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**SERVICE UPDATES – CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING**

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**Reasons for the Report**

1. For Members to consider service updates from Children’s Services and Education & Lifelong Learning, including performance information, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on services, and how services are responding to challenges arising from the pandemic.

**Background**

2. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Members of this Scrutiny Committee would receive quarterly performance updates from Children’s Services.
3. At a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, following the restart of Scrutiny, Members considered progress in relation to Education Restart. At that meeting, Members recommended that they receive regular updates.
4. This report sets out service updates from both Children’s Services and Education & Lifelong Learning.

**Issues**

**Children’s Services**

5. Attached at **Appendix A** is a performance report from Children’s Services, covering a range of performance information, including a narrative on the impact of Covid-19 on the Service. The data in the Appendix sets out results for the following:

Description	Timeline of results
FAM KPI 01 The number of people supported through the Family Gateway	1 April 2019 – 31 August 2020
FAM KPI 02 The number of people supported by the Family Help Team	1 April 2019 – 31 August 2020
FAM KPI 03 The number of people supported by the Support4Families Team	1 April 2019 – 31 August 2020
CS LAC 58 Percentage of children in regulated placements who are placed in Cardiff	Q1 2017/18 – 31 August 2020
Staff 1 The percentage of social worker vacancies in all teams	2013-14 – Q1 2020/21 <i>Please note that, from 2018/19, this information was collected quarterly, and is reflected as such in the table</i>
YOS 2 The percentage of children re-offending within six months of their previous offence	Q1 – 4 2019/20
Family Gateway and MASH Phone Data	1 January 18 – 31 August 2020
Demand – Contact / Referrals to MASH and Family Gateway	6 January 2020 – 27 September 2020
Domestic Abuse at Referral and Assessment	6 January 2020 – 20 September 2020
Face to Face and Virtual Visits	16 April 2020 – 23 September 2020
Number of children on the Child Protection Register	6 January 2020 – 23 September 2020
CP Registration by Category of abuse	August 2020
% Child Protection Conferences On Time	April 2018 – July 2020 (incl)
Being looked after (BLA) starts, ends and total Children Looked After (CLA)	7 January 2020 – 21 September 2020
Timeliness of Children Looked After Reviews	April 2020 – August 2020
Breakdown of placements by type	As at 21 September 2020
Unplanned Placement Move Requests by Age	October 2019 – to date
Supervised Contacts – Swanstaff	17 August 2020 – 18 September 2020
Agency Placements by Age	7 October 2019 – 10 August 2020
Net result of Social Workers starting and leaving Council	July 2019 – end September 2020 <i>(plus predictive forecast)</i>
Impact of COVID-19 on Children and Families / Carers	Narrative

## Education & Lifelong Learning

- At a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on the 30 July 2020, Members considered a report and presentation on Education Restart. Following the meeting, the Chair wrote to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills detailing a number of observations and

recommendations. A copy of the letter and corresponding Cabinet response is attached at **Appendices B & C** respectively.

7. The Chair's letter requested the Committee received the following:

- Regular Updates of progress, including
  - Financial Monitoring across the Service and Schools
  - Issues in relation to Vulnerable Learners; and
- School Summer Provision proposals for 2021

At this meeting, Members will receive a presentation and update on the operational management of schools following the return of all pupils in September 2020. This will include:

- Supporting continuity of learning
- Special Schools and supporting pupils with Additional Learning Needs
- Summer 2020 Examination Outcomes and 2021 exam series
- School budget position and re-start of traded services

The presentation will outline some of the key challenges faced by schools and partners in supporting the well-being and learning of pupils in Cardiff. The presentation will be provided to Members ahead of the Committee meeting.

8. Proposals for School Summer Provision 2021 will be reported to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting.

### **Scope of Scrutiny**

9. The scope of the scrutiny is for the Committee Members to review the information provided to the Committee and to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Members and Senior Officers.

## **Way Forward**

10. At the meeting, Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People & Communities) and Deborah Driffield, (Assistant Director of Children's Services) will be in attendance to answer any questions Members may wish to ask in relation to **Children's Services**.
11. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Mike Tate (Assistant Director of Education & Lifelong Learning) and Suzanne Scarlett (Partnerships & Performance Manager) will be in attendance to make a brief presentation and answer any questions Members may wish to ask in relation to **Education & Lifelong Learning**.
12. Members may wish to review the information presented at the meeting and determine whether there are any comments, concerns or recommendations which they would like to pass on to the Cabinet Members and senior officers.

## **Financial Implications**

13. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented.

## **Legal Implications**

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be

undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee is recommended to review the information provided in the report, appendices and at the meeting and provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Members and senior officers.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**6 October 2020**