatives of relevant partner authorities on relevant issues and proposals affecting the area and about decisions and performance;
- (i) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working; and
- (j) undertake any other activity that assists the Committee in carrying out its functions.

Delegation

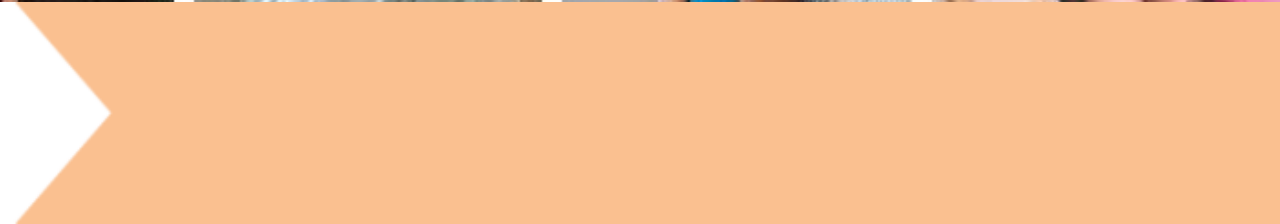
The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee shall have all delegated power to exercise the power and duties assigned to them in their terms of reference.

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Independent Review of Social Care: Summary of Key Findings, Recommendations & Implications

Jill McGregor, Corporate Director Children's Services
July 2022



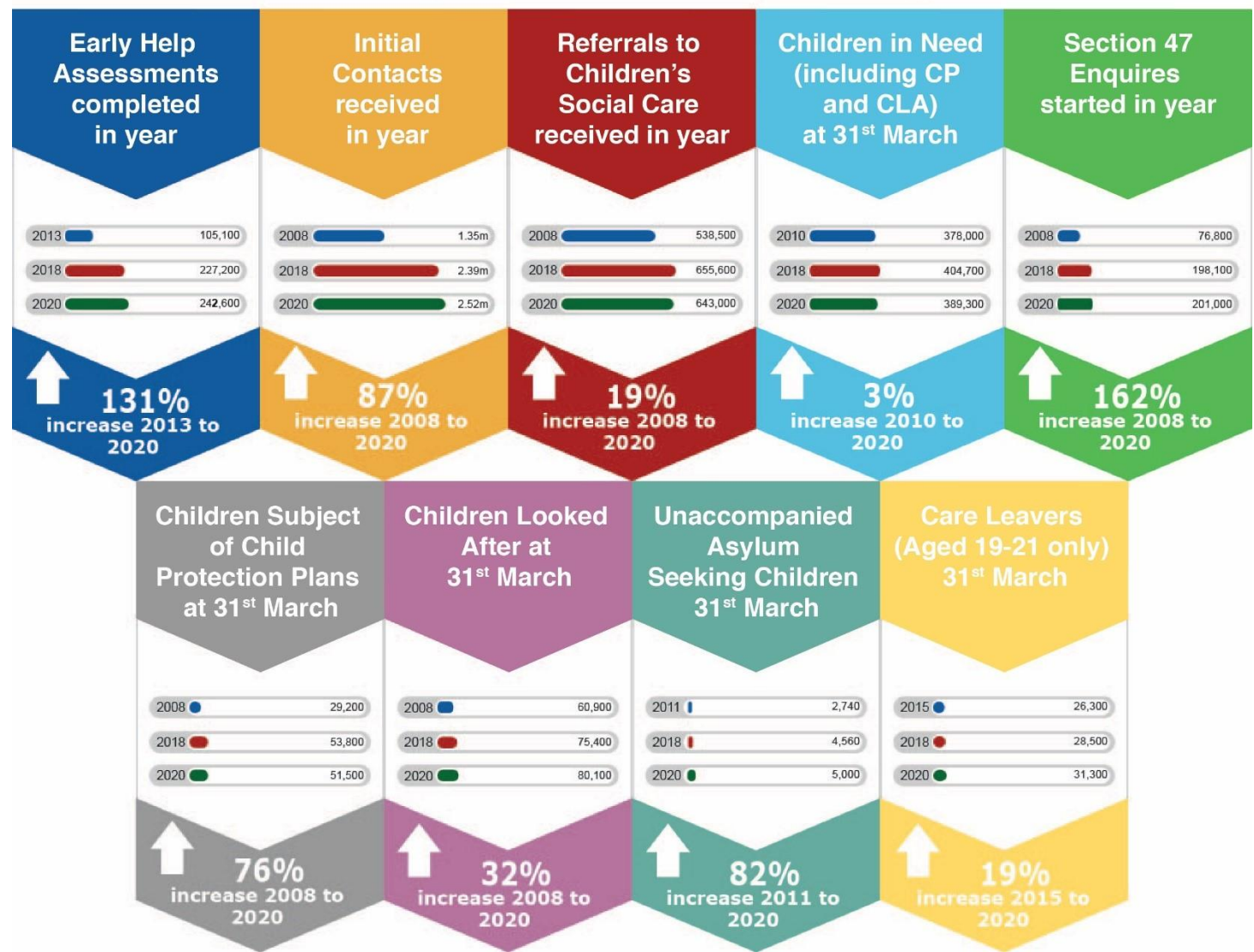


Background to the Review

- 2019 - Government's manifesto committed to reviewing the children's social care system to make sure children and young people get the support they need.
- 15th January 2021- 'Independent Review of Children's Social Care' announced. Josh MacAlister was appointed as chair.
- Review was 'wide ranging and ambitious scope' drew on previous reviews such as Munro Review of Child Protection (May 2011) as well as the Competition & Markets Authority Children's Social Care Report (March 2022)
- Review process included wide level of engagement – Including Call for Ideas , Experts by Experience panel, Carers and people who have experienced help, Evidence Groups, Design Groups, time in person with 10 local authorities, partners and stakeholders, children in care, care leavers and parents
- Report formally published 23rd May 2022 – Proposes a five year plan with new investment
- Being billed as a 'once in a generation opportunity to reset children's social care'

“Achieving this reset starts with recognising that it is loving relationships that hold the solutions for children and families overcoming adversity. While relationships are rich and organic, children's social care can be rigid and linear. Rather than drawing on and supporting family and community, the system too often tries to replace organic bonds and relationships with professionals and services”

Safeguarding Pressures: Change in children's services activity



Latest Data: Number at 30th September 2020



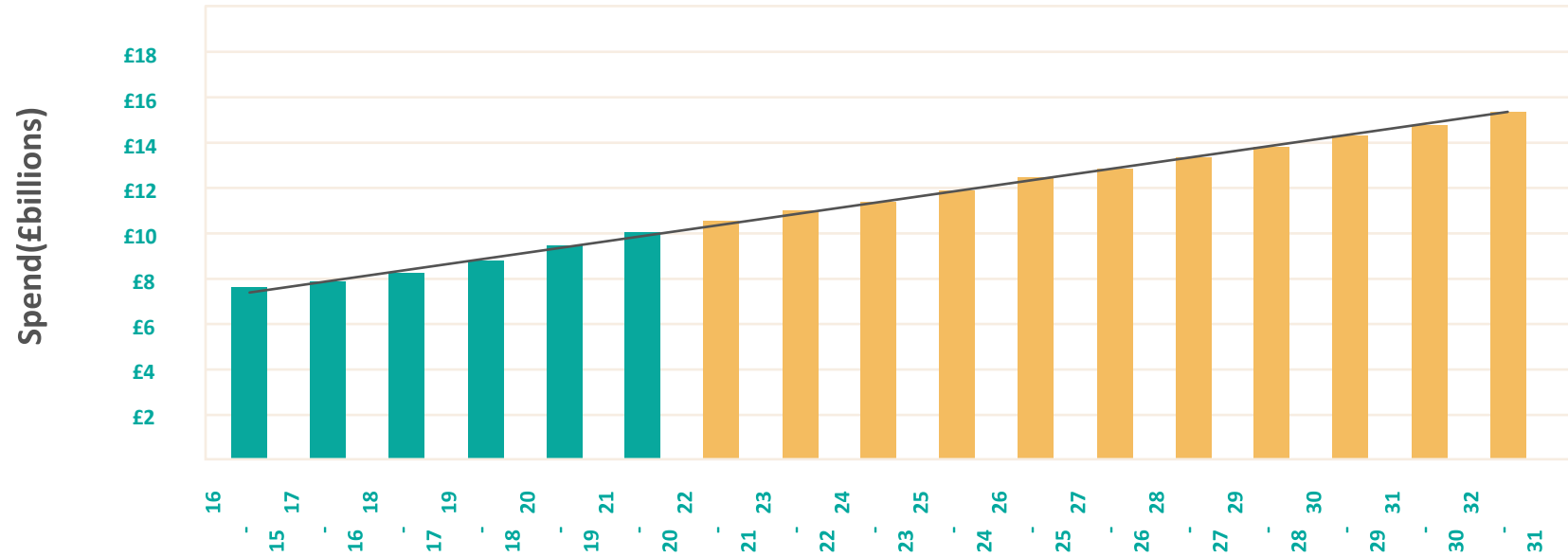


Cause for Concern

- Case for Change, the review's early thinking about what needs to change in children's social care system (2021) concluded that *"our children's social care system is a 30-year-old tower of Jenga held together with Sellotape: simultaneously rigid and yet shaky. There have been many reviews and attempts at reform since the landmark introduction of the 1989 Children Act and though each has ushered incremental progress, we are now left with a high stack of legislation, systems, structures, and services that with their sheer complicatedness make it hard to imagine something different, let alone address foundational problems"*.
- High numbers of Section 47 enquiries that do *not* progress to Children being Subject to Child Protection planning
- Rise in number of Cared for Children indicates a failure within the system – including financial but also from outcomes perspective; we know that outcomes such as health education and employment opportunities can be adversely affected
- Highlights a system increasingly skewed to crisis intervention, with outcomes for children that continue to be unacceptably poor and costs that continue to rise - & uses data to make the case
- *"Without a dramatic whole system reset, outcomes for children and families will remain stubbornly poor and by this time next decade there will be approaching 100,000 children in care (up from 80,000 today) and a flawed system will cost over £15 billion per year (up from £10 billion now)." Executive Summary of Review*

Cause for Concern

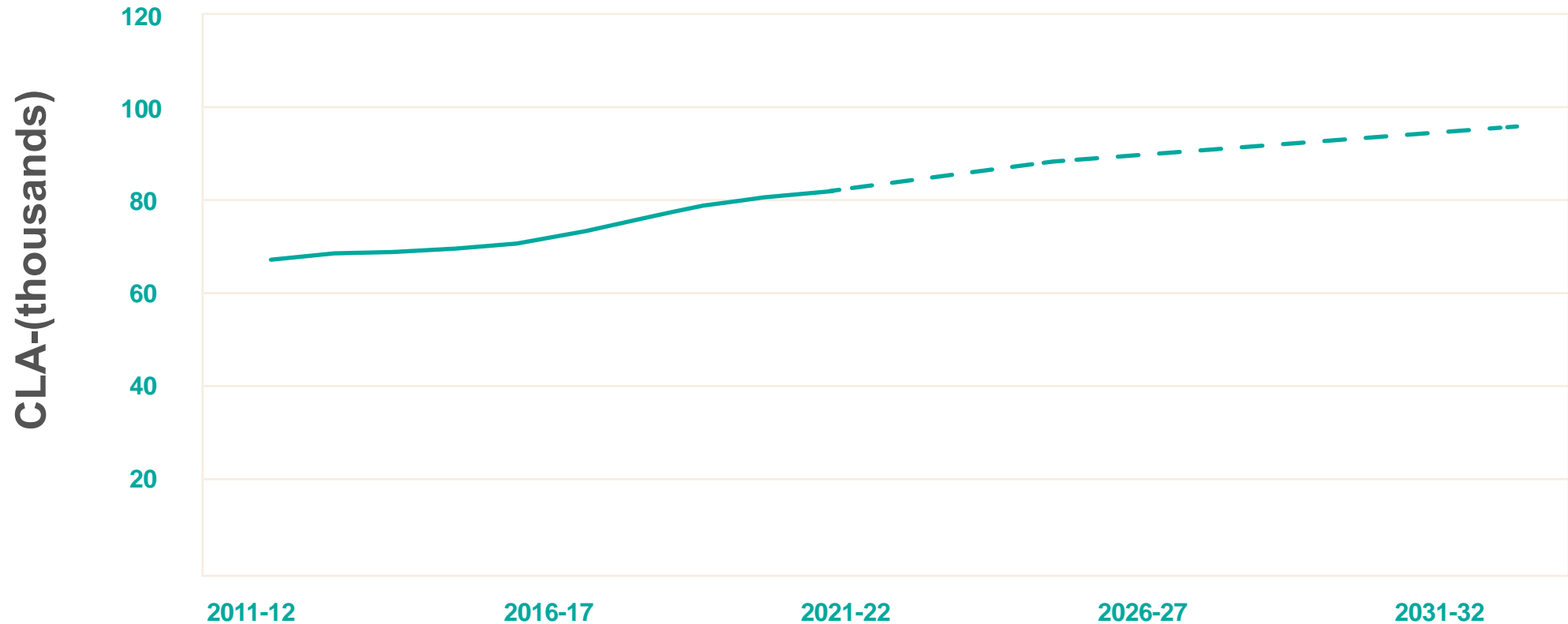
“The children’s social care system is on a trajectory of rising costs, with more children being looked after and continually poor outcomes for too many children and families. Government has attempted to reverse these trends through disjointed targeted programmes and funding pots, but these have not managed to halt the current trajectory.



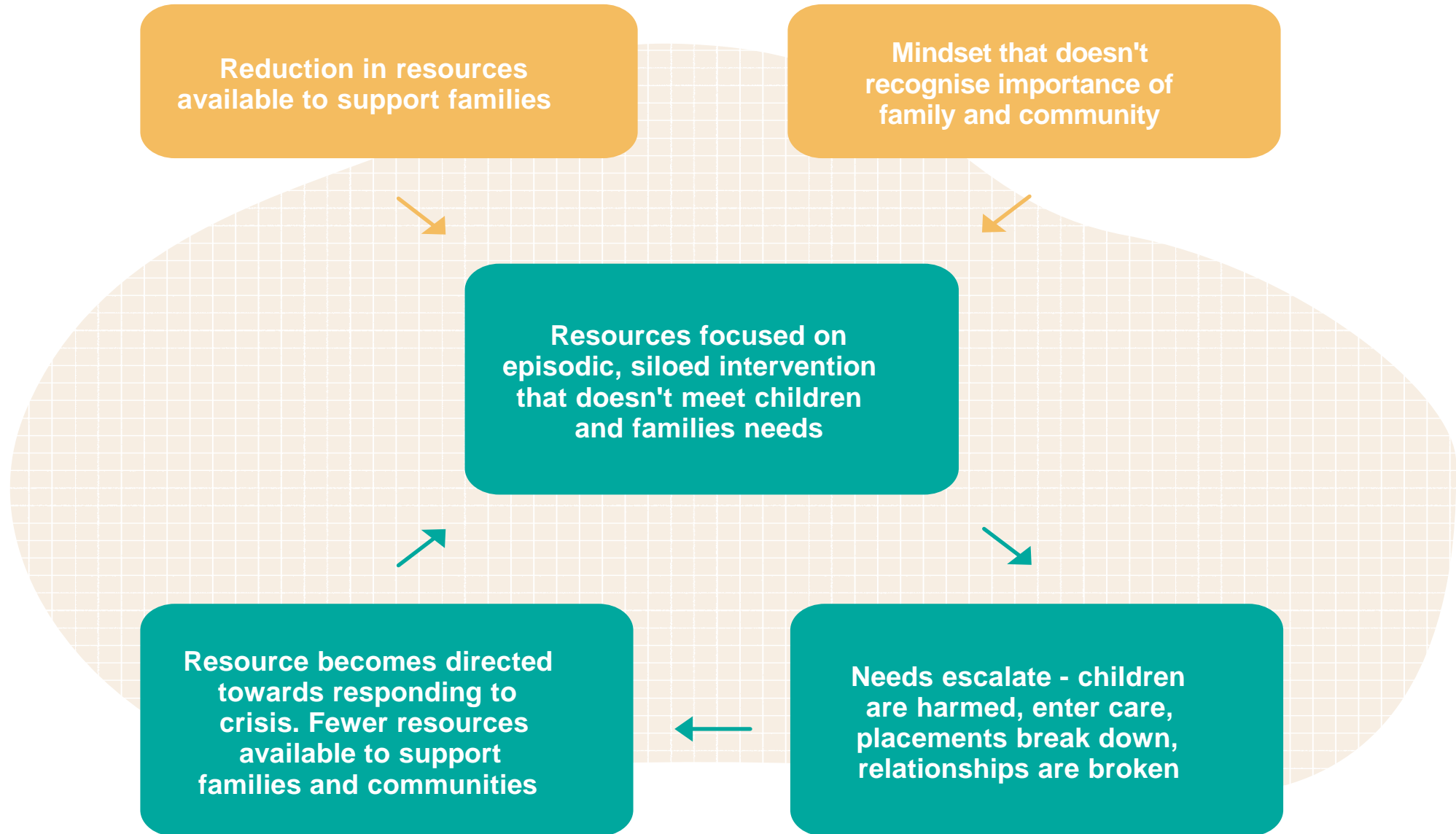
The chart above forecasts future spend on local authority children’s social care using historical data on spend across a number of categories, ¹²¹ aggregated at the national level (as reported in section 251 data), we assume that the trends in unit cost and demand for services (i.e. cohorts of children that use children’s social care services) continue as they have done over the past five years.

Cause for Concern

The chart below forecasts the number of children looked after using data on the rate per 10,000 of the 0-17 year old population as published in Department for Education (DfE) looked after children statistics, and accounts for the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) projections of the 0-17 year old population. Review has assumed that the rate per 10,000 increases at the same rate as the previous five years.



Analysis of Current System





Aim & Vision of the Review

- To achieve a fundamental shift in the children’s social care response, so that families receive more responsive, respectful, and effective support.
- To reduce the number of handovers between services.
- To recommend introducing one category of “Family Help” to replace “targeted early help” & “child in need” work, providing families with much higher levels of meaningful support.
- To create a system that:

Provides intensive help to families in crisis and acts decisively in response to abuse

Unlocks the potential of wider family networks to raise children

Puts lifelong loving relationships at the heart of the care system and lays the foundations for a good life for those who have been in care.

It calls the reform a much needed a revolution in Family Help and makes 87 recommendations

The Wider Context

The report does acknowledge contextual factors impacting but there is limited exploration of those issues such as :

- **Poverty and inequality;** The review previously called for a widespread recognition and understanding of child welfare inequalities (Children who live in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods are ten times more likely to be looked after or on a child protection plan, than children in the least deprived 10% of areas (Bywaters et al, 2020).
- **Pressures in family support and other services:** “CSC picks up the needs of families which universal & other services cannot address”
- **New and emerging threats:** For example Children’s social care and the police are struggling to keep in step with technological changes and keep children safe online and from abuse outside the family.
- **Domestic abuse:** “Demand for domestic abuse services currently exceeds available supply.”
- **Mental Health:** “We see the outcomes of poor mental health acutely, and as a factor in family breakdown, premature deaths and poor outcomes for people with care experience” (Ofsted et al, 2020).
- **Substance Misuse:** “Substance misuse is also strongly linked to deprivation..”
- **Immigration and asylum:** Whilst finding homes for unaccompanied asylum seeking children is the responsibility of the children’s social care system, the asylum system is complex and makes a difficult process harder for young people

The report states that: **Government must also explicitly recognise these factors and understand how they drive the need (and therefore the cost) for children’s social care up or down and, ultimately, have a wider plan to address them.**



7 Areas of Focus for the Review

- A revolution in Family Help
- A just and decisive Child Protection system
- Unlocking the potential of family networks
- Transforming Care
- The Care Experience
- Realising the potential of the Workforce
- A system that is relentlessly focused on children and families

It also includes proposals about implementation

Review report structured around these areas – can dip in & out.

Implementation

The proposal is that

- ‘...All of this should be delivered at pace & with determination through a single five year reform programme’.
- A Reform Board should be established to drive this programme, includes people with lived experience of children's social care.
- The board should report openly on progress quarterly & the government senior official leading the programme must be given the explicit delegation & backing to accelerate through processes and controls that would jeopardise delivery.
- **Reform Board has already been established – commitment to this was given on the day of the Review being published**
- The Secretary of State for Education should be responsible for holding other government departments to account and should report annually to parliament on progress.
- *Achieving this whole system reform programme will require £2.6 billion of new spending over four years, comprising £46 million in year one, £987 million in year two, £1.257 billion in year three and £233 million in year four.*

It recognises that this might not happen – and we are already seeing some re-badging of existing cash e.g. Strengthening Families Monies seen as part of this investment; extending the DSL pilots and the SWIIS pilots as well as existing Family Hub investment



Summary of Key Recommendations

- Help for families – “A new stigma free Family Help service for families struggling with problems like domestic abuse & poor mental health based in community settings like schools.” Key to this is the notion of Family Help Teams located in communities that bring together early help and Child in Need work through multidisciplinary teams .
- Keeping children safe – “Strengthen child protection through a new expert social worker role to work alongside Family Help teams where there are child protection concerns”. Co-working of cases but with the Hub workers being consistent for families
- Unlocking the power of family networks through kinship care - “Unlock the potential of wider family networks to raise children who might otherwise be taken into care, by supporting grandparents, aunts and uncles as kinship carers” - extends the range and offer of support including financial support
- Ensure children in care have loving homes by launching new Regional Care Cooperatives
- Recruit thousands of new foster carers through a national campaign
- Provide children with powerful independent advocates” – includes removal of the IRO role
- **For Children in Care the recommendation is that five ‘Missions’ are pursued to ensure they have the foundations for a good life:**
 - Loving relationships
 - Quality education
 - A decent home
 - Fulfilling work
 - Good work
 - Introduce a protected characteristic recognising the lifelong impact of being care experienced.

Some Key Recommendations

Family Help

Creation of dedicated Family Help Teams that bring together early help and child in need and are multi-disciplinary

Family Help should take a population health management approach and respond with investment in the best evidenced approaches

Government should make an investment of £2 billion in supporting local authorities, alongside their partners, to implement the proposed transformation in Family Help.

Child Protection System

An expert child protection response provided by “Expert Child Protection Practitioner. Social workers would need to have completed a five year Early Career Framework to be “Expert”

A bespoke approach to extra familial harms – using “additional investment” in Early Help to develop bespoke multi-disciplinary response -including introducing a child community safety plan with this included in revised Working Together

Government should integrate funding aimed at preventing individual harms into a single local response to extra familial harms,

Family Networks

Raise the status of family based cared through legislation & financial parity and support – part of the solution to the ‘care crisis’ .

To develop and implement Family Network Plans – that are resourced and supported by the Local Authority, diverting money that would otherwise be spent on looking after a child in care.

Provision of a financial allowance for Special Guardians and kinship Child Arrangement Orders and for this to be paid at the same rate as their fostering allowance – extending who is eligible and age range

Transforming Care

Government should develop new care standards that apply to all homes where children live.

National foster care campaign

Establish Regional Care Cooperatives. These are proposed as a key mechanism for reducing profiteering, and putting the system on a path where care is not based on profit

A newly established national advocacy service for children in care and in proceedings on an opt-out basis to replace the existing Independent Reviewing Officer and Regulation 44 Visitor roles



Some Key Recommendations

The Care Experience

Broaden the role of the government, business and society in supporting care experienced people .

Make care experience a protected characteristic.

National government should issue statutory guidance to local authorities setting out the priority that should be afforded to care experienced adults in accessing local services such as social housing.

Introduce a stronger safety net against care leaver homelessness by removing the local area connection test, ending intentionally homelessness practice, providing a rent guarantor scheme and increasing the leaving care grant to £2,438 for care experienced people.

All LAs must improve care leaver mental and physical health support, & the National Children’s Social Care Framework should promote the most effective multidisciplinary models of doing this.

Workforce

A nationally led programme should get social workers back to practice through:

Introducing a five year Early Career Framework for social workers

Government should produce a Knowledge and Skills Statement for family support workers; appoint Social Work England to set standards and regulate residential children’s home managers; and fund a new leadership programme that could train up to 700 new managers in the next five years

Government should introduce new national rules on agency usage supported by the development of not-for-profit regional staff banks to reduce costs and increase the stability and quality of relationships children and families receive.

A system that is relentlessly focused on children and families

Partnerships should become more transparent - Schools should be made a statutory safeguarding partner and contribute to the strategic and operational delivery of multiagency working.

Govt should incentivise greater partner contributions through requiring partners to publish their financial contribution and making receiving the full funding for reform contingent on partner contributions.

Govt should introduce an updated funding formula for children’s services, and take greater care to ensure that changes in government policy that impact the cost of delivering children’s social care are accompanied by additional resources for local government.



Implications Nationally

- Review recognising it will **increase demand initially** but this is part of the system shift – saying 30,000 more children living with their families safely
- Implication of social worker being responsible for Family Team - **work likely to increase caseload**
- Time to potentially influence & modify some of the recommendations – ADCS have issued cautious response and continue to work the relevant departments
- **Changes will be required to statutory guidance and legislation** – Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004 as well as Working Together to Safeguard Children, IRO handbook & Regulatory Guidance
- Implications for **DCS role and Lead Member role**
- Implications for **future inspection frameworks**
- Changes **the role and expectations of the workforce** – both in relation to salary, training and roles
- Lands many of the proposed reforms in the **Human Rights space** – United Nation Convention of the Rights of the Child
- Will be **unintended consequences**
- **Different reporting and accountability frameworks** will be involved – data capture and reporting
- Feels like **déjà vu** – remember Integrated Children’s system (the first ICS!) and National Accreditation and Assessment Scheme – both defunct
- Has to be considered within the **context of wider system reforms** – Education Bill, SEND and ICS - Not to mention data analysis was backward look, not reflective of post pandemic need and demand especially mental health needs
- System will need to take into account the **learning from CSPR** – responding usually evokes a risk averse approach



Implications Locally

Review recommendations come from a good place and a number of the principles fit with our redesign principles and strategic direction of travel and we are already doing some of this but

- Some alignment and fit with our **Family Help (Trafford Team Together) and IFS proposals** but may need to think about connectivity with CIN teams and work.
- Not been successful in our **Family Hub bid** – becomes more important to be able to progress this.
- Clear recognition needed to **multi-disciplinary teams** – but we know there are capacity challenges within the system including third sector providers and MFT capacity
- Need to **review the SF allocation** as last year we put this up for savings – clear this is part of the funding to implement reforms
- We know agreement about who is best to help and support can be contested space – thresholds!!!!
- **Managing expectations** – partnership will rightly want to see pace and traction on Family Help proposals
- We currently have **limited Family Group Conference capacity** and will need to expand that – this one is likely to be a recommendation that is supported as achieving good outcomes



Implications Locally

- Unclear how workforce proposals will help – currently there are 250 vacancies across GM according to our agency supplier – so developing pool will be challenging; average length of service for s/w 7 years but saying 5 years development programme! We currently have 40% agency staff
- Have used MFS for some s/w posts but no longer in line with region – national pay scales likely to be challenging
- We are exploring not profit agency proposals – potential opportunity
- **Removal of IRO poses significant risks** given where planning and management grip is at and we have gaps already!
- Our **advocacy offer is at capacity** and was flagged as needing to be strengthened in the last Monitoring Visit.
- We know we have **more to do to support our Care Experienced young people**
- Assumption of **joining placement finding capacity** together in regional arrangements will release capacity – part of GM sufficiency gap is number of placement taken up by out of area placements
- Working on **collaborative sufficiency** for years and not achieved it – already have a sufficiency board and included in the Children and Young People Plan
- If **funding is linked to outcomes** potential to be disadvantaged – have seen that in other funding formulas
- **High number of SGO and connected carers** – potential for significant cost increases instead of savings but the right thing to do
- **Fostering recruitment activity in Trafford is low** - and attempts to join up on GM foot print have not come to fruition
- **Changes to inspection framework when on improvement journey** – could go either way!



Next Steps

- Socialise the Review – internally and externally including at Locality Board
- Progress Family Help proposals at pace
- Continue with our plans that align and are right for us in Trafford
- Reassure staff – not least because we need to see what will be accepted and endorsed by Government
- Consider capacity and budget implications as different elements come on stream

And, most importantly.... We need to talk to our children, young people & their families about the review and the recommendations!

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
Date: 5th July 2022
Report for: Information
Report of:

Report Title

A report on the involvement of Trafford Council in School funding

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of school funding and the wide range of support provided by the Council's schools finance team regarding this.

Recommendation(s)

That the contents of the report are noted.

Contact person(s) for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Helen Zammit – Strategic Finance Manager
Amy Nield - Finance Manager

1. Introduction

Schools get two main streams of money from the Government. Their core funding, known as revenue funding which is the money that is spent on running costs, like salaries and they also have capital funding which is for buildings eg modification/renovation. All state-funded schools, whether they are academies or council-run schools, are funded by the Government. Independent or private schools operate outside this system and raise their funding through fees.

National Funding Formula (NFF)

The schools NFF is the way the government decides how much core funding to allocate for 5 to 16 year olds (pupils in reception through to year 11) in mainstream, state-funded schools in England. The schools NFF calculates an allocation for each school, using the school's pupil numbers and characteristics from the previous October school census. These school-level allocations are added up to create a total allocation for each Local Authority (LA). LAs then set their own local formulas to distribute their total allocation between all the schools in their area. Trafford Schools' Funding Forum opted to mirror the NFF as a local formula in 2018/19.

Early years and Post-16

There are separate national funding formulae for early years funding and post-16 funding. A school with a nursery class or a sixth form will therefore attract funding through both the schools NFF and the early years or post-16 formula.

High Needs

There is also a separate high needs national funding formula used to calculate the high needs budget local authorities receive. Local authorities use this budget to provide for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in special and independent settings, as well as to top up funding for pupils with SEND who attend mainstream schools.

Other funding

Additional funding that schools may receive, such as the Pupil Premium or PE and Sport Premium, are distributed separately to the schools NFF.

2. Sufficiency of funding

Funding should be sufficient to ensure effective and enriched learning for all pupils; address historic shortfalls, where budgets have not matched inflation and reflect rising demands on schools, such as policy changes and Covid.

In 22/23 Trafford schools received an extra £7.224m in their allocation plus supplementary funding of £5.437m which equates to an overall increase from 21/22 of 12.7%.

Despite these increases there are constantly evolving pressures and demands. Extra costs include :

- Teachers' starting salaries increasing to minimum £30k;
- Rise in general costs, such as utility and fuel charges;
- Immediate Covid costs (extra heating/ventilation and staffing);
- Long-term Covid costs (mental/emotional/physical/health impacts and catch-up).

3. Financial support from Trafford

Background

Each year schools must submit their approved budget plan by 30th June to the Local Authority showing its intentions for expenditure in the current financial year and the assumptions underpinning the budget plan. Details of the proposed use of estimated surplus balances are also included. The budget plan must be signed by the Chair of the Board of Governors (or Chair of the relevant Committee if a Committee of the Board of Governors has delegated powers to approve the budget) and the amount approved recorded in the minutes of the meeting where the budget was approved.

The Board of Governors should not plan a deficit budget, after taking into account carried forward balances. In the event of an unplanned deficit arising during a financial year, schools will be required to make good such a deficit in the following financial year and should allow for that in their budget plans. This is known as a balanced budget.

Exceptionally, where schools demonstrate that a balanced budget within the next financial year can only be achieved to the severe detriment of the functions of the school, the Local Authority may approve plans to achieve a balanced budget over a

short period of time and request a deficit recovery plan. There are 2 schools within Trafford which currently have a licenced deficit and 4 who have highlighted that they may not be able to set a balanced budget in 2022/23 (this could increase once budget plans are received at the end of June).

Support

The schools finance team provide a wide range of support from operational guidance relating to budget allocations to more strategic areas around potential staffing reviews and budget plans. However, the challenge has to be put back to schools to remain in a strong financial position as they have responsibility for managing their delegated budget.

What we offer :

- Information regarding school budget, Pupil Premium and Devolved Formula Capital allocations;
- Advice on Local Funding formula changes for instance Nursery Funding;
- Advice on various policies, such as Scheme for Financing Schools;
- Support for schools in financial difficulty and for those schools undertaking whole school staffing reviews by attending meetings at the school with HR & School Improvement to agree a plan which is then monitored termly.
- Advice and co-ordination of the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) annual returns;
- Collation & submission of Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS). Local Authorities use this information to inform their programme of financial assessment and audit. Local authorities submit an assurance statement every year to cover all the maintained schools in their area;
- Support for newly opened schools and supporting governing body and staff of closing schools;
- Financial training for Head-teachers, Governors, School Business Managers and Administrators;
- Financial advice and support to School Business Managers and Administrators through their network meetings (upon invitation);
- Attend and participate in the f40 group, which Trafford is a member of. The group campaigns for fairness in education funding;
- Service, participate and present items as outlined above to the schools funding forum and sub groups – see below

Schools Forum

The Trafford Schools Funding Forum are public meetings that play an important role in school funding. Schools' forums were established to give schools greater involvement in the distribution of funding within their local authority and to act as a consultative and advisory funding body. The Trafford Schools Forum includes representatives from maintained schools, academies, early years providers, dioceses, trade unions and post-16 providers. Meetings are held 4 times a year.

In addition to this there are 3 working groups to discuss specific issues and their impact on individual schools before producing draft proposals for forum:

- Mainstream Funding
- Early Years
- High Needs Block

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

MEETING DATE AND VENUE	AGENDA ITEM	SUMMARY OF ISSUE	CABINET PORTFOLIO (link to Corporate Priorities)	RESOLUTION/RECOMMENDATION	Responsible Officer
5th July 2022 6:30 p.m. Committee Rooms 2&3, TTH	Ofsted Monitoring	Feedback on the outcome of the latest Ofsted Monitoring Visit	Children's Services		Jill McGregor
	Care Review and National Panel Findings	Information as to national pieces of work that will impact Children's Services	Children's Services		Jill McGregor
	Electively Home Educated (EHE)	A look at the Council's Systems and Assurance Processes in respect of children that are EHE, including safeguarding.	Education		Jill McGregor
	School Funding	Short report on Support for School funding	Education and Finance		Karen Samples/ Helen Zammit
	Work programme	Committee Members to suggest, discuss and agree items to be considered during the municipal year			
Other topics the Committee wish to explore in 2022/23					
27th September 2022 6:30 p.m.	Looked after Children	Placement Stability and Sufficiency, Out of Borough Placements, Placements with Family,	Children's Services		Pamela Wharton

Committee Rooms 2&3, TTH	Looked after Children CAMHS Access	Pathways for Children in Care.	Children's Services		Jill McGregor
	School Placement Planning	Outcome of the recent SCAP Analysis. Information as to options for Expansion to meet future need.	Education		Karen Samples/ Sarah Butters
	Absence and Persistent Absence				Karen Samples
22nd November 2022 6:30 p.m. Committee Rooms 2&3, TTH	Family Help Offer	Looking at developing early help hubs			
	Education of Vulnerable Children including Home Education				Karen Samples
24th January 2023 6:30 p.m. Committee Rooms 2&3, TTH					
7th March 2023 6:30 p.m. Committee Rooms 2&3, TTH					

TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

Date	Title	Summary of issue	Directorate	Timescale	Notes	Outcome

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