



# **Meeting of the People Services Scrutiny Committee**

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 at 6.00pm**

**In Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

## **Agenda - Public Session**

**(Meeting open to the public and press)**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. To confirm and sign the minutes of the former Children's Services Scrutiny Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, as a correct record.
5. Public Forum
6. Terms of Reference for the People Services Scrutiny Committee
7. Annual Scrutiny Programme 2015/16
8. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days notice has been given to the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Z.", is written over a horizontal line.

**Strategic Director (Resources & Transformation)**

**Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2015**

**Distribution:****Members of the People Services Scrutiny Committee:**

Councillor M Mottram (Chair)

Councillor M Attwood (Vice Chair)

Councillors N Barlow, C Baugh, R Body, P Bradley, D Hemingsley, C Perks, G Simms, S Tyler and D Vickers; Mrs M Ward and Reverend A Wickens; Mr A Qadus and Mr D Tinsley.

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- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting the officer named below. The appointment of any Substitute Member(s) should be notified to Democratic Services at least one hour before the meeting starts.
- The Democratic Services contact officer for this meeting is Helen Shepherd, Telephone 01384 815271 or E-mail [helen.shepherd@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:helen.shepherd@dudley.gov.uk)

## **Minutes of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at 6 p.m.**  
**In the Council Chamber, The Council House, Dudley**

### **Present:**

Councillor I Cooper (Vice-Chair) in the Chair.  
Councillors M Attwood, P Bradley, Z Islam, L Jones, I Marrey, M Mottram, C Perks and K Shakespeare; Mr A Qadus and Mr D Tinsley.

### **Invitees:**

Mrs L Coulter and Ms J Sinden.

### **Officers:**

R Sims (Assistant Director of Housing Strategy and Private Sector, Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services) – Interim Lead Officer, P Sharratt (Interim Director of Children's Services), T Brittain and H Powell (Acting Assistant Directors, Education Services), C Ballinger (Divisional Lead-Social Work) and J Prashar (Divisional Lead-Looked After Children) - all Directorate of Children's Services and R Sanders (Assistant Principal Officer (Democratic Services))

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#### 30 **Chairmanship**

The Chair, Councillor Mottram indicated that the Vice Chair, Councillor Cooper, would chair this meeting of the Committee. Councillor Cooper thereupon took the chair.

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#### 31 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors N Barlow, C Billingham, R Scott-Dow and from Reverend A Wickens. Apologies for absence were also received from the invitees, Mr Lynch, Mr Nesbitt and Mr Ridney.

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#### 32 **Substitution**

It was reported that Councillor K Shakespeare was serving in place of Councillor N Barlow for this meeting of the Committee only.

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33      **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

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34      **Minutes**

Resolved

That subject to the inclusion of the name of Councillor Mottram in the list of apologies for absence, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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35      **Home to School Transport**

At this juncture, Councillor Cooper reported that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services had requested the establishment of a Working Group of Members and Officers to consider the issue of Home to School Transport and that the Interim Director of Children's Services was making the arrangements.

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36.      **Dudley Schools' OfSTED Outcomes**

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Children's Services on the performance of Dudley schools and settings in OfSTED inspections during the calendar year 2014.

The report set out the outcomes for all Dudley schools inspected during the period. It was noted that the report did not include short thematic or subject inspections and nor did it include the outcomes of HM Inspectorate monitoring reports for schools which had been judged to "Require Improvement"; or "Serious Weakness" or "Special Measures" unless the visit was converted to full inspection to bring them out of category.

The report indicated the outcomes for schools in respect of the numbers of those schools judged as outstanding, good, requiring improvement or inadequate and compared Dudley's performance in respect of Good or Outstanding outcomes against national outcomes. Academies were included in the Dudley figures.

Further to the presentation of the information by the Acting Assistant Directors for Education Services responsible respectively for Secondary and Primary schools, Mr Powell and Ms Brittain, Members asked questions to which responses were given as indicated.

In response to a question on details of an inspection concerning a secondary Academy, Mr Powell indicated that, while the Council generally had a good and improving relationship with Academies, those establishments operated outside the local authority umbrella and the authority was not entitled to receive detailed information regarding the support they arranged. Academies were able to purchase local authority support, however, should they wish to do so.

A Member expressed concern about the quality of OfSTED inspections in so far as he considered that they placed disproportionate impetus on results in comparison with the quality of teaching. In response, Ms Brittain, reported that there had been some challenges to the way OfSTED inspections had been conducted and one complaint from Dudley had been made. Ms Brittain commented that changes to overall judgements rarely resulted from representations but that HM Inspectorate did take note for future reference. Meetings were held with HM Inspectorate three times a year and particular issues and views on particular inspectors were reported on. It was noted that OfSTED's arrangements would change in September, 2015 in that from then they would oversee all inspections in house.

A question was asked on the measures and services provided by the Council to assist schools in making improvements, in response to which a summary of the traded services available from the local authority was given by Ms Brittain. Ms Brittain also indicated that some support was provided free of charge if a school was in category, in order for it to improve more quickly. The point was made that lesser direct support was available to Secondary schools since specialist expertise was often employed.

A question was asked on the notice given by HM Inspectorate before an inspection was made. In response, it was indicated that, at most, half a day's notice was given and that sometimes there was no notice at all.

Upon allegations being made about practices employed by schools aimed at bringing only the more able staff and pupils to the attention of the Inspectorate when inspections were carried out, the Interim Director of Children's Services responded that this would be extremely difficult to achieve given the very short notice made regarding inspections. She stated, however, that should any evidence be produced, the school in question would be thoroughly investigated. On being advised by Members and an attendee of strong rumours that the sort of practices alluded to had in fact happened, a lengthy discussion ensued and it was agreed that the issue of protection for whistle blowers of this type of manipulation should be considered in the next municipal year.

The point was made that, in instances where manipulation was suspected, evidence was able to be supplied. The need to protect whistle blowers was emphasised. It was recognised that policies were in place to deal with the matter but that strong governing bodies were necessary to ensure that the policies were applied.

On the issue of safeguarding, Ms Brittain outlined the far more proactive approach by OfSTED to individual children whom were not in school and had appeared to have gone missing, and the actions of the Council in response.

Resolved

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted and the questions asked and responses given, as indicated above, be noted.
- (2) That the Committee support the inclusion of the protection of whistle blowers in relation to the school inspection issues described above in its work programme for 2015/16.

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### **Standards Report – Performance Data**

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Children's Services presenting an analysis of the performance of children and young people in Dudley schools and settings during the 2013/14 academic year..

The report indicated the expectations of OfSTED regarding pupil achievement at the end of each Key Stage and showed the proportion of children in Dudley schools whom had reached the Department for Education's (DfE) expected level and the average point score which reflected how well the cohort as a whole had achieved.

The report indicated current position with regard to Reading, Writing and Mathematics in each of Key Stages 1 to 4 in 2014 in comparison to the two preceding academic years. Regarding the Foundation Stage, the DfE's measure was stated as "a good level of development." The Acting Assistant Directors of Children's Services, Ms Brittain and Mr Powell, presented the information and gave details in respect of the Primary and Secondary sectors respectively.

In relation to the different Key Stages, the report noted the following:

- It was anticipated that Dudley would be below the national average in relation to "a good level of development" and the average point score in the Foundation Stage.
- Dudley was in line with the national average in Key Stage 1.
- In relation to Key Stage 2, Dudley was in line with the national average in achieving Level 4 in Mathematics, Reading and Writing. Whereas, with regard to progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2, Writing was above the national average and Mathematics in line, Reading was below the national average.
- In relation to Key Stage 4, Dudley was below the national average in all comparitors.

The report indicated that in 2014 Dudley was below the DfE floor standards in Level 4+ in all of Reading, Writing and Mathematics and two levels progress in those subjects.

The report stated the current position with regard to pupils receiving Pupil Premium in comparison with the picture nationally, in all Key Stages.

Following the presentation of the report, Ms Brittain, clarified the distinction between teacher accounts and tests, indicating that Writing was a teacher account, with pupils being assessed over a period, while Reading was a test with pupils examined with immediacy.

On being questioned on whether the performance in the Foundation Stage and in the later Key Stages represented a cause for concern, the Acting Assistant Director, Mr Powell, explained the changes in procedure where there was now a requirement for all courses to have a terminal examination; that early entry to examinations had ceased; and that vocational courses were not scored for GCSE, thus disadvantaging pupils who undertook vocational courses in terms of qualifications. The Acting Assistant Director, Ms Brittain asked the Committee to note that with level 4, Dudley had achieved national levels for the first time in 14 years and that with Mathematics, which had been problematical for some years, results were improving, albeit that this was not the case in Key stage 4.

The point was made by Mr Powell that the local authority could not make a direct impact on schools as it no longer had the necessary resources.

A question was asked on how Pupil Premium was being used, what happened in cases of poor use and whether best practice was shared, to which Ms Brittain responded, referring to meetings held between schools where information was shared and where Pupil Premium was a routine item.

Ms Brittain also indicated that, since the number of Pupil Premium children differed school by school, the finance allocated to each varied correspondingly. She pointed out that what worked for one school did not necessarily work for another. She confirmed that a review of Pupil Premium use was conducted as part of HM Inspections in which a look was taken at how the allocation was being spent and what lessons could be learned. Mr Powell then reported on the attainment levels of Pupil Premium pupils against other pupils in Secondary schools, stating that although the gap had narrowed, it had remained high in schools with high attainment levels.

On being asked about the action being taken by the local authority to narrow the gap in attainment between Pupil Premium and other pupils, Mr Powell indicated that this was a subject raised routinely at the respective Primary and Secondary Heads' training days and referred to bonding and monitoring letters sent to schools in this regard in which anticipated outcomes for Pupil Premium children was requested. Ms Brittain also indicated that the data regarding Pupil Premium children was looked at carefully and monitored.

Further information was requested by a Member on the floor standards pertaining to the two schools referred to in page 10 of the agenda papers. Mr Powell responded that one was an Academy that had declined support offered by the local authority and where the authority was empowered only to alert the DfE, which it had done. The other school was a maintained school which had only recently come out of category, for which the local authority was currently providing consultant support and was brokering support with other authorities.

In response to a question from a Member regarding the impact of the Key Stage 4 results on progress of pupils into 6<sup>th</sup> Forms, Mr Powell confirmed that the current position was not good since the benchmark for pupils to attend 6<sup>th</sup> form or College education for level 2 courses was 5 A\*-C GCSE grades, therefore Dudley pupils were being disadvantaged. The point was made that some secondary pupils who started from a high level were only achieving a grade C in GCSE and thus the conclusion to be reached was that Dudley schools were not always pushing pupils capable of higher attainment. On being so requested, Mr Powell agreed to provide quantitative information indicating the number of Dudley children who proceeded to University education.

On being asked on whether Dudley received and compared statistical information on attainment by Colleges, Mr Powell indicated that there was no obligation for Colleges to share data, although all three Dudley Colleges did provide it. It was more difficult to share information involving Colleges from outside Dudley. Mr Powell made the point that the Connexions Service continued to operate and consequently was able to provide support for any young person requiring it in their transition to Post 16, particularly from Year 9 onwards, and that the number of young persons not in education, employment or training was declining.

In response to a question on whether schools worked in clusters to share expertise and ideas, Mr Powell indicated that Primary Schools were generally willing to work in this manner but that maintained Secondary schools were less inclined to do so. Academies, however, were joining together in this regard and Ellowes Hall and Crestwood schools were working together as were King Edward VI 6<sup>th</sup> Form College and Ridgewood High School. The trend nationally was for schools to work together and the DfE was encouraging this practice. Mr Powell indicated further that the relationship between the local authority and Academies was improving, in particular, the local authority kept in contact with Academies and Academies attended local authority meetings.

Resolved

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and the comments and responses recorded above, be noted.
- (2) That the information requested on how many Key Stage 4 children from Dudley proceed to University be obtained and reported to the Committee.

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### **Child Neglect**

An oral report on the issue of Child Neglect was given.

Following a brief introduction by the Interim Director of Children's Services, in which she made the point that a significant number of children with additional needs and whom were in social care, were in this position through Child Neglect, a presentation was given on the different issues which resulted in children being neglected. As part of the presentation, audio training interviews with children the subject of Child Protection Orders because of Child Neglect were shown.

In providing statistical information, the Divisional Lead – Social Work stated that, over the year 12630 contacts had been made to the local authority for children requiring a service from the Council during 2013/14. This was a rising number. Just over a third of the enquiries progressed to the need for Children's Social Care to provide a service. However, there is still a need to consider what support might be needed by the remaining two thirds of the cohort. An average of 80% of cases needing a service from Children's Social care were deemed to need an assessment.

On the issue of Domestic Violence, 2658 cases had been reported to the Police, an increase of over 40% over the year. The role of the local authority and its partners was to consider the support that needed to be provided for the children in the families.

Dudley's position was that there were now 314 children subject to Child Protection Plans, of whom 83% were subject to Plans for reasons of neglect and emotional harm.

On a comment being made that the statistical information represented an average of 35 contacts and one Child Protection Plan per day, in response to a question on whether sufficient resources were available, the Interim Director referred to the screening required in each case and the work being undertaken to secure earlier intervention through signposting. The challenge was to obtain improved partnership working. She did not consider the service sufficiently resourced.

In relation to Adolescent Neglect, the Divisional Lead – Looked After Children reported that this was more widespread than previously thought and referred to the impact this type of neglect could have on their adolescence. She referred particularly to the emotional effect of children who lived in accommodation far from home or who had run away from home, a feature of which being that they did not feel cared for. The Divisional Lead – Social Care indicated that, nationally, Child Neglect had been a factor in some 60% of Serious Case reviews and was a prominent feature in suicides among 11-15 year olds. There were concerns regarding the negative impact children suffering from neglect could have on their own future parenting skills.

A Member expressed disappointment that joint agency working was not currently effective in providing early intervention and it was agreed that partnership working in this regard was an area that should be scrutinised in the coming year.

On being asked about prosecutions on domestic violence and associated information, the Interim Director agreed to provide the invitee who raised the matter with the computer link.

In response to questions, the Divisional Lead-Social Care then explained the ways in which domestic abuse were reported and notified and confirmed that both verbal and physical abuse was included as domestic violence. The most serious cases were considered at a Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which was chaired by the Police.

On the issue of case loads on Child Neglect matters, the Divisional Lead-Social Work indicated that this was 20-25 cases per Social Worker, allocation having regard to the complexity of the case. The Divisional Lead – Social Care then explained how cases were dealt with, including the impact on children when parents were not able to meet their needs. In reply to another question, the Divisional Lead – Social Care stated that figures relating to child abuse resulting from foetal alcohol consumption were not available as it was a complex syndrome with a range of symptoms and effects. She described that babies may need special care to deal with the effects of alcohol. She also described how parental problems could make a parent 'emotionally unavailable' to their children, and the impact of this at different stages of child development.

Regarding the Troubled Families Programme, a comment was made that the national initiatives such as this tended to be prescriptive at the outset but more flexible later. It was explained that our programme in Dudley had been positively evaluated, and that as an early adopter for the next stage we had the opportunity to develop some additional flexibility in service criteria. Alongside this work is being undertaken to mainstream the approach, linking with other services.

Reference was made to a particular case of child neglect and to the role of the school governor, in response to which the Interim Director asked the Member concerned to contact her.

In indicating that the purpose of the presentation at this stage was to alert the Committee to the issue of Child Neglect, The Interim Director offered Members the facility to visit the Council's Troubled Families Team.

Resolved

- (1) That the presentation be received and the comments made, as referred to above, be noted.
- (2) That the consideration by the Committee of Child Neglect, including partnership working in this respect, in the next municipal year be supported.

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39      **Thanks to Committee**

This being the last meeting of the Committee in the current municipal year, the Vice- Chair thanked all Members for their work over the year.

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40      **Pauline Sharratt**

This being the last meeting Ms Sharratt would be attending in her professional capacity pending her retirement from the Council's service, the Vice-Chair thanked Ms Sharratt for her outstanding contribution to children's services and child safety issues in Dudley over the years.

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

CHAIR

**People Services Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2015**

**Report of the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation)**

**Terms of Reference for the People Services Scrutiny Committee**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To note the terms of reference for the People Services Scrutiny Committee.

**Background**

2. At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 11th December, 2014, a report was considered on the implications of the corporate restructuring on the Council's future overview and scrutiny arrangements.

Approval, in principle, was given to establish a Scrutiny Committee structure aligned to the new Strategic Directorate structure for the 2015/16 municipal year.

The establishment of the following Committees was recommended and approved by the annual meeting of the Council, to take effect from May 2015:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board  
People Services Scrutiny Committee  
Resources and Transformation Scrutiny Committee  
Place Scrutiny Committee  
Health Scrutiny Committee.

3. The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny). The associated Scrutiny Procedure Rules are contained within Part 4 of the Constitution which also contains the terms of reference for the People Services Scrutiny Committee. These terms of reference are attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

**Finance**

4. The costs of operating the revised scrutiny structure will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

**Law**

5. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

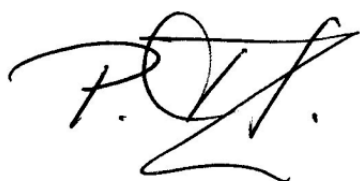
The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny) and the associated Scrutiny Procedure Rules are contained within Part 4.

### **Equality Impact**

6. Provision exists within the recommended scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

### **Recommendations**

7. That the terms of reference for the Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the attached Appendix, be noted.



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**Philip Tart**  
**Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation)**

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### **List of Background Papers**

The Council's Constitution

**Terms of Reference for the People Services Scrutiny Committee**

**Membership**

11 Councillors

5 voting Church and Parent Governor Co-opted representatives, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules.

**Terms of Reference**

In accordance with any relevant statutory requirements and the Annual Scrutiny Programme approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-

- (a) To undertake in-depth scrutiny investigations, inquiries and reviews in accordance with the Annual Scrutiny Programme;
- (b) To contribute to policy development by carrying out the scrutiny of matters falling within the functions of the Directorate of People Services and the portfolio of the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Health and Wellbeing (with the exception of functions that fall within the terms of reference of the Health Scrutiny Committee).

To submit reports and recommendations to the Cabinet and/or the Council on the outcomes of scrutiny investigations, inquiries and reviews.

To make recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on any proposed amendments to the Annual Scrutiny Programme.

**People Services Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2015**

**Report of the Lead Officer and the Strategic Director (Resources & Transformation)**

**Annual Scrutiny Programme 2015/16**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To note the items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for detailed consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2015/16.

**Background**

2. Meetings of this Scrutiny Committee have been scheduled, on the dates below, primarily to carry out the reviews that are allocated to them and to undertake detailed scrutiny of the Council's revenue budget proposals in November -

- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015 – 6pm
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 – 6pm
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 – 6pm
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 – 6pm

3. The Committee will formally endorse the Annual Scrutiny Plan at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2015. The items proposed for detailed consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2015/16 are:

- Falls Prevention Service/Strategy
- Care Act Implementation
- Safeguarding Children Annual Report/Child Sexual Exploitation/MASH
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Annual Safeguarding Report
- 0-5 Offer (Update re: Nurseries/School Nurse Health Visit Contract)

A brief summary of each topic will be provided by the relevant Chief Officer at the meeting.

4. Appendix 1 provides more detailed information on the topics set out in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16, as referred to in paragraph 3 above.

**Finance**

5. The costs of operating the revised scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

## **Law**

6. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.
7. The Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the Council powers to scrutinise the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables local authorities to scrutinise other partners. Much of this legislation has now been consolidated in the Localism Act 2011.

## **Equality Impact**

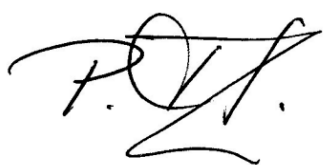
8. Provision exists within the recommended scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

## **Recommendation**

9. That the proposed items contained in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16, as referred to in paragraph 3 and Appendix 1, be endorsed.



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**Matt Williams**  
**Lead Officer**



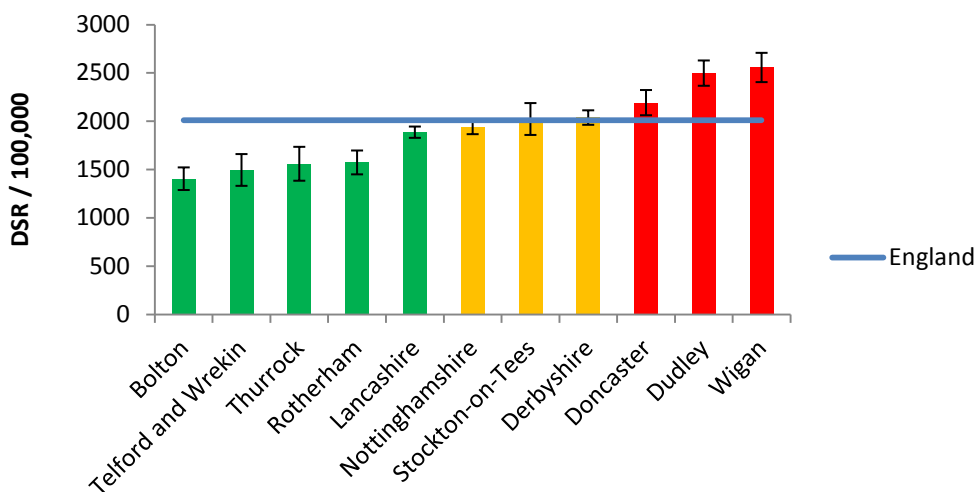
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**Philip Tart**  
**Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation)**

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## **List of Background Papers**

**Report to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 – Annual Scrutiny Programme 2015/16**

People Directorate Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Portfolio</b>	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Services
<b>Area for Scrutiny</b>	Falls Service
<b>Link to Council Plan</b>	Stronger Safer communities –Promoting Independence and keeping people well
<b>Context</b>	<p><b>Background to Falls</b></p> <p>Falls are a major cause of disability and the leading cause of death from injury in people aged over 75 in the UK. One-third to one-half of people aged over 65 fall each year.</p> <p>In 2012/13, Dudley had the highest rate of falls in the 65+ population compared to all the other West Midlands councils.</p> <p>For 3 years (2010/11 – 2012/13), Dudley has significantly higher rates of falls than the national average.</p>  <p>Dudley's rate of injuries due to falls is worse than most of its statistical neighbours. (see above chart)</p> <p>A third of all deaths from accident and unintentional injuries in the borough were due to falls</p>

	<p><b>Dudley MBC Falls Service</b></p> <p>Historically the service was commissioned by NHS through the PCT. Commissioning responsibilities transferred to Dudley Council public health team in 2013. The service is delivered and co-funded by the Council's adult services</p> <p><b>Service consists of;</b></p> <p><b>Central referral hub.</b> All referrals for falls in Dudley are received centrally, triaged and actioned appropriately i.e. through a home visit or appointment at a consultant led clinic. Triage is conducted by the community falls service in liaison with community health nurses, falls lead nurse and community falls coordinator.</p> <p><b>A Multifactorial assessment is undertaken which includes;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strength and balance training; 12 week programme</li> <li>• Home hazard and functional assessment and intervention including Fracture risk assessment;</li> <li>• Vision assessment and referral;</li> <li>• Medication review and modification/review.</li> <li>• Education and information giving including signposting to appropriate services</li> </ul> <p>A range of outcome data is collected .</p>
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<p><b>Rationale</b></p>	<p>Dudleys performance on Falls prevention is poor compared to both the national and local average.</p> <p>Recognition that the Council's falls service is part of the overall falls and bone health pathway which sits across the whole health and social care economy. Although the council service is reflects NICE guidance, alone it will not have the impact that's required to make a reduction in falls that is required in Dudley.</p> <p>Dudley currently has a range of 'falls' services, but these are fragmented and not currently maximising their potential; opportunities to prevent falls are currently being missed.</p> <p>Recognition that strategic commitment and ownership to the agenda required across the local partnership.</p> <p><b>A number of new developments ;</b></p> <p><b>Better Care fund-</b> The falls prevention service has a key role in delivering and demonstrating outcomes in relation to prevention of unnecessary hospital attendance/ admissions.</p> <p><b>Falls Needs Assessment</b> (public health team) is almost complete and will provide a better understanding of needs, gaps and the evidence base locally.</p> <p><b>Council falls service redesign</b> is ongoing with a number of changes made to the service.</p> <p><b>Review of the falls pathway</b> is being undertaken across the NHS and Social care economy led by the public health team in partnership with Adult Services and the CCG.</p> <p>Opportune time to strengthen the Council's Falls service.</p>
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<p><b>What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?</b></p>	<p><b>Is the service effective?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we receiving the appropriate referrals into the service?</li> <li>• Are the right people receiving the appropriate falls reduction interventions?</li> <li>• Are the pathways in place to signpost referrals into other prevention services or other appropriate services?</li> </ul> <p><b>Consider resource implications.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we have the resources to increase the number of falls risk assessments and consequently deliver falls risk reduction interventions in a timely manner?</li> </ul> <p><b>Consider the role of the both DMBC and wider partnership in falls prevention.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How well is falls prevention embedded in the rest of the local authority?</li> <li>• Does the programme have effective exit routes into other services which will help maintain the impact of falls service interventions and continue to prevent falls in the longer term ?</li> </ul> <p><b>Agree to the development of Dudley Falls and Bone Health strategy, related action plan and partnership commitment to its implementation.</b></p>
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People Services Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Portfolio</b>	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
<b>Area for Scrutiny</b>	Implementation of the Care Act
<b>Link to Council Plan</b>	Caring for the elderly and vulnerable
<b>Context</b>	<p>Aspects of the Care Act come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. The DACHS scrutiny committee considered preparation for the Care Act in some detail. Scrutiny focused on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal Implications</li> <li>- Financial Implications</li> <li>- Programme Management</li> <li>- Implications for Carers</li> <li>- Implications for Market Shaping and Commissioning</li> </ul>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Measuring the ongoing implementation of the Care Act is important. It is important that the people of Dudley access the full range of care and support they are entitled to under the legislation and that the quality of care and support is high. It is important that the level of demand arising from the Care Act is monitored. It is important that the financial implications of the Care Act and attendant impact for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy are clear.</p>
<b>What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?</b>	<p>To consider evidence in relation to all the points defined under "rationale." To ensure the appropriate changes have been implemented and any risks arising are understood and responded to.</p>

<b>People Services Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Portfolio</b>	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
<b>Area for Scrutiny</b>	Safeguarding Children Annual Report/Child Sexual Exploitation/MASH
<b>Link to Council Plan</b>	The area of scrutiny is an integral part of the Council's priorities. All three elements are critical to the delivery of effective services to the public and will be major areas of scrutiny by OfSTED during 2015.
<b>Context</b>	The activities of local authorities to coordinate safeguarding and child protection are areas of major importance in terms of the services that are provided to vulnerable families. Media and public interest in this agenda has increased markedly in recent years and the demand for services to protect vulnerable children and young people has also risen exponentially. The annual report of Dudley's Local Safeguarding Children Board will give the committee with a detailed insight into current issues and practice in our own borough and provide an opportunity for members to scrutinise and challenge the work of all relevant agencies. Child sexual exploitation is a strand of this work that is causing major concern nationally as a result of serious problems with the performance of various public bodies in areas such as Rotherham and Oxfordshire. Exploring the development of a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is one of the initiatives that is currently under consideration to ensure a more coherent response to these challenges.
<b>Rationale</b>	Given the current context and prominence of the safeguarding and child sexual exploitation agenda, and the level of Council resources that are needed to support our work in these areas, it is logical that these themes should be important areas of focus for the People Services Scrutiny Committee.
<b>What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?</b>	To scrutinise the work going on to promote effective safeguarding. To contribute to the debate about the way in which the Council can support these agendas To endorse the overall direction of the SafeguardingBoard.

People Services Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Portfolio</b>	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
<b>Area for Scrutiny</b>	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Annual Safeguarding Report
<b>Link to Council Plan</b>	Caring for the elderly and vulnerable
	<p><u>Deprivation of Liberty after Cheshire West</u></p> <p>On 19 March 2014 the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that P, a profoundly disabled man was deprived of his liberty by virtue of the complete and effective control exercised over his life by those looking after him. The Supreme Court rejected the decision and the factors that were introduced when the case was heard by the Appeal Court and re-affirmed the original decision that had been previously reached in the Court of Protection. The relevant caselaw is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P v Cheshire West and Chester Council</li> </ul> <p>In reaching this decision the Supreme Court identified that to determine whether a person (without the mental capacity to consent to the arrangements) is being deprived of their liberty, the following 'acid test' should be applied: Is the person subject to continuous supervision and control?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of these factors are necessary. You should seek legal advice if intensive levels of support are being provided to any person as part of a package of care or treatment.</li> </ul> <p>Is the person free to leave?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus is not on the person's ability to express a desire to leave, but on what those with control over their care arrangements would do if they sought to leave.</li> </ul>

<b>Context</b>	<p>In all cases, the following are not relevant to the application of the test:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The person's compliance or lack of objection</li> <li>2. The relative normality of the placement (whatever the comparison made); and</li> <li>3. The reason or purpose behind a particular placement.</li> </ol> <p>This ruling has increased the number of people who use care and support services who now fall within the scope of what constitutes a deprivation of liberty and where this occurs [legal] authorisation is required.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>There are over 14,000 adults who access care and support in Dudley. The proposed focus for scrutiny is whether or not the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards have been appropriately applied for the People of Dudley.</p> <p>The second topic for consideration is a review of the annual business plan; whether objectives have been delivered and key performance considerations</p>
<b>What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?</b>	<p>To consider whether the process for DOLS is robust</p> <p>To consider resource implications</p> <p>To consider timeliness of response by Safeguarding in Dudley.</p> <p>To consider the effectiveness of the Dudley Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) business plan</p>

People Directorate Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Portfolio</b>	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Children Services
<b>Area for Scrutiny</b>	Integration of 0-5 services ( with focus on health visiting services and children's centres)
<b>Link to Council Plan</b>	Develop integrated health and well-being programmes to give every child the best start in life
<b>Context</b>	<p><b>Health Visiting Service</b> -The final stage of Public Health transfer to LA's will be the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) for 0-5 year olds, which includes the commissioning of health visitors and family nurses and will transfer to local government on the 1 October 2015. Unlike the previous public health transfer it is only the commissioning that will transfer and not the workforce. Health visitors and Family Nurses will continue to be employed by their provider organisations.</p> <p>The transfer of commissioning responsibilities will join up commissioning for 0 to 19 (and up to 25 years for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will improve continuity for children and their families.</p> <p>The Health Visiting Service is a workforce of specialist community public health nurses who provide expert advice, support and interventions to families with children in the first years of life, and help empower parents to make decisions that affect their family's future health and wellbeing. The service is central to delivering public health outcomes for children.</p> <p><b>Children's Centres</b> - There are 5 clusters of Children's Centres in Dudley .</p> <p>The Children's Centres cover three themes: Community Support Development, Child &amp; Family Health Improvement, and Learning and Skills.</p> <p>The core purpose of Children's centres is to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on those in greatest need. They work to make sure all children are properly prepared for school, regardless of background or family circumstances. They also offer support to parents.</p> <p><b>Public Health and Children's Services</b></p> <p>The Public Health team provide and commission a range of services that are delivered in Children's Centres which focus on the wider determinants of health, addressing issues of social exclusion, improving access to support services, promoting physical activity and healthy eating, work related skills and information and advice.</p> <p>The transfer of the commissioning of 0-5 public health services presents a unique opportunity for local authorities to transform and integrate health, education, social care and wider council led services for young children and their families and to focus on improving outcomes for children and young people.</p>

<b>Rationale</b>	<p><b>Opportunities for integrated 0-5 services</b></p> <p>There is evidence that where there is good integration of health services and programmes, Children's Centres function better and get better outcomes.</p> <p>There has been a history of good joint working between the NHS, the public health team and children's services in Dudley. In Children's Centres there are examples of joint working on antenatal care, the Healthy Child Programme (Health Visitors), breastfeeding, healthy eating and physical activity, emotional health and wellbeing, and so on. There is now a further opportunity to integrate and avoid duplication of service provision.</p> <p><b>Increased Workforce opportunities - The Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-2015</b> set out a call to action to expand and strengthen health visiting services. Locally numbers of Health Visitors have increased from 56.7 fte in May 2010 to 74.3 currently, an increase of 17.6 Health Visitors.</p> <p>This provides the opportunity to work with a new and energised workforce with a strong remit to contribute to public health outcomes and with the ability to use a targeted locality /community leadership approach.</p> <p><b>Alignment of Children's centres and public health priorities</b> – There are opportunities for aligning public health resources to Children's Centres as well as opportunities to broaden the range of services delivered through the children's centre clusters. For example the public health team has de-commissioned an external provider and integrated breastfeeding support into the current job role of Children Centre staff.</p> <p><b>Update on Integration work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A small project group has been set up to start scoping opportunities for the integrated approach.</li> <li>• Pieces of work to support integration, avoid duplication and develop pathways are ongoing.</li> <li>• A review of evidence base and good practice being undertaken</li> <li>• The public health team chairs the 0-5 Programme board prior to the transfer of the contract to the Council</li> <li>• The Health Visitor service contract places an obligation on the provider to support integration and explore opportunities for co-location in Children's Centres .</li> <li>• The public health team is working with the Health Visitor workforce to develop the community offer and locality leadership role</li> </ul>
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<p><b>What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?</b></p>	<p>The proposition is that the Scrutiny Committee contributes to both the policy and development needed to deliver an integrated 0-5 offer with a key focus on Children's Centres and Public Health programmes that span the 0-5 range and which champion the transformational changes that will be required.</p> <p>The Committee may wish to follow a process that includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping the scrutiny by examining the current service delivery and draft proposals for integration and example of good practice benchmarks to determine key lines of enquiry and expert witnesses.</li> <li>• Issuing open invitation for submissions.</li> <li>• Receiving written and oral evidence from Council Officers; expert external witnesses; community witnesses.</li> </ul> <p>Synthesising evidence received and making recommendations</p>
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