OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Notice of a Meeting
People Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 17 February 2022 at 10.00 am
Council Chamber - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

These proceedings are open to the public

Please note that Council meetings are currently taking place in-person (not virtually) with Covid precautions at the venue. Meetings will continue to be live-streamed and those who wish to view them are strongly encouraged to do so online to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection.

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this Live Stream Link. However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

If you still wish to attend this meeting in person, you must contact the Committee Officer by 9am four working days before the meeting and they will advise if you can be accommodated at this meeting and of the detailed Covid-19 safety requirements for all attendees.

Please note that in line with current government guidance *all* attendees are strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test in advance of the meeting.

Membership

Chair - Councillor Ian Corkin
Deputy Chair - Councillor Kate Gregory

Councillors:	Juliette Ash	Andy Graham	Michael Waine
	Hannah Banfield	Nigel Simpson	
	Imade Edosomwan	Bethia Thomas	

Notes: *Date of next meeting: 7 April 2022*

For more information about this Committee please contact:	
Chair	Councillor Ian Corkin Email: ian.corkin@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	*Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Tel: 07393 001096 E-Mail: colm.ocaomhanaigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk*

Stephen Chandler
Interim Chief Executive

February 2022

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Media Enquiries 01865 323870

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?
- All services and preventative activities/initiatives relating to children, young people, education, families and older people.
- Enables the council to scrutinise it statutory functions relation to children, adult social care and safeguarding. Includes public health matters where they are not covered by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- This committee will also consider matters relating to care leavers and the transition between children's and adult services

How can I have my say?
We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am 4 working day before the date of the meeting.**

About the County Council
The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 63 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 678,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

About Scrutiny
Scrutiny is about:
- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:
- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

What does this Committee do?
The Committee meets up to 4 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting

A hearing loop is available at County Hall.

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AGENDA

1. **Introduction and Welcome**

2. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**

3. **Declaration of Interests - see guidance note on the back page**

4. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2021 and to receive information arising from them.

5. **Petitions and Public Address**

Currently council meetings are taking place in-person (not virtually) with Covid safety procedures operating in the venues. However, members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting 'virtually' through an online connection. While you can ask to attend the meeting in person, you are strongly encouraged to attend 'virtually' to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection.

Please also note that in line with current government guidance all attendees are strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test in advance of the meeting.

Normally requests to speak at this public meeting are required by 9 am on the day preceding the published date of the meeting. However, during the current situation and to facilitate these new arrangements we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting i.e. 9 am on Friday 11 February 2022 Requests to speak should be sent to colm.ocaomhanaigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk . You will be contacted by the officer regarding the arrangements for speaking.

If you ask to attend in person, the officer will also advise you regarding Covid-19 safety at the meeting. If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

6. **Overview of Home to School Transport in Oxfordshire** (Pages 9 - 18)

Report by Corporate Director for Children's Services

Officers were asked to provide an overview to include the following information.

• Current arrangements including parental preference
• Pupil projections, expansion plans and need
• How to create fairness within the system
• How to decarbon the service

• Service User experience and opinion

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

7.   Serious Case Review: Child R (Pages 19 - 22)

Report by Corporate Director for Children's Services

The Serious Case Review (SCR) concerns child R who was 13yrs old when she took her own life in 2013 in an out of county residential establishment.

The Committee is recommended to note the findings and recommendations of the Serious Case Review for Child R and to note the actions taken to date.

8.   Consultation on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Oxfordshire (Pages 23 - 52)

Report by Corporate Director of Children's Services

A public consultation on proposed changes to arrangements for SEND for children and young people in Oxfordshire was launched on 10th January 2022. It is intended to run until 10th March 2022.

The People Overview & Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider this paper and formulate a joint response to the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Consultation which closes on 10th March 2022.

9.   Work Plan 2021/22 (Pages 53 - 56)

Report by Director of Law and Governance

This report presents the People Scrutiny Committee Work Plan for 2021/22.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the Work Plan (as set out in Appendix 1).

Close of meeting

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare…..

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

(a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
(b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
(c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?.

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *"You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself"* or *"You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned…..".*

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes"*any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain*".), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members' conduct guidelines. http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/ or contact Glenn Watson on **07776 997946** or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

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PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 11 November 2021 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 1.00 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ian Corkin – in the Chair

Councillor Kate Gregory (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Hannah Banfield
Councillor Imade Edosomwan
Councillor Andy Graham
Councillor Nigel Simpson
Councillor Bethia Thomas
Councillor Michael Waine
Councillor Jane Murphy (In place of Councillor Juliette Ash)

Other Members in Attendance:

Councillor Liz Brighouse, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services; Councillor Jenny Hannaby, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care; Councillor Mark Lygo, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Equality

By Invitation:

Ray Fitzpatrick, Professor of Public Health, University of Oxford; Charles Vincent, Professor of Psychology, University of Oxford; Andy Symons, Senior Operations Manager, Turning Point; Sara Keppie, Wellbeing Service Manager, Oxfordshire Mind; Jess Willsher, Director of Services, Oxfordshire Mind; Sadia Hussain, Elmore Community Services

Officers:

Whole of meeting   Sukdave Ghuman, Head of Legal; Jodie Townsend, Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Democratic Services

Part of meeting

Agenda Item   **Officers Attending**
6   Ansaf Azhar, Corporate Director for Public Health; Stephen Chandler, Corporate Director for Adult and Housing Services; Karen Fuller, Deputy Director Adult Social Care; David Munday, Consultant in Public Health; Robin Rogers, Programme Director Covid Response; Emily Schofield, Acting Head of Strategy

7   Kevin Gordon, Corporate Director for Children's Services; Hannah Farncombe, Deputy Director of Children's Social Care; Delia Mann, Head of Services for Family Solutions Plus and Early Help Teams; Laura Clements, Head of Service Family Solutions

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes.

7/21 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
(Agenda No. 1)

The Chair welcomed Members and officers to the meeting and noted that they would observe two minutes silence at 11am to mark Remembrance Day.

It was agreed to take item 7 Family Solutions Plus before item 6 Health Inequalities and the Chair thanked all those presenting on the items for facilitating the change.

8/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS
(Agenda No. 2)

Apologies were received from Councillor Juliette Ash (substituted by Councillor Jane Murphy).

9/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE
(Agenda No. 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

10/21 MINUTES
(Agenda No. 4)

Councillor Michael Waine asked when the question of co-opted members for the Committee would be discussed. Councillor Andy Graham also noted that there was no discussion of the Committee's Work Programme on the agenda for this meeting.

The Chair responded that both of these would be discussed at a workshop for Members to be arranged around the end of November or start of December.

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2021 were agreed and signed.

11/21 FAMILY SOLUTIONS PLUS
(Agenda No. 7)

The Committee had before it a report discussing the progress to date and what has been achieved, both quantitatively and qualitatively, a year into the implementation of Family Solutions Plus (FSP).

Councillor Liz Brighouse, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services described the service as a success story in its first year. The service deals with children who have been referred to the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) and the number of referrals has been increasing.

Councillor Brighouse reminded Members that the courts decided when the Council has to look after a child and therefore the courts must decide when that responsibility can end. The new service aimed to work with families to alleviate the many different problems that can be the cause of child safeguarding issues. It was a real step in the right direction. It cost money but the Council needed to invest in our children in the same was as any parents would in their children.

Hannah Farncombe, Deputy Director of Children's Social Care, gave a presentation on the links between FSP and the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

Ray Fitzpatrick, Professor of Public Health, University of Oxford, and Charles Vincent, Professor of Psychology, University of Oxford presented an independent evaluation of the service. They found:

- Reduced numbers of looked after children in care
- Reduced numbers of children on child protection plans
- A model of working which has universal support of the staff in the service
- The service is achieving well but is challenged by high workloads and the impact of the pandemic
- Emerging findings of approval by families
- Reduced numbers of police call-outs
- Reduced volume of emergency mental health service use.

Delia Mann, Head of Services for Family Solutions Plus and Early Help Teams, and Andy Symons, Senior Operations Manager, Turning Point, the Adult Substance Misuse Service, recounted case studies involving mental health needs and substance misuse by parents where they did not have to remove the children because they were able to assist the family in a more holistic way through partnership working.

Members thanked officers and guests for the report and presentations and raised a number issues:

Staffing

Members asked
- how staff were being supported given the often emotional and stressful nature of the job and unsocial hours;
- how workloads were managed to ensure work/life balance;
- if front-line staff had access to independent counselling.

Officers responded that recruitment and retention were national issues in this sector. The difficulties of the job were acknowledged but it could be very rewarding too. There was independent counselling available but more psychological support embedded within the teams would be helpful.

The Council was trying to 'grow' its own staff with an early professional development unit with bespoke packages of support. An external expert view was being sought on how the Council could do better on retention and in the Oxfordshire employment market. Bringing the workload down was a key issue in terms of retention. There were economic factors too such as affordable housing. The Council was also examining if anything could be done with the apprenticeship levy.

Team working

Members asked
- how the teams were managed around individual cases.
- were all of the team members from the Council or were partners participating?
- were there some social workers embedded in schools?

In building a team, a group was formed of people pertinent to that family's needs. They meet on a regular basis and have a coordinated action plan. Other specialists can be brought in if and when extra needs were identified. A team might include the school nurse, a probation officer, external specialists – everyone significant to that family.

Some schools and academies funded their own social workers but few do anymore because of cost pressures. The Council has a named worker for each school to encourage early intervention, though of course, each worker had many schools.

Members also asked where most referrals to the MASH came from. Officers responded that the largest number of referrals came from the police, mainly from domestic abuse incidents. Schools would be next which was not surprising as they see the children every day.

Members asked if the responses of schools varied significantly and if so, what were the factors involved? Officers referred to the Locality & Community Support Service which provided resources for schools to help identify needs early and put in place interventions that don't meet the threshold for Children's Social Care. However, the national policy framework had not caught up with this kind of work in Oxfordshire. There was a disconnect between what Ofsted was measuring and the realities on the ground.

In Oxfordshire there were three times more Children's Social Care assessments than Early Help Assessments. That needed to be reversed and a target of 10,000 Early Help Assessments was being set for next year as opposed to 3,000 this year.

Members asked if the problems with delays in the court service were beyond their control or if there was anything they could do in the way of lobbying or applying pressure.

Officers described the problems in the capacity of the courts to deal with the workload and in recruitment to the Family Court Advisory Service. Consequently, the Council's own social workers were finding it hard to manage the increased work level around legal proceedings. The government had provided more funding for the courts to tackle the backlog and the Council was engaged in a recruitment campaign to provide more legal support for Children's Services using some Covid reserve funds.

Members raised the issue of some people slipping through the net or receiving inappropriate support from agencies not fully understanding the impact on children. Officers responded that this was something that they would address in refreshing the Early Help Strategy.

Looking forward, Members asked what the next steps were to improve the system even further and if the necessary budget was there.

Officers responded that FSP started last November and was expected to pay back its costs over a 2 to 4 year period but those calculations did not include Covid. The Council was in a good position to sustain the service and perhaps in three years or so should see savings and have to decide what to do with those savings.

Professor Vincent encouraged Members to take a three year view of the service to allow the trajectory to play out.

Councillor Brighouse commented that there had been so many cuts to services over the years that we were left now with mainly emergency services. This piece of work demonstrated the value of early intervention. It was important to bring health workers on board and get more money into schools to enable them to support children to live healthier and happier lives.

The Chair summed up as follows:

He asked officers to convey the thanks and support of the Committee to all of the staff involved. While it was still early days there were positive signs that the service was succeeding. It has quickly been accepted as a useful therapeutic and supportive model.

It had been well implemented but workload can be challenging to the teams involved and supporting their continuous professional development was important.

The longitudinal study of the service - repeatedly looping back to monitor the effect over time - would be important to evaluate if the system was being successful against the big drivers of children entering the system - substance misuse, domestic violence and mental health.

The Chair proposed four recommendations which were agreed, along with recommendation c) from the report.

RESOLVED to:

- **endorse the need for the external review of best practice in recruitment and retention;**
- **endorse the efforts to provide more legal support for child services dealing with delays in the system;**
- **endorse the proposed target of 10,000 Early Help Assessments in order to reverse the current trend of three times as many Children's Social Care assessments as Early Help Assessments;**
- **support the resourcing of the FSP in the Council's budget process, recognising the expected savings in the longer term;**
- **recommend to the Oxfordshire Place Board consideration of the Family Solutions Plus (FSP) business case to agree the future funding approach.**

12/21   HEALTH INEQUALITIES
(Agenda No. 6)

The Committee received a briefing which provided background information on health inequality as context for future agenda items and to inform the development of the scrutiny work programme.

Councillor Mark Lygo, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Equality introduced the report. He drew attention to the definition of health inequalities in paragraph 5 as "unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society".

Councillor Lygo emphasised the importance of partnership working across the local system which was particularly evident during the pandemic. This included the city and district councils as well as the voluntary and community sector.

Ansaf Azhar, Director for Public Health, added that, while there were many partners involved in the wide range of activities, tackling underlying causes – primary prevention – lay very much within the local authority remit. He went on to outline the governance element. He co-chaired the Health Inequalities Forum on BOB-ICS (Bucks, Oxon, Berkshire West – Integrated Care System). They were in the process of setting up an Oxfordshire Forum across the health and care system and this will develop a local policy which will include tackling underlying causes, ensuring all partners are working together and avoiding duplication, and will tie in to the Council's Corporate Plan. The Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board will also be involved and that is where Members will have input.

Members expressed concern that the creation of these multi-agency fora can have the effect of taking discussion further away from Members. There was also a concern that inequalities in rural areas were often overlooked because the numbers were smaller. Councillor Lygo responded that they would be working with district councils on any outreach work they can do. Ansaf Azhar added that Members would have an important role in identifying inequalities in their areas.

The Chair noted that one of the ten most-deprived wards had been profiled and that the other nine had been delayed due to Covid. Ansaf Azhar responded there was now funding to progress the other wards. They had also gained useful insights during the pandemic. However, the ward approach was not the only one. For

example, the FAST Programme (Families Active Sporting Together) was going to be expanded out across the County to counter physical inactivity. This will be paid for through a health inequality fund.

Robin Rogers, Programme Director Covid Response, added that the County Council's joint working with Cherwell District Council had supported a lot of work on health and wellbeing which was now being applied across the county with the other district councils who in turn have close links with Parish Councils and local communities.

Members noted that six of the ten wards were in Oxford East. There had been long-term problems with educational achievement, linked to deprivation in that area. It was suggested that the committee – perhaps through a deep dive – could take a close look at education data in that area to see how schools were coping.

Members asked about cuts to funding for swimming lessons which were an important encouragement in terms of physical activity. Councillor Lygo described some partnership working with individual schools and colleges to provide access to facilities. The target was to ensure all schools across the county achieve a 100% target with swimming lessons.

Members asked about gender inequality in health. The UK had reportedly the largest gender gap in the G20 and various screening programmes were at a low point in terms of uptake. Officers responded that screening had been particularly hit by the pandemic but the Council was working closely with the national campaigns on screening to improve uptake. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had gender health inequality on their work programme and Members might like to refer some points to that Committee.

Officers also added that the figures in Oxfordshire did not show a general gender health gap although some teenage girls had lower physical activity levels and sometimes that was linked to particular ethnic minority groups. The FAST programme, for example, had worked with the Mosque in Banbury to come up with specific proposals.

Members suggested supporting initiatives in clubs such as providing equipment to those who cannot afford to buy it. Also, providing less structured opportunities such as community walks. The importance of volunteers in all of this was recognised as paramount. These programmes not only encourage physical activity but also help mental wellbeing and community integration.

The Chair asked if all directorates were buying into this approach or how that could be achieved. Officers responded that it was hoped that this would be achieved through the Oxfordshire Health Inequalities Board where all directorates and partners could bring together everything they are doing to promote wellbeing. It was recognised that the solutions will not be the same for every area and that it does not always have to be the County Council providing programmes but the Council can coordinate with community and voluntary groups.

The Integrated Care System will be very relevant to this topic. There was likely to be funding coming forth and it was hoped that having the Board in place will put Oxfordshire in a good position to avail of those funds when the time comes.

Councillor Jenny Hannaby, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, added that voluntary groups had really shone during the pandemic. Communications with the elderly were particularly key as they had lost confidence during the lockdowns and there was a lot of good work being done on digital inclusion.

Members suggested that a flow chart or map of all the partner involvement would be very helpful.

The Chair proposed recommendations that were agreed by the Committee.

Councillor Lygo thanked all of the officers involved in this work and offered to come back in a year to update on progress. The Chair agreed that the Council was fortunate in having such a strong team.

RESOLVED:
- **That policy 'hooks' for this work be defined and refined swiftly across the directorates.**
- **That health inequality be embedded across the system with measures to assess performance.**
- **To consider when discussing the Work Programme whether to have a deep dive on educational data in the ten identified areas of deprivation.**
- **To support roll-out of the FAST model across the county.**
- **To contribute to the HOSC discussion on women's health.**
- **To ensure that Members are properly included in the governance structures for the multi-agency work.**
- **To endorse developing a strategy around the voluntary sector given its importance in delivering the ambitions of the initiative.**

…………………………………………………….. in the Chair

Date of signing …………………………………………………

Divisions Affected – All

PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -
17 FEBRUARY 2022

OVERVIEW OF HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT IN
OXFORDSHIRE

Report by Corporate Director for Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1.   The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

Executive Summary

2.   Officers were asked to provide an overview to include the following
      information.

      • Current arrangements including parental preference
      • Pupil projections, expansion plans and need
      • How to create fairness within the system
      • How to decarbon the service
      • Service User experience and opinion

Overview

What is 'Home to School Transport'?

3.   Parents have a right to express a preference for the school they want their
      child to attend. However, there is no general statutory right to free transport
      based upon parental preference of school.

4.   Parents who have not opted for elective home education for their children
      have a legal duty to make necessary arrangements to ensure that their
      statutory aged children attend school regularly. The council is only required to
      provide free school travel to children resident within the administrative area of
      Oxfordshire County Council who are eligible under the law and this Home to
      School Transport policy. If children move to an address outside the
      administrative area of Oxfordshire County Council, the responsibility for
      determining and, where appropriate, providing free or assisted travel passes
      to the child's new home authority.

5.   The legal basis for the provision of home to school transport is set out in
      sections 508A, 508B, 508C, 508D and 509AD and Schedule 35B of the
      Education Act 1996 (as amended by Part 6 of the Education and Inspections
      Act 2006) and, where appropriate, the Equality Act and English and European
      case law. In addition, local authorities are under a statutory duty to have

regard to the Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE) in July 2014 and the statutory Post 16 Transport to Education and Training guidance issued in October 2016.

6.   Oxfordshire County Council is keen to encourage young people to walk or cycle to the school or college they attend, or to make use of public transport.

7.   Those who are not resident in Oxfordshire are advised to contact their own home local authority for details of any policy that their local authority may have regarding home to school/college transport.

8.   Free and subsidised transport is not provided to children of pre-school age who attend nurseries or other Early Years settings, irrespective of whether they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Travel to nursery/early years settings is wholly the responsibility of a child's parent. This is the case both for children who have an EHCP and those who do not have a such a plan.

9.   The current policy is available at 2021-22 OCC Home to School Travel and Transport Policy (oxfordshire.gov.uk).

Current arrangements including parental preference

10.   Normally eligibility for free travel will be determined at the time that a school place is allocated through:
   •   Oxfordshire County Council's Coordinated Admissions Scheme for entry at
   •   the normal points of admission; and/or,
   •   the issuing of an Education, Health and Care Plan; and/or,
   •   the operation of the Fair Access Protocol; and/or,
   •   the In-Year Coordinated Admissions Scheme.

11.   The key principles in the council's current policy are
   •   Free travel to "Nearest school" if in excess of statutory walking distances
   •   Post 16 free travel for SEN students to the nearest college/school at which need can be met
   •   Providing a spare seat scheme
   •   Providing a formal appeals process

12.   Statutory walking distances beyond which children are not expected to walk to school are as follows.

   2 miles if under 8 years of age
   3 miles if 8 to 16 years of age
   Distances are measured using the 'Route Finder' system.
   All roads, streets, footpaths, bridleways are on our route network.

13.   Free travel is also provided if the distance from the child's home to the nearest available school is under the statutory walking distance but the route is unsafe to walk, even if accompanied by an adult. Route assessments are

carried out by the Principal Officer for Road Safety and routes should be reassessed regularly. These routes are assessed against the Road Safety GB Guidelines - "Walked Routes to School" and are concerned with road safety risks rather than potential criminal activity.

14. Routes are assessed assuming a responsible adult is available to accompany the child as this would be a necessary arrangement to be made by a parent/carer to ensure the child attends school.

15. When, under the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy, children and young people are entitled to free travel it is provided by the most cost-effective means. This will usually be by the provision of a free bus pass. However, where numbers are small, children may sometimes have to be transported by taxi. If parents wish to take their children to school and it is therefore possible to avoid the provision of a taxi, the Council may agree to the payment of a mileage allowance.

16. If free travel is agreed, children and young people will normally be expected to use public transport (ordinary scheduled bus or train services) or, if this is unavailable, contracted transport such as a coach or minibus. Up until the end of Year 5 children of primary school age who receive free travel to school by public transport will normally be expected to travel with a parent and the parent as well as the child will be eligible for a free bus pass. However, in normal circumstances once a child is of Year 6 age and above only the child will receive free travel.

What is different about SEND Home to School transport?

17. Local authorities have a duty to make suitable arrangements as they deem necessary to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children between the ages of 5-16 (Section 508B of the Education Act, 1996). This transport provision applies if their nearest suitable school is beyond 2 miles (if below the age of 8) or beyond 3 miles (if aged between 8 and 16).

18. For our SEN pupils, there is a statutory responsibility to make transport arrangements for all children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their SEN or disability. As outlined in our policy documents, eligibility for such children and young people (CYP) should be assessed on an individual basis to identify their transport requirements.

19. For further education up to the age of 18, local authorities have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the authority considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training. The overall intention of the 16-18 transport duty is to ensure that students of sixth form age are able to access the education and training of their choice and, if support for access is required, that this will be assessed and provided where necessary. As outlined in Home to School Travel and Transport Policy 2020/21 onwards for

Reception to Year 11, free transport will not be agreed to any school irrespective of distance, journey time or number of other suitable schools that are closer to the family home. Free travel will only be provided to the nearest suitable school. The OCC Transport Policy Statement for those aged 16-18 and students continuing in education who are aged 19 outlines that:

20.   Applications for travel assistance for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities aged between 19 and 24 years of age will be considered on an individual basis for a first course of study. An assessment will be made of the application taking account of the particular circumstances of the applicant and the case for assistance with travel.

21.   Where travel assistance is agreed, it will normally continue during the agreed course of study until the end of the academic year in which the student's 25th birthday occurs. However, travel assistance will be reviewed throughout the course and independent travel encouraged.

22.   SEN Home to School transport tends to be in smaller vehicles. Routes provided by Supported Transport Fleet Services, Multi Academy Trusts and contracted private hire vehicles. For some students a travelling passenger assistant is required.

Financial Implications
23.   Budgets and Number of Passengers

Table 1. Expenditure

Category of spend	Budget 2021/22
Mainstream Primary	£1,880,000
Mainstream Secondary	£6,300,000
SEN	£14,600,000
SEN Post16	£635,000
Total	23,415,000

24.   The number of pupils conveyed to school every day are set out in the two tables below.

Table 2. Numbers of pupils Using Home to School Transport

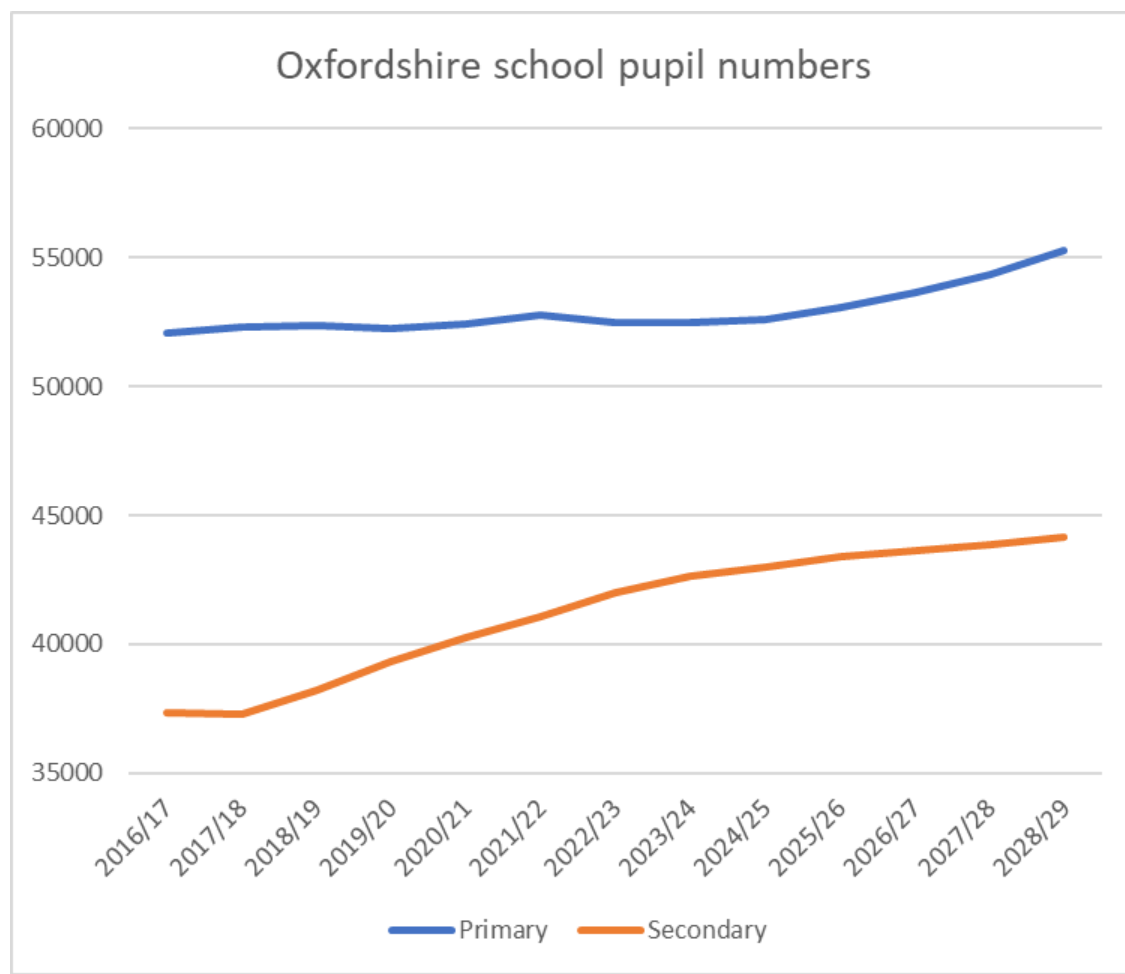| Type	Number
SEN Travel	1375
Mainstream	7336
Spare Seat Scheme	1188
Total	**9899**

25.   The vehicles used to meet this need vary in size but generally the smaller the size of vehicle the higher the cost per pupil.

26.   In the council's proposed budget (to be discussed 8th February) there is recognition that Home to school transport represents a significant proportion of the councils' overall budget for Education and Services for children.

27. An undertaking is given to review how this money is spent including:
   - Adjusting the price of the spare seat scheme to reflect the increasing cost of providing this service
   - Reviewing areas of discretionary spend and adapting polices to bring the Oxfordshire transport offer more in-line with other parts of England
   - Optimising our routes to reduce emissions and make savings
   - Running our services more efficiently and ensuring eligibility is tightly managed.

28. Any proposed changes will be subject to full statutory consultation processes prior to decisions being taken by the council.

Pupil projections, expansion plans and need

29. The annual Pupil Place Plan provides information on expected mainstream pupil numbers and expansion plans. The latest version was approved by the County Council Cabinet on 18 January 2022 as part of the Capital and Investment Strategy for 2021/22 - 2031/32 and is available at Planning enough school places | Oxfordshire County Council

30. After rapid growth in the early part of the last decade, growth of primary school pupil numbers subsided in the second half of the decade, and is now forecast to remain level overall until growth resumes in the second half of this decade. However, in areas of housing growth demand is still growing rapidly.

31. Demand for secondary school places been growing strongly in recent years, as the earlier births boom matured. Again, this pattern is not consistent across the county.

Table 3. Recent and forecast primary and secondary pupil numbers in Oxfordshire's schools

Oxfordshire school pupil numbers

32. Our current pupil projections show a 1.2% increase in primary pupil numbers and for secondary school pupils a 7.8% predicted rise between 2020/21 and 2025/26. Longer term, there is expected to be significant further growth due to the high levels of housing growth planned for the county.

33. Approximately 1% of the total primary school population and 2% of the total secondary school population attends special schools. Forecasting for special educational provision is more complicated than for mainstream schools. The number of pupils with Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) has grown significantly faster than the overall population at both the Oxfordshire and national level. Nationally and locally there has been an increased dependence on independent and non-maintained schools due to a shortage of suitable maintained school places. Pupil numbers in Oxfordshire's maintained special schools therefore depend not only on population changes, but also on changes in SEND policy and practice, as well as the availability of places, and will be affected by the actions proposed in the current consultation on support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire (SEND consultation | Let's Talk Oxfordshire).

34.   Most significant new housing developments are either within the statutory walking distance of school provision, or (in the case of larger developments) include on-site primary schools. Given the scale of some Local Plan developments, some are also expected to include new secondary schools.

How to create fairness within the system

35.   Eligibility for free home to school transport is rigorously assessed by a specialist team in the Children's Services Directorate.

36.   There is a two-stage appeal process which offers families the ability to challenge decisions and further amplify exceptional circumstances or identify administrative errors. The two stages are set out below:

Stage 1 reviews – Admissions and Transport Services Manager
Stage 2 appeals – independent panel of 3 consisting of a local authority officer, a county councillor, and an independent person. All panel members must have received appropriate training prior to hearing appeals.

37.   The Panel may not change the policy but can identify administrative errors or award transport based on exceptional circumstances for the appellant. The full process is laid out in the statutory guidance and the Home to School Transport Policy.

38.   There is no legal requirement for the council to allow parents to purchase spare seats on home to school transport routes set up for those with an entitlement to free travel but in common with many councils Oxfordshire does provide such a scheme. This assists families and it helps to defray the cost of home to school travel for the council, and so for the community at large. The prices set in the Spare Seat Scheme are intended to reflect the cost of the seat to the council.

39.   The "Spare Seat" Scheme operates on contracted routes that are operated for the benefit of those who are entitled to free transport to and from school. Fare prices are reviewed annually. The "Spare Seat" charge will be waived for those of statutory school age who are eligible for free school meals, or, in the case of those aged 5, 6 or 7, would be eligible for free school meals on income grounds, or whose parent is in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit.

40.   Transport is not contracted to specifically provide places for the Spare Seat Scheme and current published rates are shown below.

Under 3 miles   £378 per annum (current)
£386 from September 2022
Over 3 miles –   £705 per annum (current)
£719 from September 2022

41.   The council does not make a profit from the Spare Seat Scheme.

42. When there are more requests to pay for seats on a specific route than there are seats available, they are allocated in the descending order of priority shown in the table "Priority for Spare Seats".

Table 4. Priority for Spare Seats

Priority	Category
1	Those with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan naming the school
2	Looked After Children
3	Years 12 and 13 (if there is no available service bus route)
4	Children in receipt of Free School Meals or whose parent/parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit
5	Those who travelled on the route the previous term
6	By year group, in ascending order of priority from Reception to Year 11 (or to Year 13 if there is an available service bus route)

Where there are more applicants than places in any of the above categories, priority will be given to those living closest to the destination school (measured using the shortest designated route on Oxfordshire County Council's Geographic Information System

How to decarbon the service

43. Oxfordshire County Council wishes to reach a position where all its tendered supported transport services specify carbon neutrality as soon as practically possible.

44. A body of work is about to commence to understand how the council can influence the market to reach this position by specifying higher vehicle standards in its tender documents and incentivising the use of cleaner vehicles and practices through its contract award mechanisms. OCC also wishes to understand the likely cost over and above the 'status quo' position, how it can measure progress towards targets and indeed what those targets should be.

45. By taking this action, OCC hopes to influence the taxi and coach industry as a whole to reduce its carbon emissions and also to establish best practice for others local authorities to follow.

46. The council also has its own internal fleet of around 70 minibuses. As an internal service, there is a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. There are a number of workstreams underway focussed on the future of fleet services, what it offers, what it can offer and how we can decarbonise it. Current lease agreements are in place until 2026 so 2027 is a good target to aim for.

47. Very broadly speaking, the technology is there and improving for taxis and smaller vehicles using electric power. Hydrogen however is likely to be more suitable for larger vehicles, and while technology is improving swiftly in this

area there is uncertainty on when this might become readily and practically available. This makes it particularly tricky for minibuses as there is uncertainty on whether to choose electric power or hydrogen. It is perhaps likely however that this will be clearer by the time the council needs to consider renewing or replacing leases from 2026.

Service User experience and opinion

48.   Home to School Transport policy has always been emotive and particularly so when pupils have Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). There is always a good response from different stakeholders when any changes are consulted upon. There have been no major changes in policy since 2018.

49.   Complaints generally fall into the following categories.
       a)   Mode of travel allocated, for example, family expectation that a child should have lone transport related to their needs.
       b)   Flexibility of transport offer – times, drop off points for children particularly in relation to parent/carer work commitments.
       c)   Transport is only to and from child's main residence – split families can often feel this is unfair.
       d)   Transport failures – late, non-arrival, unhappy with drivers.
       e)   Nearest school entitlement.
       f)   No transport for after hours activities offered at mainstream school sites.

50.   Generally, the service is well thought of and most of the 9,899 pupils transported daily travel efficiently and no comments are received. Formal complaints regarding contracted routes are logged and dealt with by the Supported Transport team.

Table 5. Number of contractual complaints received per month for April – Dec 2021

Month	Number of complaints received
April	70
May	92
June	83
July	58
August	18
September	197
October	88
November	117
December	79

51.   The system for allocation and contracting of SEN Home to School Transport was considered in detail as part of a transformation project for this service completed between 2018 and 2019. As part of that project families and users were consulted through the Co-Production Board and bespoke user/contractor workshops. The findings from those activities have been incorporated into current service provision.

Kevin Gordon
Corporate Director for Children's Services

Background papers: The current Home to School Transport policy is available at
[2021-22 OCC Home to School Travel and Transport Policy (oxfordshire.gov.uk)](https://oxfordshire.gov.uk)
Contact Officer: Allyson Milward, Head of Access to Learning
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E: allyson.milward@oxfordshire.gov.uk
17th February 2022

Divisions Affected – All

PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -
17 February 2022

Serious Case Review for Child R

Report by Corporate Director for Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1.   **The committee is recommended to note the findings and recommendations of the Serious Case Review for Child R and to note the actions taken to date.**

Executive Summary

2.   The Serious Case Review (SCR) concerns child R who was 13yrs old when she took her own life in 2013 in an out of county residential establishment. An SCR was commissioned at the time, however, complex and protracted concurrent police, Health & Safety and social care investigations meant that only a summary report could be completed. Immediate learning was identified by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (OSCB) at the time. The Health & Safety investigation concluded in September 2020 when the home pleaded guilty to a breach of Health & Safety legislation.   The SCR was prepared for publication at this time, however, further information from the Health & Safety prosecution papers led to an updated report. Child R's family were kept informed throughout the process.

3.   The SCR report was published in December 2021 and was focussed on learning and explaining what happened. The findings of the SCR are:
     a. Working to keep children safe within their families continues to be a challenge and there is the need to ensure that improvements made since child R was a child are embedded into practice.
     b. Placement Planning and managing the complex needs of Children in Care needs sufficient placement availability, clarity of role across the professional network and systems that scrutinise and challenge how well the child's needs can be met.

     c. Where there is a risk of suicide, Children in Care should have a clearly articulated suicide prevention plan which takes account of emotional, behavioural and situational risks.

4.   The SCR makes ten recommendations which are being progressed through a multi-agency action plan overseen by the OSCB. Progress made against the findings and recommendations to date include:

5.   Early Help:
- Senior leadership strengthened to maintain year on year increase in use of early help assessments
- Improved community responses to 'Team around Family' and Early Help Networks established to improve multi agency problem solving
- Revised Threshold of Needs framework to advise all staff when and how to act early and Early Help Core Offer reviewed and enhanced
- Increased supervision in school to help staff to engage early with families
- Joint activity pathway in place to ensure shared understanding across adult and children's services to meet children's needs
- Training and induction in early identification delivered across the workforce has resulted in increased numbers of assessments across the partnership

6.   Tackling neglect:
- Senior leadership of revised strategy and action plan across health and children's social care
- Peer Review in 2018 identified strengths in leadership, tools, strategy and performance framework
- OSCB Challenge Event in Sept 2021 identified progress in development of services, systems and process together with multi-agency shift in perception and response and understanding of role and responsibilities

7.   Court orders:
- Where a court order applied for in care proceedings has not been granted by the court, a system is in place to ensure each child's needs are overseen by a senior level multi-agency panel

8.   Placement monitoring and review:
- Improved placement commissioning and monitoring – specialist children's brokerage team; well established panels in place to provide assurance and oversight of: children's entry to care, what is being commissioned and how it is being delivered and any safeguarding concerns. Embedded Valuing Care needs assessment for all children in care to ensure that what we commission is meeting children's needs.
- Multi agency risk assessment and management includes risk of suicide
- Placement monitoring protocol in place and staff trained, including risk assessments for ligature points in residential homes and prompts regarding staffing levels
- Register of all placement providers completed

9.   Placement insufficiency
- Letter sent by OSCB Independent Chair to DfE, the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and Chair of the Care Review regarding local concerns in relation to the impact on children of placement insufficiency
- Local sufficiency strategy developed with an action plan underway to increase local fostering and residential placements

10. Health care of children with most complex needs
   - Clinical supervision is provided to social workers for children we care for, to help develop the child's needs assessment and inform the child's plan
   - NHSE have created a pledge for Children and Young People that they will receive equitable CAMHS services regardless of where their home is. This has raised the profile of the mental health needs of children nationally.
   - Robust escalation processes are providing improved management of situations where CAMHs engagement is problematic

Kevin Gordon
Corporate Director for Children's Services

Annex: None

Background papers:

2021-12-09-Child-R-Serious-Case-Revew-Report.pdf (oscb.org.uk)
2021-12-09-Child-R-Learning-Summary.pdf (oscb.org.uk)

Contact Officer: Lara Patel, Deputy Director Children's Services
E: lara.patel@oxfordshire.gov.uk
7th February 2022

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Divisions Affected – N/A

PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 February 2022

CONSULTATION ON SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES IN OXFORDSHIRE

Report by Corporate Director of Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The People Overview & Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider this paper and formulate a joint response to the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Consultation which closes on 10th March 2022.**

Executive Summary

2. A public consultation on proposed changes to arrangements for SEND for children and young people in Oxfordshire was launched on 10th January 2022. It is intended to run until 10th March 2022.

3. The consultation has a single survey with two distinct, inter-related elements:
   - The Oxfordshire Local Area SEND Strategy 2022-27 – developed collaboratively with and involving Local Authority Education, Social Care (Children's and Adult), Health, education settings and parent carers representatives
   - Oxfordshire County Council's proposals for system reform for SEND – these proposals relate solely to education

4. A series of six online roadshows are scheduled, providing opportunity to explain and clarify the proposed changes and respond to questions.

Context

5. Our ambition is for all children and young people with SEND to have the right support and opportunities at the right time so that they go on to live rich and fulfilling lives at the heart of their communities.

6.   The current outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire need to improve. Changes are required to achieve these improvements; more of the same won't be sufficient.

7.   Any proposed changes to arrangements will need to be made in light of funding allocated by central government. This means that some hard choices will have to be made about what services/provision can be supported. It is important that these choices are made in ways that are transparent, consistent and fair.

8.   We are consulting to give the necessary mandate to make the required changes and bring communities on the journey.

9.   This is a single consultation and survey with two distinct but inter-related elements:
    - The Oxfordshire Local Area SEND Strategy 2022-27
    - Oxfordshire County Council's proposals for system reform for SEND

10.   The consultation was launched on 10th January 2022 and closes on 10th March 2022. The consultation documents and survey can be found at https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/SEND-2022. A hardcopy of the survey is also attached to this paper.

11.   The consultation has been widely publicised. Partners have assisted with sharing of targeted e-mails and via social media, print media, newsletter, poster, flyer and staff briefing. There have also been briefings for informal cabinet and councillors more widely, as well as information provided for Oxfordshire MPs.

12.   In addition, six online roadshows were held.

The Local Area SEND Strategy

13.   The Local Area is the geographical area of the local authority involving council, health partners, social care, education services (including schools) and other agencies.

14.   The draft strategy is for the Local Area and was co-designed and collectively drafted with partners from LA Education, Adult and Children's Social Care, Health, education settings and involvement from parent carer representatives.

15.   It is a high-level, overarching strategy that focuses on support for children and young people (CYP) with SEND to achieve the best possible outcomes. Once the strategy is finalised, detailed implementation plans will be developed.

16.   The key strategic objectives being consulted on are:
    - Improving outcomes for children with SEND
    - Developing a continuum of local provision to meet the requirements of children and young people with SEND
    - Good physical and mental health and wellbeing
    - Improving post-16 education, learning, employment and training

- Positive move into adulthood for young people with SEND

Oxfordshire County Council's proposals for system reform for SEND

17. The current educational outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire need to get better.

18. Changes to the system are needed to improve the educational experience and outcomes for children and young people with SEND across our county, as well as to operate within the available budgets.

19. The proposed changes focus on more high-quality SEND education available closer to home, offering a genuine range of specialist learning provisions for some children and young people who have a high level of need and making every effort to use all the resources available to children and young people effectively and efficiently.

20. The proposed changes were developed over a period of 12 months via focused working groups that included council Education and Finance staff, representatives from mainstream and special schools including headteachers and governors and parent carer representatives. These working groups were overseen by the SEND Transformation Board which was chaired by the Deputy Director for Education for Oxfordshire County Council.

21. Full details of the proposed changes can be found at https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/SEND-2022

22. There are 6 proposed changes:
    (a) Reform of Top-Up funding arrangements for children and young people with an EHC Plan - to introduce a clear and consistent system for the individual allocation of additional Top-Up funding for children and young people with an EHC Plan that is:
        i. child- or young person-led rather than placement-led across mainstream and specialist settings, through early years to further education
        ii. simple and proportionate, giving objectivity and equity in decision making
        iii. phased in gradually so that schools can appropriately financially plan and implement them
        iv. delivers value for money
    (b) Resource Bases as a core part of the range of provision - expanding from nine Local Authority-run Resource Bases to more Resource Bases located within local mainstream schools across the county, allowing more children to access specialist support within their local school.
    (c) Sufficiency of specialist day placements in Oxfordshire - to reaffirm the principles of special school place planning in Oxfordshire set out in the SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2027 to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of finite resources for the benefit of all children with SEND.

(d)   Enhanced Pathways within mainstream schools – the council has provided temporary funding to support a small number of schools to trial different options to determine where the most value will be added to a child's educational experience. The proposed approach involves:

    i.   Primary mainstream schools offering an adapted, bespoke, individualised curriculum via smaller classes with specialist staff and a high adult-to-pupil ratio

    ii.   Secondary mainstream schools following the primary model, with a single class with a single teacher in Year 7. In Year 8, students will continue to access the single class, but begin reintegration into certain lessons with their year group peers. By Year 9, these students will be fully reintegrated with their year group peers but will still have access to the quieter space and their key adults for support when needed.

(e)   Reconfiguring Requests for Additional Funding for Schools – replace the current, council-administered arrangements, with a locality-based, discretionary fund that groups of schools allocate, against agreed criteria based on need. This will encourage professional challenge within localities about each school's local offer, with schools planning, allocating funds and sharing good practice enabling pupil inclusion without the requirement of an EHC Plan.

(f)   Coordinated approach to supporting children with SEND at the earliest opportunity – to establish a coordinated approach to equip schools and families to identify need for SEND support at the earliest opportunity. This could include:

    i.   Up-to-date and easily accessible online resources so that families, young people and staff can access information to advocate for themselves.

    ii.   A shared understanding in education settings about what should be available to support all students.

    iii.   Additional funding for SEND Information, Advice and Support Services (SENDIASS) to advise parents regarding early support and intervention.

    iv.   Support and challenge for schools on inclusive practice.

Financial Implications

23.   Funding for SEND is allocated as the High Needs block of Dedicated School Grant. The Council is allocated £88.7m of grant for 2022-23, but expects to spend £109m, an overspend of £20.3m. The accumulated forecast High Needs DSG deficit for 31 March 2022 is estimated to be £35.4m.

24.   Oxfordshire is forecasting increasing annual deficits driven by the growth in the learners supported. This is a national issue. A survey by the Society of County Treasurers "shows that for 40 authorities in county areas their high-needs deficits have ballooned from £134m in 2018/19 to a projected £1.3bn in 2022/23"

25. The council believes the changes outlined in the consultation will improve outcomes for children and young people and use the available funding more effectively which will contribute to reducing the High Needs deficit.

26. There are no financial implications associated with the consultation. Following consultation, proposals will be worked on in detail and financial implications considered.

Comments checked by: Sarah Fogden, Finance Business Partner
Sarah.Fogden@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Legal Implications

25. Legal Services has advised and provided input into the Special Educational Needs Consultation strategy and delivery of consultation across the county. The consultation provides a comprehensive and informative insight of options and invites interested parties to input into the consultation process. There are no direct legal implications arising from this proposed report.

Comments checked by: Sukdave Ghuman, Head of Legal Services,
Sukdave.ghuman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Equality, Climate & Inclusion Implications

26. Equality and Climate Impact Assessments have been prepared for the Local Area SEND Strategy as a whole and individually for each of the Council proposals for System Reform.

Consultations

27. The primary means of responding to the consultation is via an online SmartSurvey. Arrangements are also in place for responses to be submitted as hard copy.

28. The 'live' responses are reviewed on a weekly basis with comments considered and adjustments made (for example, in response to feedback, an additional online roadshow was added). Consideration is also given to demographics and whether further targeted communication is required to encourage and support participation.

Kevin Gordon
Corporate Director of Children's Services

Annex: OCC SEND consultation survey print version v1.0

Background papers: Nil

Contact Officers: Hayley Good, Deputy Director of Children's Services/
                                 Education
                                 Kate Bradley, Head of SEND

February 2022

Local Area SEND Strategy and Oxfordshire County Council System Reform for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Consultation Survey

Welcome

Welcome to the Oxfordshire Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Draft Strategy 2022 – 2027 and Oxfordshire County Council System Reform for SEND Consultation Survey.

This survey offers you the opportunity to give your views on both the draft Local Area SEND Strategy (Section 1) and Oxfordshire County Council System Reform for SEND consultation document (Section 2), or you can respond only to one of these sections if you prefer.

Roadshows will be held online during the consultation, but if national and local guidelines relating to COVID-19 allow, in-person events may be considered. At these sessions, senior leaders will introduce the two SEND consultations, explain the proposals and answer any questions that you may have. To book on to an event please click here.

Guidance on how to fill out the survey
We recommend that you read the document(s) you wish to respond to in advance (Local Area SEND Strategy, Oxfordshire County Council System Reform for SEND). This is because the questions will ask you to respond to the content of these documents.

To assist you, links are provided within the survey to each document where the question refers to them and the page number for that specific part of the document is also listed. There is also a glossary within the draft Local Area SEND Strategy document on pages 19 to 21.

We estimate that it will take up to around an hour to read both the draft Local Area SEND Strategy and the Oxfordshire County Council System Reform for SEND consultation document, and then complete both sections of the survey. The survey consists of mainly 'closed' questions, where you select from listed options, but there are also opportunities for you to leave written comments to let us know your views in greater detail.

If you need to pause while filling out the survey, you can save the answers you have given and return later to complete your response.

We would like to thank you in advance for your time in completing this important survey.

Alternative formats:
We know that some people can't, or find it difficult to, take part in online consultations or need things in a different format such as large print, easy read, audio, braille or a different language, to have their say.

If you, or anyone you know needs a printed copy of the survey or consultation documents in an alternative format, or help with sharing their thoughts, please email: consultations@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call Oxfordshire County Council's customer services team on 01865 792422. Please note the council's customer services team are unable to answer any detailed questions about the consultations, but they can take your details and ask an appropriate member of staff to get in touch.

This consultation will close on 10th March 2022.

Following consultation, we will consider all feedback given, and this will inform Oxfordshire County Council's system reform for SEND, and the final Local Area SEND Strategy. Any changes proposed in response to feedback received will be considered by sector leads prior to formal sign off by the council and the local NHS.

About You

We are interested in the views of a wide range of people and organisations. Therefore, to help us analyse the results of the consultation, we would appreciate it if you would tell us a bit about yourself. This data will only be used in relation to this consultation and will only be shared with organisations, including Westco Communications, that are assisting the council with this consultation. For more information, please view the council's privacy notice online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/privacy-notice.

 1. Are you responding to this survey as a..? Please tick one option only.

☐ Parent carer of child with SEND living in Oxfordshire (GO TO Q5)

☐ Parent carer of child with SEND living outside of Oxfordshire (GO TO Q5)

☐ Child or young person with SEND living in Oxfordshire (GO TO Q8)

☐ Child or young person with SEND living outside of Oxfordshire (GO TO Q8)

☐ Other young person (GO TO Q8)

☐ Oxfordshire resident (GO TO Q11)

☐ Member of the public living outside of Oxfordshire (GO TO Q11)

☐ Professional (Education) (GO TO Q4)

☐ Professional (Health) (GO TO Q4)

☐ Professional (Social Care) (GO TO Q4)

☐ Representative of a group or organisation (GO TO Q2)

☐ Other (please specify, AND THEN GO TO Q11)

Type of Organisation
PLEASE ONLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU ARE RESPONDING ON BEHALF OF A GROUP OR ORGANISATION

2. Please tell us the type and name of the organisation and your role within it:

☐ Oxfordshire County Council Education

☐ Social Care

☐ Health

☐ Mainstream Primary School

☐ Mainstream Secondary School

☐ SEND Primary School

☐ SEND Secondary School

☐ Resource Base

☐ Early Years Education

☐ Further Education

☐ Parent Support Group

☐ Other (please specify):

3. Name of organisation and role:

Name of the group or organisation you represent:	
Role	

Professionals
PLEASE ONLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU ARE RESPONDING IN A PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY.

4. Please tell us the name of the organisation you work for (if applicable) and your role within it:

Role:	
Name of organisation:	

Parents and carers
PLEASE ONLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU ARE RESPONDING AS A PARENT/CARER.

5. Does your child/young person have SEND?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say

6. Does your child/young person have an EHC plan?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don't know
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] Not applicable

7. What type of educational setting does your child or young person attend?

- [ ] Early Years
- [ ] Mainstream Primary
- [ ] Special Primary
- [ ] Mainstream Secondary
- [ ] Special Secondary
- [ ] Further Education college
- [ ] Other (please specify):

Children and Young People
PLEASE ONLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU ARE RESPONDING AS A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON.

8. Do you have SEND?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say

9. Do you have an EHC Plan?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don't know
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] Not applicable

10. What type of educational setting do you attend?

☐ Early Years

☐ Mainstream Primary

☐ Special Primary

☐ Mainstream Secondary

☐ Special Secondary

☐ Further Education college

☐ Other (please specify):

Location

PLEASE EVERYONE ANSWER THIS QUESTION AND THEN GO TO Q12.

11. What is the location (district) of your home/organisation? We are asking for this information to be able to understand views across geographical locations.

☐ Cherwell

☐ Oxford City

☐ South Oxfordshire

☐ Vale of the White Horse

☐ West Oxfordshire

☐ Outside Oxfordshire (please specify district/location):

Consultation

This survey covers both the **Oxfordshire Draft Local Area SEND Strategy** and **Oxfordshire County Council's proposals for System Reform for SEND** and has a separate section for each. You can respond to both the sections, or only respond to one section, as you prefer.

Section 1: Local Area SEND Strategy

A 5-year draft Local Area SEND Strategy for Oxfordshire has been co-produced that outlines the vision and key priorities for improving the outcomes achieved and lived experiences of children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND.

The ambition is for all children and young people with SEND to have the right support and opportunities at the right time so that they go on to live rich and fulfilling lives at the heart of their communities.

To achieve that ambition, when there is an agreed approach, implementation plans will be published that support the delivery of this strategy.

The draft Local Area SEND Strategy sets out four priority areas:

- To develop a continuum (a broad range) of local high-quality provision and enable all services to be inclusive and deliver excellent outcomes for children with SEND, including building on existing good practice
- To enable children and young people with SEND to access opportunities that are important to them and for them
- To provide timely and equitable access to high quality services before, during and beyond statutory school age including education, health and social care
- To ensure that there is seamless and effective transition at all points for young people with SEND to access opportunities that are important to them and for them.

The questions in this section are a mixture of closed and open, and there are opportunities to leave comments in response to any of the five strategic objectives set out as well as at the end of this section. Please note, you will have the opportunity to answers questions and comment on the Oxfordshire County Council System Reform for SEND later in this survey if you wish to do so.

Before answering these questions, please read the draft Local Area SEND Strategy which can be found here.

Local Area SEND Strategy

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that having a Local Area SEND Strategy that involves all stakeholders will help to improve support and outcomes for children and young people with SEND?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Strategic Objective 1 - Improving outcomes for children with SEND (See page 11 of the draft Local Area SEND Strategy).

We are committed to the Local Area effectively discharging their duties under the Children and Families Act. We want the Local Area to be equipped to effectively secure high quality outcomes for children with SEND. High quality services that are accessed in a timely manner and at the earliest opportunity have a significant impact on outcomes for children, and lay the foundations for better life chances.

Priorities: The following priorities have been identified:

• Timely identification and assessment across the Local Area that leads to earlier intervention
• Development of meaningfully joined-up services and approaches
• Improved outcomes for children with SEND
• Increased expertise, competence and confidence of staff working to meet the needs of children with SEND

13. Thinking about Strategic Objective 1 and the priorities set out above, to what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
It is important that this is a strategic objective for the Local Area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The stated priorities will deliver improved outcomes for children with SEND	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

14. If you have any comments about Strategic Objective 1, including any comments on any of the specific priorities for this objective, please write them here.

9

Strategic Objective 2 - Developing a continuum of local provision to meet the requirements of children and young people with SEND (See page 11 of the draft Local Area SEND Strategy).

There is a range of provision for children with SEND in Oxfordshire. It is essential that we develop more local provision so that more children have their holistic needs met within their own communities.

Priorities: The following priorities have been identified:
- Identify any gaps in the range of provision
- Improve multi-agency early intervention for children and young people with a range of needs
- Develop more local provision that can effectively meet the range of identified needs and demand

15. Thinking about Strategic Objective 2 and the priorities set out above, to what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements...?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
It is important that this is a strategic objective for the Local Area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The stated priorities will enable the development of a range of local provision to meet the requirements of children and young people with SEND	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

16. If you have any comments about Strategic Objective 2, including any comments on any of the specific priorities for this objective, please write them here.

10

Strategic Objective 3 - Good physical and mental health and wellbeing (See page 11 of the draft Local Area SEND Strategy).

We want healthy, happy children and young people who enjoy life. We will work in partnership with children and young people and their families to improve access to both the universal and specialised services they need.

Priorities: The following priorities have been identified:
- To empower children and young people with SEND and their families to share their lived experiences in order to better understand and support their health and wellbeing
- To provide meaningful, high-quality support that meets the holistic needs of the whole family
- To ensure that all children and young people with SEND can access seamless, joined-up services at the right time and in the right place.

17. Thinking about Strategic Objective 3 and the priorities set out above, to what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
It is important that this is a strategic objective for the Local Area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The stated priorities will deliver good physical and mental health and wellbeing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

18. If you have any comments about Strategic Objective 3, including any comments on any of the specific priorities for this objective, please write them here.

Strategic Objective 4 - Improving post-16 education, learning, employment and training (See page 11 of the draft Local Area SEND Strategy).

All young people will have access to high quality provision in education, training, work experience, apprenticeships and study programmes that support them into meaningful, paid employment and provide them with skills for independent or supported living.

Priorities: The following priorities have been identified:
- Develop the range and choice of local post-16 SEND provision
- Develop a comprehensive range of aspirational pathways to sustainable, paid employment
- Improve the quality and accessibility of information about post-16 options for young people with SEND, and develop training and guidance for families, providers and employers
- Develop systems for collecting and monitoring outcomes data from post-16 education providers

19. Thinking about Strategic Objective 4 and the priorities set out above, to what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
It is important that this is a strategic objective for the Local Area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The stated priorities will deliver improved post-16 education, learning, employment and training	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

20. If you have any comments about Strategic Objective 4, including any comments on any of the specific priorities for this objective, please write them here.

12

Strategic Objective 5 - Positive move into adulthood for young people with SEND (See page 12 of the draft Local Area SEND Strategy).

All young people with SEND and their families should have a positive experience of moving into adulthood. We want young people with SEND to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to have choice and control over their adult lives.

Priorities: The following priorities have been identified:
- Information, advice and guidance available at key transition points so young people and families have the information they need to plan as early as possible
- Earlier identification of young people with SEND with timely assessments and support planning
- Improved partnership working with young people and families, Children's and Adults Social Care, health, schools and colleges focusing on young people's strengths and aspirations
- Improved social care experience for young people and families
- Better outcomes for young people with SEND in adulthood
- More young people with SEND living closer to home

21. Thinking about Strategic Objective 5 and the priorities set out above, to what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
It is important that this is a strategic objective for the Local Area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The stated priorities will enable a positive move into adulthood for young people with SEND	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

22. If you have any comments about Strategic Objective 5, including any comments on any of the specific priorities for this objective, please write them here.

13

View of the five Strategic Objectives

23. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the five strategic objectives are clear and easy to understand?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

24. If you have any further comments about the draft Local Area SEND Strategy, please write them here.

14

Section 2: Oxfordshire County Council System Reform for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

This section of the survey is about Oxfordshire County Council's proposals for educational system reform for SEND, including the sufficiency of specialist educational placements, funding arrangements and access to focused Special Educational Needs (SEN) support.

In Oxfordshire, the organisations that work with children and young people with SEND have a shared ambition that our county will be a place where all children are healthy, happy and achieving their potential.

The current educational outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire need to get better. Changes to the system are required to improve the educational experience and outcomes for children and young people with SEND across our county, as well as to operate within the available budgets.

The changes focus on more high-quality SEND education available closer to home, reducing reliance on out-of-county provision, improved educational outcomes for children through a clear range of educational provision and better partnerships between the council and schools. We want to know what you think.

Before answering these questions, please read the consultation document which can be found here.

Reform of Top-Up funding arrangements for children and young people with an EHC Plan

To seek views on:
The key principles set out below, which are proposed to apply to a review of the various existing Top-Up funding arrangements to lead to a single, equitable Top-Up scheme from September 2022
The proposal to introduce a clear and consistent system for the individual allocation of additional Top-Up funding for children and young people with an EHC Plan

The key principles are:
- Be child- or young person-led rather than placement-led across mainstream and specialist settings, through early years to further education
- Be simple and proportionate, giving objectivity and equity in decision making
- Ensure that any changes are phased in gradually so that schools can appropriately financially plan for and implement them
- Deliver value for money

Please read the full proposals and context on pages 8 and 9 and then answer the questions below.

26. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposals for reform of Top-Up funding arrangements for children and young people with an EHC Plan?

- [ ] Strongly agree
- [ ] Tend to agree
- [ ] Neither agree nor disagree
- [ ] Tend to disagree
- [ ] Strongly disagree
- [ ] Don't know

27. Do you have any comments or suggestions on Reform of Top-Up funding arrangements for children and young people with an EHC Plan (including alternatives that you think are applicable)?

Resource Bases as a core part of the range of provision

To seek views on:
Expanding from nine Local Authority-run Resource Bases, to more Resource Bases located within local mainstream schools across the county, allowing more children to access specialist support within their local school.

The key objective of this proposal is to ensure a better/richer child experience that includes more integration into the host school community. The provision itself will not fundamentally change; the change is that it will be the school that manages it. The anticipation is that Resource Base staff will transfer across to the host school and a formal staff consultation would be conducted should this happen.

Please read the full proposals and context on pages 9 and 10 and then answer the questions below.

28. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposals for Resource Bases as a core part of the range of provision?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Tend to agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Tend to disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

☐ Don't know

29. Do you have any comments or suggestions on Resource Bases as a core part of the range of provision (including any alternatives that you think are applicable)?

Sufficiency of specialist day placements in Oxfordshire

To seek views on:
Reaffirming the principles of special school place planning in Oxfordshire set out in the SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2027, to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of finite resources for the benefit of all children with SEND.

The council is seeking to reaffirm the following principles:
- To ensure Oxfordshire has sufficient school places to meet the needs of all children with special educational needs and disabilities within the county
- To ensure that provision is developed in the right place, at the right time, with the additional places targeted to address population growth and the identified increase in demand
- To support all Oxfordshire's mainstream schools to ensure they provide inclusive education and adopt a 'local first' approach wherever possible

17

Please read the full proposals and context on pages 10 and 11 and then answer the questions below.

30. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposals for sufficiency of specialist day placements in Oxfordshire?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

31. Do you have any comments or suggestions on sufficiency of specialist day placements in Oxfordshire (including any alternatives that you think are applicable)?

Enhanced Pathways within mainstream schools

To seek views on:
The approach described in the proposal to providing enhanced provision for SEND within local mainstream schools.

Proposal
All mainstream schools have the option to use additional funding flexibly. This would not be a fixed model with the approach individual schools take tailored to the needs of the children who attend and the context of the school.

Please read the full proposals and context on pages 11 and 12 and then answer the questions below.

18

32. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposals for Enhanced Pathways within mainstream schools?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Tend to agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Tend to disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

☐ Don't know

33. Do you have any comments or suggestions on Enhanced Pathways within mainstream schools (including any alternatives that you think are applicable)?
;

Reconfiguring Requests for Additional Funding for Schools

To seek views on:

Reconfiguring who makes the decision for requests for additional funding for children who do not have an EHC Plan.

Proposals
- School leaders will develop local systems to fairly administer additional funding without an EHC Plan
- Replace the current, council-administered arrangements, with a locality-based, discretionary fund that groups of schools allocate, against agreed criteria based on need
- This will encourage professional challenge within localities about each school's local offer, with schools planning, allocating funds and sharing good practice enabling pupil inclusion without the requirement of an EHC Plan
- The arrangements for early years additional funding are unchanged

Please read the full proposals and context on pages 12 and 13 and then answer the questions below.

34. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposals for reconfiguring Requests for Additional Funding for schools?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Tend to agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Tend to disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

☐ Don't know

35. Do you have any comments or suggestions on reconfiguring Requests for Additional Funding for schools (including any alternatives that you think are applicable)?

Coordinated approach to supporting children with SEND at the earliest opportunity

To seek views on:
Establishing a coordinated approach (as described in 'proposals' below) to equip schools and families to identify need for SEND support at the earliest opportunity.

Proposals
The new coordinated approach comprises:

- Resources available online that are up-to-date and easily accessible, to ensure that families, young people and staff can access information to advocate for themselves. This will include review of the Local Offer
- Education settings will have a shared understanding and an agreement about what should be available to support all students

20

- Training will be mapped across the county and gaps will be addressed via a training fund.
- SEND Information, Advice and Support Services (SENDIASS) will receive additional funding to advise parents regarding early support and intervention
- Support and challenge for schools on inclusive practice
- A digital decision-making tool that supports school professionals to establish the most appropriate onward referral, should this be needed
- The proposed approach is designed to draw together and coordinate existing good practice while filling any identified gaps

Please read the full proposals and context on pages 13 and 14 and then answer the questions below.

36. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposals for coordinated approach to supporting children with SEND at the earliest opportunity?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Tend to agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Tend to disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

☐ Don't know

37. Do you have any comments or suggestions on coordinated approach to supporting children with SEND at the earliest opportunity (including any alternatives that you think are applicable)?

21

About You

We would like to know more about you so that we can understand more about our customers and residents, as it helps us to know if we are hearing the views of a wide range of people and communities. If you do not wish to provide any of this information, please select prefer not to say.

All information given is anonymous and is governed by the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

38. How did you find out about this consultation? (Choose all that apply).

☐ Facebook

☐ Twitter

☐ Instagram

☐ Linkedin

☐ NextDoor

☐ Oxfordshire.gov.uk website

☐ Email from Oxfordshire County Council

☐ Local news item (newspaper, online, radio, tv)

☐ Oxfordshire County Councillor / District Councillor

☐ Parish or town Councillor

☐ Local community news item

☐ Poster / information in local library

☐ Local community group / organisation

☐ Friend / relative

☐ Communication from local health service

22

- [ ] Other (please specify):

39. What is your age? (Choose any one option)

- [ ] Under 16
- [ ] 16 - 24
- [ ] 25 - 34
- [ ] 35 - 44
- [ ] 45 - 54
- [ ] 55 - 64
- [ ] 65 – 74
- [ ] 75 - 84
- [ ] 85 or over
- [ ] Prefer not to say

40. What is your gender? (Choose any one option)

- [ ] Female
- [ ] Male
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] I use another term (please state here)

41. What is your ethnic group or background? (Choose any one option)

- [ ] Asian or Asian British (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or any other Asian background)
- [ ] Black or Black British (Caribbean, African, or any other Black background)
- [ ] Chinese
- [ ] Mixed or multiple ethnic groups (White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian, and any other mixed background)
- [ ] White (British, Irish, or any other White background)
- [ ] Prefer not to say
- [ ] Other ethnic group or background (please specify):

42. Data protection and privacy

Under the Data Protection Act 2018, we (Oxfordshire County Council) have a legal duty to protect any personal information we collect from you. Oxfordshire County Council is committed to open government and this may include quoting extracts from your consultation response in our report.

We will not however, disclose the names of people who have responded unless they have provided consent. For this purpose, we ask that you are careful not to disclose personal information in your comments – for example the names of service users or children. If you do not want all or part of your response to be made public, or shared with councillors, please state below which parts you wish us to keep confidential.

View Oxfordshire County Council's privacy notice online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/privacy-notice

Please use this space to tell us if there is any specific part of your response you wish to keep confidential:

Stay In Touch

We invite you to sign up to get regular email updates on news, events, and developments from across the county. This information will be kept separate to your answers to this survey.

43. Would you like to sign-up?

☐ Yes

☐ No

44. If you have chosen 'Yes' for at Q43', please provide your email address below, so we can contact you and send a link to our sign-up page where you can tailor which communications you receive:

24

Divisions Affected - All

PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 FEBRUARY 2022

THE PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN FOR 2021/22

Report by Director of Law and Governance

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the Work Plan (as set out in Appendix 1).

Executive Summary

1. This report presents the People Scrutiny Committee Work Plan for 2021/22. The People Scrutiny Committee Work Plan for 2021/22 was agreed at it's meeting on 24th November 2022 for the remaining meetings of the 2021/22 municipal year, drawing on the consideration of work planning at previous meetings. The Work Plan is presented in this report for information and to provide an opportunity for the committee to clarify any items for future meetings in the annual committee cycle.

The People Scrutiny Committee Work Plan for 2021/22

2. The work plans for scrutiny committees set out the issues that the scrutiny committee will consider during the year, including any scrutiny working groups (or Scrutiny Review Panels). The People Scrutiny Committee Work Plan is set out in Appendix 1.

3. Oxfordshire Council has three Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a joint health overview and scrutiny committee; – the Performance & Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny, the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the People Overview Scrutiny Committee and the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The work plan for each committee is considered and agreed by the respective committees.

4. The remit of the scrutiny committees are set out in Article 7 of the Oxfordshire Council Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny committees. The remit of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to focus on the following key areas:

   (a) all services and preventative activities/initiatives relating to children, young people, education, families and older people;

   (b) enables the council to scrutinise it statutory functions relation to children, adult social care and safeguarding. Includes public health matters where they are not covered by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

   (c) This committee will also consider matters relating to care leavers and the transition between children's and adult services.

5. The scrutiny committees ordinarily meet four times a year throughout the year. The number of topics identified were therefore limited and balanced to the number that can usefully be considered within the committee meeting time available across the year.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the purposes of this report.

Prem Salhan
Prem Salhan – Interim Finance Business Partner – CODR & CDAI

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for the purposes of this report.

Reviewed by:
Sukdave S. Ghuman
Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer

ANITA BRADLEY
Director of Law and Governance

Annex:

Appendix 1 – The People Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2021/22.

Background papers: Report to People OSC: Work Programme – 22 September 2021

Contact Officer: Michael Carr, Interim Scrutiny Officer
E: Michael.carr@oxfordshire.gov.uk
January 2022

DRAFT People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2021-2022

Agreed by the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17th February 2022.

Wednesday 17th February 2022

Agenda item
Home to School Transport To consider: ❑ Current arrangements including parental preference ❑ Pupil projections, expansion plans and need ❑ How to create fairness within the system ❑ How to decarbon the service ❑ Service User experience and opinion
Serious Case Review: Child R To consider the Serious Case Review for Child R.
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Oxfordshire (SEND) To consider Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Oxfordshire (SEND).

Thursday 7th April 2022

Agenda item
Oxfordshire Adult Services To consider: ❑ Performance and comparison data ❑ Transition from children's to adult social care ❑ Best Practice Review/ Service User experience/ Upcoming legislation ❑ Preparation for 2023 assurance requirement ❑ Front door of service/ first point of contact ❑ Workforce issues ❑ Finances/ Key risks and their impact
Regional Schools Commissioner To consider: ❑ Where academies and schools are underperforming working with the trusts to ensure appropriate action is taken to improve performance ❑ Tackling underperformance in maintained schools ❑ Conversion of maintained schools to academies

❑ Approval of sponsors and multi academy trusts
❑ Deciding on making significant changes to academies and free schools
❑ Advising on proposals for new free schools, and whether to cancel, defer or enter into funding agreements with free school projects.

Josh McAllister Review into Looked After Children: through lens of OCC and OCC response

To consider:
❑ Review findings
❑ OCC response
❑ Impact on OCC policy and service direction
❑ Service user and staff experience in OCC.