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St Helens Children's Improvement Board

Terms of Reference V0.2

Overview & Purpose

Since an Ofsted single inspection in November 2014 found that services to children in the borough required improvement to be good, the Council has invested significant additional financial resource to these services. Despite this, progress has been too slow as identified in a recent focussed Ofsted inspection.

Urgent, focussed action must now be taken to drive the necessary improvements needed in Children's Services.

An improvement plan, approved by Cabinet in June 2018, will now be supplemented with an Action Plan written in response to the recent Ofsted visit. The purpose of this Improvement Board is to oversee delivery of the Action Plan and, most importantly, drive an improvement in the lived experiences and outcomes of children in St Helens.

Function of Improvement Board

1. To oversee delivery and shared ownership of the Ofsted focussed inspection Action Plan.
2. To oversee delivery and shared ownership of the Improvement Plan approved by Cabinet in June 2018.
3. To challenge any areas where delivery is off track or it appears improvements are not having the required impact.
4. To ensure improvements in Children's Social Care are embedded and can be evidenced and monitored.
5. To raise awareness across of elected members and wider partners of the challenges facing Children's Services and the statutory duties of the Council.
6. To engage all key partners, frontline staff and children and young people in developing and monitoring improvement work.
7. To ensure that improving outcomes for children is a key priority for St Helens Council.

Membership

The Board will consist of the following members:

- Independent Chair
- Leader

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- Deputy Leader
- Portfolio Holder
- Chief Executive
- Leaders of Opposition Parties within the Council
- Strategic Director of Peoples Services
- Ass. Dir Children's Social Work Assessment
- Ass. Dir Children's Safeguarding
- Ass. Dir Children's Social work Support
- Performance Management Team Lead
- CYPS Scrutiny Chair
- Safeguarding Partnership Board Chair
- Police Representative
- Chief Nurse, CCG
- Senior Assistant Director, Education & Children's Health
- Senior Assistant Director, Social Work & Community
- Merseyside Police Lead for Children's Services
- Headteacher representatives from both Primary and Secondary Schools

Frequency of Meetings

Meetings will take place on a monthly basis.

Reporting To

Report to Cabinet, Peoples Board (for wider partnership input including health, police etc.) and Safeguarding Children's Board.

Operational support

The Improvement Board will be supported by an Executive Group that will ensure the actions determined by the Board are driven forward and delivered.

Both the Improvement Board and the Executive Board will require administrative support to be provided by the Council.

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Revised Version: September 2018