



PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2022

10.30 am COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

MEMBERSHIP - Councillor Johanna Howell (Chair)
Councillors Sam Adeniji, Charles Clark, Penny di Cara, Chris Dowling,
Kathryn Field, Nuala Geary, Wendy Maples, Stephen Shing, John Ungar
(Vice Chair) and Trevor Webb

Miss Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative
Mr Trevor Cristin, Diocese of Chichester Representative
Mr Simon Parr, Roman Catholic Diocese representative
Mr John Hayling, Parent Governor Representative

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the previous meeting - 18 November 2021 (*Pages 3 - 12*)
2. Apologies for absence
3. Disclosures of interests
Disclosures by all members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
4. Urgent items
Notification of items which the Chair considers to be urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda. Any members who wish to raise urgent items are asked, wherever possible, to notify the Chair before the start of the meeting. In so doing, they must state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matter being considered urgent.
5. Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report (*Pages 13 - 16*)
6. Child Exploitation and County Lines Presentation (*Pages 17 - 38*)
7. Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) (*Pages 39 - 42*)
8. People Scrutiny Committee Work programme (*Pages 43 - 64*)
9. Developing Care Markets - Home Care and Care Homes (*Pages 65 - 80*)
10. Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

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16 March 2022

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PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 18 November 2021.

PRESENT	Councillor Johanna Howell (Chair) Councillors Sam Adeniji, Charles Clark, Penny di Cara, Chris Dowling, Kathryn Field, Nuala Geary, Stephen Shing, John Ungar (Vice Chair), Trevor Webb and Nicola Boulter (Parent Governor Representative).
LEAD MEMBERS	Councillors Bob Bowdler, Carl Maynard and Bob Standley
ALSO PRESENT	Mark Stainton, Director of Adult Social Care Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer Tom Hook, Assistant Director for Planning, Performance and Engagement Division Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care Nathan Caine, Head of Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability Kaveri Sharma, Equality and Engagement Manager Reg Hooke, Independent Chair of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance Beth McGhee, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser

17. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 2021

17.1 The Committee RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021 as a correct record and agree the recommendations made at the meeting.

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

18.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wendy Maples, Trevor Cristin (Diocese of Chichester Representative) and Simon Parr (Roman Catholic Diocese Representative).

19. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

19.1 There were no disclosures of interests.

20. URGENT ITEMS

20.1 There were no urgent items.

21. ACTIVEMOB UPDATE

21.1 The report was introduced by the Assistant Director for Planning, Performance and Engagement Division. The Assistant Director explained that the report outlined the findings of research undertaken in response to a recommendation of a previous People Scrutiny Committee review of Adult Social Care (ASC) Information and Signposting, which had recommended the Department undertake additional engagement with an independent organisation to gain better insight into how well-informed people in East Sussex felt about social care support and funding arrangements. Activmob Community Interest Company (CIC) were asked to undertake the engagement exercise and the original objectives of the research were adapted in the COVID-19 pandemic so that a first phase looked at ASC clients' and staff experience of the first lockdown in 2020; how ASC had communicated with clients; and whether there was any learning to improve communication in anticipated future lockdowns. The second phase focussed on residents' and partner Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations' understanding of ASC. The key findings from the research were outlined in section 2 of the report. Actions the Department had taken following the research findings and recommendations were outlined in section 3 of the report.

21.2 The Committee welcomed the update from the Department and discussed the report. This covered:

- **Timing and content of communication on ASC services** – the Committee welcomed steps being taken to improve communication and suggested the Department consider whether information on ASC services was always provided at the most optimal time. For example, the Committee suggested the Department could review whether it was optimal to provide lots of information about ASC services to people when they were in hospital and potentially coming to terms with a significant change to their health or lifestyle. The Committee also suggested information on ASC services could, in some circumstances, more helpfully be provided to people before they were admitted to hospital if they were expected to require support from ASC services afterwards. The Committee also emphasised the importance of the information provided being as simple as possible. The Assistant Director agreed that timing of provision of information was an important consideration and committed to incorporate the Committee's feedback into the Department's future work on ASC communications. Leaflets were provided in hospital in response to feedback that people wanted to know about the options available to them at the time they needed to start considering their future care needs and once received, they could be read and digested at a suitable future time. The Director of Adult Social Care also noted that one of the benefits of the Discharge to Assess model was that it assisted people to process information and make decisions about their future care arrangements outside of hospital.

- **Health inequalities** – the Committee noted that the previous People Scrutiny Committee had looked at the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community; and sought assurance that the work taking place to improve communication and engagement was building on improved understanding and awareness of health inequalities. The Assistant Director confirmed that the Department was undertaking an ambitious 18-month project with VCSE and health partners to understand more about health inequalities, why they existed and what could be done in response. The work to develop a broader Community Engagement Strategy for the Department would also ensure the Department connected and engaged with different communities in East Sussex. The Committee supported the Department's continued work in this area.
- **Research sample sizes and demographics** - in response to a question about the sample sizes of the research conducted, the Assistant Director clarified that the sample size for the first phase of research was 40, and 47 for the second phase. The samples were small because the style of research undertaken involved focussed and in-depth conversations on peoples' experiences of COVID-19 and ASC services. In response to a question about the demographics represented in the research samples, the Equality and Engagement Manager confirmed that, with awareness of the disproportionate impact the pandemic had had on some communities, the project group took steps to ensure the second phase of the research was representative of a range of demographics. Just over 21% of respondents in phase 2 of the research were from ethnic minority backgrounds as a result; and different age groups, abilities and areas of East Sussex were also represented.
- **Measuring impact** – in response to a question about how the Department would measure the impact and effectiveness of the work planned, the Assistant Director explained that the Department undertook regular surveys of ASC clients and would monitor the feedback from those to determine if responses indicated communications had improved. In response to another question on how the aim to reach 13,000 clients through the contact strategy was identified, the Assistant Director explained that those people were identified as ASC's core client group that needed to be contacted immediately following the outcomes of the first phase of research to ensure they were well-informed about ASC's support offer in future lockdowns; and confirmed that the vast majority of that group were reached by phone or letter.
- **Further information on operational staff feedback** – the Committee noted that one of the findings from operational staff interviews undertaken in the first phase of research was that while a core service had continued in lockdown, some groups had been missed. The Committee requested further information on this and the Department committed to provide a written answer to the Committee.
- **Differentiating service providers** – the Committee considered ways to differentiate NHS and County Council services to help residents understand which services were provided and funded by which parts of the health and social care system. The Assistant Director acknowledged that while research had shown understanding of this could be improved, ESCC's primary focus would need to be on ensuring residents received a good quality of joined up care within that system, rather than differentiating providers.
- **Community Link Officers** – in response to a question it was clarified that Community Link Officer roles were no longer provided, but the Department was undertaking work with the VCSE sector to look at how links with the sector could be best utilised to engage with communities. The Department recognised that the VCSE sector were integrated in communities in a way the Council was not and had worked throughout the pandemic to utilise their networks and connections as result (e.g. through channelling COVID support grants through VCSE groups).

- **Staff wellbeing** – in response to a question regarding staff wellbeing, the Director of ASC noted that staff across the health and social care system had worked exceptionally hard in very challenging conditions throughout the pandemic, and were now very tired as a result. The Director also confirmed that there were a wide range of wellbeing arrangements in place to support ESCC social care staff, including stress risk assessments.
- **Calculating personal budgets** – in response to a question about understanding resource allocation, the Director clarified that ASC used a resource allocation system to ensure that people with similar needs were provided with a similar personal budget to meet their needs. Although this resource allocation system used a formula to maintain fairness, this could be overwritten and there was a level of scrutiny of, and intervention in, the outcomes of this process to ensure that individuals' budgets were tailored to their individual needs.

21.3 The Committee RESOLVED to note the update.

22. RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES (RPPR)

22.1 The Chair introduced the item, setting out that the report was the next stage of the Committee's engagement in the annual RPPR process and noting that the Committee was asked to consider if any further work or information was required to aid the Committee's December RPPR Board. The Director of Adult Social Care and Chief Finance Officer then introduced the report which set out the Council's latest policy and financial position in planning for the 2022/23 financial year.

22.2 Further guidance on the national ASC reforms announced in September (introducing a lifetime cap on personal care costs and more generous means-test for local authority financial support) had been published. The Director of Adult Social Care gave a verbal update to the Committee on the further detail provided, which covered:

- Social care allowances - from April 2022, the Minimum Income Guarantee for those receiving care in their own homes and the Personal Expenses Allowance for care home residents would be un-frozen and rise in line with inflation. Effectively, this would mean that people would need to contribute slightly less to the cost of their care.
- Daily Living Costs – the lifetime cap on personal care costs would not cover Daily Living Costs for people in care homes. For simplicity, Daily Living Costs would be set at a national, notional £200 per week. The ASC Department had some concerns this rate did not truly reflect living costs (a national proposal in 2015 had suggested this figure should be £230 per week) and could, as a result, increase the proportion of care home fees local authorities would need to resource.
- Cap implementation –
 - from October 2023, anyone assessed by a local authority as having eligible care needs would begin to progress towards the £86,000 lifetime care cap. For each person with eligible needs, the local authority must provide either a personal budget, where the local authority would meet the person's needs, or an independent personal budget (IPB), where the individual would arrange their own care. The personal budget would set out the cost to the local authority of the care they had arranged, whereas the IPB would set out what it would have cost the local authority to meet the person's needs. In order to do this, every local authority would need to determine affordable care rates for their area. This also

meant that, in practice, people being assessed for care in an area with high care rates would reach the care cap much faster than areas with lower rates.

- Local authorities would be required to set up care accounts to track individuals' progress towards the care cap, with guidance placing the legal responsibility on local authorities to tell people when they had reached the cap. This made it vital for ESCC to ensure that there was a robust system in place for tracking personal care costs and informing people when they reached the cap.

22.3 The Director and Chief Finance Officer concluded that, on initial assessment, the further detail provided indicated that the reforms would result in potential resource challenges for ESCC. It was uncertain whether the funding allocated to implement the reforms (£3.6bn grant funding nationally over the next three years – with £200m allocated in 2022/23, £1.4bn in 2023/24 and £2bn in 2024/25) would be sufficient to cover the new duties set out, as detailed allocations to individual authorities were awaited, and the broader resourcing requirements needed to implement the reforms were also uncertain.

22.4 The Chief Finance Officer then provided a verbal update on announcements made in the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and Autumn Budget. This covered that £4.8bn additional funding for local government had been announced, which was expected to be allocated as £1.6bn per year over the next three years, with individual authorities' allocations still to be determined. Additional funding has also been announced to support children's services nationally and for Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) provision. The implications for ESCC of the range of funding announced would be clearer once the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was provided closer to Christmas. The referendum limit for Council Tax would be maintained at 2% and a 1% ASC Levy had been announced for each year of the CSR period.

22.5 The Chief Finance Officer also provided a verbal update on COVID funding and pressures. For the 2021/22 financial year the Council had been allocated just short of £70m to spend on COVID-related activity and pressures and the Council was awaiting clarity on whether some of this grant funding could be carried forward to meet pressures in future years. A proportion of COVID funding was being spent on ASC services, but growth and demography pressures had not had to be captured in the 2021/22 budget, or in 2022/23, as a sad consequence of the high death rate during the pandemic. Funding for growth and demography pressures in ASC was expected to be required in future years. In Children's Social Care, COVID funding had supported an additional £3.4m in the budget in 2021/22 to cover pressures arising from the increasing cost of care packages during the pandemic. This pressure would need to be factored into the 2022/23 budget again and further modelling was required to understand the long-term impact of COVID on children's services to ensure that sufficient funding was being allocated to meet need.

22.6 The Committee then discussed the report and the updates from the Director and Chief Finance Officer, which covered:

- **Funding announcements and allocations** – the Committee asked if it was still expected that Government would provide a three-year finance settlement for local government alongside the three-year CSR, noting that the last-minute nature of funding announcements and repeated one-year finance settlements in recent years had made it difficult for ESCC to plan its budgets. The Chief Finance Officer answered that the CSR had provided indicative funding levels for local government for the 2022/23-2024/25 period, but not allocations for local government for each financial year. Councils were therefore expecting to receive one-year grant allocations for 2022/23, with only an indication of funding for future years. The Committee also commented that Government's expectation that local authorities would use

the ASC precept to fund increasing demand for ASC services was an unsatisfactory solution for residents.

- **Savings plans** – the Committee raised concerns about the potential impact of planned reductions to the stock fund of the libraries service on older people who may be less able to access the eBooks online. It was requested that the Committee consider the equalities impact of this in the next stage of the RPPR process. It was also requested that consideration should be given to using income raised from the increase in on-street parking charges to increase the number of Civil Parking Enforcement officers around schools. (Post-Committee note: these issues were referred to the Chair of the Place Scrutiny Committee for consideration through the Place RPPR Board). The Committee also requested that further options were explored to alleviate the need for planned savings in Children's Services.
- **Lobbying** – in response to a question from the Committee about what lobbying was taking place to ensure Government understood the important role ASC services played and the associated benefits to health services of ASC being appropriately funded, the Director of ASC confirmed that lobbying took place nationally through the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association. This lobbying emphasised that given national demographic changes, the pressures on the health and social care workforce and the impact of COVID, it was vitally important that both health and social care services were appropriately funded. It was also noted that locally, NHS colleagues actively helped ESCC make the case to Government for social care services to receive adequate funding in order for the system to provide high quality, integrated services.
- **Cost of ASC reforms** – in response to a question from the Committee, the Director clarified that although initial assessments suggested ASC reforms would result in new cost pressures for the Council, further detailed assessment of the impact was required. This included undertaking complex work to estimate the increased number of people that may contact the Council for support, the cost of the support they would require and the impact on the care market. Further information would be provided to the Committee on the impact when it was available.
- **Attendance Allowance** – the Committee asked for further information to be provided, when available, on how attendance allowance would be classified in the new ASC charging arrangements.

22.7 The Committee RESOLVED to note the update.

23. WORK PROGRAMME

23.1 The Chair introduced the Committee's Work Programme which had been fully refreshed following a recent work planning awayday where new priority areas of work for the Committee had been collectively identified. The Chair confirmed that since the work programme had been circulated, meeting dates had been set for the next meeting of the Loneliness and Resilience Reference Group, for a presentation to the Committee on ESCC's work on Domestic Abuse and Violence and Against Women and Girls, and for the People Scrutiny RPPR Board. As a number of meetings and range of scrutiny work was planned in December, the Chair proposed that the next meeting of the Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HASCIP) Reference Group take place in the new year, rather than December.

23.2 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- agree the Committee's refreshed work programme;
- hold the next meeting of the HASCIP reference group in early 2022;
- progress scrutiny reviews on School Attendance and Adult Social Care Workforce Challenges to the scoping stage;
- appoint Cllrs Ungar, Webb and Geary to the Scoping Board of the Review of Adult Social Care Workforce challenges; and
- appoint Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative and Cllr Sam Adeniji to the Scoping Board of the Review of School Attendance. (Post-Committee note: Cllrs Howell, di Cara and Field were also appointed to the Scoping Board of the Review of School Attendance).

24. EAST SUSSEX SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (ESSCP) ANNUAL REPORT

24.1 Reg Hooke (Independent Chair of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership) introduced the report, which was the first report of a full year of the new safeguarding partnership arrangements and the Chair's eighth and final report to the Committee before standing down. In introducing the report, the Independent Chair highlighted:

- The report had been formatted using a new template which was being adopted nationally and focussed on the impact of partnership activity across its four priority areas (education safeguarding, child exploitation, embedding a learning culture and safeguarding under 5s); use of evidence; assurance undertaken by the partnership; and learning.
- COVID impact – the COVID pandemic had created challenges for safeguarding children; through lockdowns and school closures reducing child visibility, a shortage of health visitors, and safeguarding visits having to be made remotely. The ESSCP was now seeing these challenges factor into cases being referred for case review.
- Particularly positive and innovative work the ESSCP had undertaken in the past year, included:
 - establishing a pathway for information sharing between A&E and secondary schools when children attended A&E due to self-harm, so that schools were informed and could provide additional support;
 - establishing a task and finish group on Elective Home Education to ensure multi-agency processes were working as effectively as possible to identify children most at risk and potential intervention methods; and
 - undertaking work, under the partnership's education safeguarding priority, on peer-on-peer sexual abuse.
- The ESSCP had conducted a review of its partnership arrangements which had been largely positive in its findings, but identified some areas for development. These were to continue to develop the partnership's relationship with adult services; to continue to expand opportunities for the partnership to hear the voice of children in all its work; and to expand representation on the partnership Board to include all relevant partners.
- The partnership had particular concerns about the risks faced by very young children; children in families with domestic violence; and vulnerable children being drawn into criminal and sexual exploitation. These would continue to be areas of focus for the ESSCP's future work.

24.2 The Committee welcomed the report and the new format. In discussion, the following points were raised:

- **Elective Home Education (EHE)** – the Committee welcomed the partnership’s work on safeguarding of EHE children, as it had been identified as an area of concern for the Committee; and would welcome further information on this work and its impacts in the next update to the Committee.
- **Child Mental Health** – the Committee noted the concerning number of children attending A&E due to self-harm and the number of referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS); and asked whether the new integrated working arrangements to share incidences of self-harm between A&E and schools was expected to reduce these figures in future years. The Independent Chair did not expect that these numbers would reduce in the very short term, as the considerable challenges facing children and young people, from COVID and other societal pressures, had to be recognised. It was therefore important for the partnership and all agencies involved to monitor these incidences closely, understand what was driving them and ensure appropriate support was in place, which the new information sharing arrangements supported.
- **Safeguarding context figures** – in response to a discussion of other figures set out in the safeguarding context part of the report, the Independent Chair noted that while the partnership undertook work to scrutinise incidences of harm or exploitation of children to understand why they had happened and identify learning to prevent them happening again wherever possible; the reality was that the circumstances of some vulnerable children and complex challenges in families meant these incidences would continue. Constant work was therefore required by the ESSCP and its member agencies to ensure agencies were working well together to prevent and learn from such incidences, and respond to new challenges and risks in child safeguarding. The Independent Chair also noted that it was most useful to consider the trajectory of the figures set out in the safeguarding context of the report, to determine the impact safeguarding work was having; and the Committee requested that the partnership’s next update present these figures in the context of their trajectory over time.
- **Prevention of child harm** – the Committee asked for further information on practical steps being taken to prevent incidences of child harm, including self-harm. The Independent Chair clarified that the role of the ESSCP board was to oversee the work of safeguarding agencies and coordinate how they worked together to ensure they were doing so effectively. The partnership oversaw the referrals process to CAMHS and were concerned about the capacity of those services to meet demand and intervene earlier. The partnership had had assurance that the health service intended to increase capacity and provide support earlier but this was expected to be challenging to deliver. The Director of Children’s Services added that there was recognition of the need to increase capacity in CAMHS nationally and funding had been provided to do so. The Director also provided assurance to the Committee that work was taking place with partners to better support children and young people’s mental health and prevent escalation of problems. This included work in schools to support children at high risk; and with health, to map services seeking to support children to inform the development of a strategy to ensure this work was focussed and well-coordinated.
- **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)** – the Committee raised concerns about UASC children disappearing following their arrival in the country and asked that the Children’s Services Department and ESSCP prioritise work to safeguard children in this area. In response the Director confirmed that, as with the case of any missing child, the Department worked closely with the police to identify and trace missing UASC. It was also

confirmed that the Committee had received a written briefing on the Department's practices and protocols around identifying missing UASC.

24.3 The Committee RESOLVED to note the report and thanked the Independent Chair for their work and updates to the Committee over the years they had been Chair of child safeguarding partnership arrangements in East Sussex.

The meeting ended at 12.07 pm.

Councillor Johanna Howell (Chair)

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Report to:	People Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	24 March 2022
By:	The Chair of the East Sussex SACRE
Title:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report
Purpose:	To update Members on the role and work of the East Sussex SACRE

RECOMMENDATION:

The People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to comment on and note:

The work of SACRE in the implementation of the Local Agreed Syllabus, raising the profile and importance of religious education and supporting the high-quality teaching of Religious Education in East Sussex schools and academies.

1 Background

1.1 Since 1988 Local Authorities have had a statutory duty to establish a Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE). Further information about East Sussex SACRE is available on the ESCC website [here](#).

The duties of SACRE

1.2 It is the duty of SACRE to advise the Local Authority (LA) on matters relating to religious education (RE), collective worship and pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

1.3 It is the duty of the LA to provide a locally agreed syllabus for religious education which must be reviewed every five years. Religious education is a statutory element of the curriculum for all pupils which is determined locally. Academies are not obliged to follow the agreed syllabus but must provide religious education that is compliant with legislation.

1.4 The Education Act 1996 requires SACRE each year to publish a report on the work of the board and standards in its schools and the actions taken during the year.

Annual Update Overview

1.5 This has again been a frustrating year since the continuing pandemic has meant that students could not progress with GCSEs seamlessly and visits to schools have been out of the question. However, we have used the opportunity to make speedy progress on revising our Local Agreed Syllabus and agreeing the way forward, and details of our work on this will be included later in this report.

1.6 Our Schools Working Group and our two hubs for Primary and Secondary Schools have worked extremely well and the online activity has meant a much wider attendance and more helpful interaction, collaboration and problem solving.

1.7 SACRE have met regularly both online and in person, when legally possible, to conduct business and ensure we maintain the positive momentum and support schools in meeting their statutory provision and aiming for high quality religious education in all key stages.

2 Statutory Responsibilities

2.1 The key activity in relation to SACRE's statutory responsibilities for this year has been to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference in order to undertake a review of the current syllabus and plan for the new syllabus. The Agreed Syllabus Conference has met twice under the chairmanship of the Executive Head Teacher of Rye College and Rye Community Primary School.

2.2 Initially feedback on the existing syllabus was sought which demonstrated that it was no longer fit for purpose and a completely new syllabus would be required. Extensive consultation and consideration was given to the needs and ambitions of all stakeholders. We have consulted parents, teachers, pupils and major faith groups about both the existing syllabus and what might be needed in any new syllabus. Schools, in particular wanted a syllabus that was relevant to life in East Sussex and the world in the 21st century, that reflected the diversity of beliefs and faiths and what it means to live a life of faith in today's society.

2.3 The Agreed Syllabus Conference explored options for developing a syllabus from within our own resources or working in partnership with other local authorities and SACREs or with a wider organisation. Following presentations from potential partners the Agreed Syllabus Conference has been working with a national organisation, RE Today, who support SACREs and promote high quality RE in this country and internationally.

2.4 A new syllabus, 'Faith and Belief in the 21st Century – The Agreed Syllabus for RE for East Sussex,' was formally adopted by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on January 5th 2022. The new syllabus includes learning related to the major world religions but also allows for the exploration of wider world views and thematic, moral and ethical questions. A working group of secondary teachers working with the support of a specialist adviser from RE Today have also developed a core curriculum for key stage 4 which can work alongside more formal qualifications. The new syllabus is linked to the Ofsted framework and has a clarity of teaching, planning and assessment guidance. It is supported by detailed schemes of work for those schools that wish to purchase them.

2.5 The syllabus is under license for five years for all schools and academies in East Sussex and it is hoped that they will all wish to engage with this exciting development. The licensing costs are being paid for from the SACRE budget in full across two financial years, and SACRE is also supporting the training and professional development for the new syllabus. A launch event is planned for 29th March 2022 followed by more detailed training with a view to full implementation from September 2022.

2.6 Monitoring activity, which often includes visits to schools, has been significantly curtailed again this year but we have had excellent engagement from schools in both the primary and secondary network meetings which have taken place online three times a year. This has been the main source of CPD (continuing professional development) and SACRE has been able to respond to training needs identified by schools through these network meetings. On average we have had around 12 secondary schools represented at the secondary networks and, on occasion, in excess of 60 schools represented at the primary meetings; one event had over 100 participants online. Reports are made to SACRE by the network leads which demonstrate the value put on RE as a subject by the majority of the schools and the ambition to ensure that the quality of teaching continues to develop and improve.

2.7 There have been no formal exam results locally or nationally to enable SACRE to evaluate pupil outcomes at key stages 4 or 5.

2.8 Briefings for schools have also included sharing the May 2021 Research Report produced by Ofsted which details what makes for high quality religious education. SACRE has also shared some of the latest research and findings from higher education and the RE Council around world views and how that impacts on RE in schools.

3 Collective Worship

3.1 It is the responsibility of SACRE to monitor the statutory responsibility of schools to hold opportunities for collective worship. It has been incredibly challenging for schools to hold assemblies

during the pandemic but SACRE has had examples of schools holding class assemblies, in bubbles, and online assemblies in order to maintain this important community and social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) dimension to school life.

3.2 To SACRE's knowledge no parents have made an application to exercise their right of withdrawal from RE lessons or collective worship and no school has made an application for a determination around the requirement that collective worship is mainly Christian in nature.

4 Links with National Bodies

4.1 East Sussex SACRE continues to keep in touch with national events and views. The Chair is a member of the NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education) Executive and plays an active part in their deliberations. The Chair has also been co-opted to the Governance Committee of the Religious Education Council.

4.2 SACRE members keep in touch through NASACRE's termly briefings and attendance at the regular national online training sessions as well as receiving reports back from the Chair around national issues.

4.3 Two thirds of SACRE members have taken part in online training for new members and webinars for members on key topics, such as world views, and some have also attended the annual NASACRE Conference, all of which have been held online. The Adviser to SACRE also attends the South-Central meetings of SACREs to learn from practice in the region.

5 Other areas of work

5.1 During 2021/22 SACRE has carried out training for School Governors, covering the role of SACRE, the role of governors in monitoring RE and collective worship. It has also been an opportunity to both consult with governors and update them on key questions about high quality RE and the emerging new Agreed Syllabus. The following numbers attended over the 4 sessions: 23 Sept – 26; 24 Sept – 29; 22 Feb – 13; 25 Feb – 24. The feedback evaluated them as 100% good and better.

6 SACRE Membership and arrangements

6.1 Representatives of the Church of England Diocese of Chichester regularly attend SACRE meetings, as do those of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel. We have a reasonably wide representation across faiths and those of no faith. As well as the Christian denominations represented, we have Unitarian, Bahai, Jewish and Muslim members, although we would like to strengthen this voice. We have sought Buddhist support but have not been able to sustain this. We have a Humanist observer.

6.2 Meetings in 2021 were all held via MS Teams with an attendance rate as follows:

16 March 2021

Attendance 84%

22 June 2021

Attendance 89%

23 November 2021

Attendance 79%

All meetings were quorate.

6.3 Agenda items for all meetings included feedback on Network meetings of both Primary and Secondary schools. Each meeting had a Budget update. The Development Plan was updated at the November meeting and will be further updated in March this year. Regular feedback was given at each meeting regarding the progress of the review of the RE Syllabus. All meetings now have a standing item on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

6.4 The constitution for SACRE is being updated and reviewed at the March 2022 meeting to ensure that it is fully up to date and accurately reflects both the work of SACRE and how SACRE discharges its duties.

6.5 SACRE has had a budget of £15,000 for this financial year and this has been used to ensure that specialist advice and support is in place to support SACRE with carrying out its duties. It has also funded the review and development of the new agreed syllabus and has paid in part for the licensing arrangements and the partnership with RE Today. It has also supported some SLE (specialist leader of education) school to school support, the local networks and online training for RE leaders in schools. Children's Services have supported SACRE through the provision of high-quality clerking and a children's services representative to work with the board. It is essential for this level of funding to continue over the next three years, at least, to ensure that engagement of schools, support for the new syllabus and high-quality advice for both SACRE and schools is able to continue to build capacity for high quality teaching and to ensure all schools and academies are supported in delivering their statutory requirements in relation to this area of the curriculum and school life.

7. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

7.1 SACRE is legally obliged to produce an annual report and it is best practice for this to be considered by the County Council.

7.2 The People Scrutiny Committee is asked to support SACRE in its ongoing work to seek improvements to Religious Education provision.

Councillor Roy Galley
Chair of SACRE

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 24 March 2022

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: Child Exploitation and County Lines Presentation

Purpose: To update the Committee on multi agency work on County Lines

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the presentation.

1. Background

1.1 At the October 2021 People Scrutiny Committee work planning awayday the Committee raised with the Children's Service Department concerns about county lines activity in East Sussex.

1.2 The Committee requested that a presentation on work to disrupt county lines and respond to child exploitation be reported to the March 2023 Committee meeting to inform consideration of whether further scrutiny work on this topic is required.

1.3 East Sussex County Council Children's Services Department and Sussex Police will deliver a joint presentation on this at the 24 March Committee meeting.

1.4 The presentation to be delivered is attached as Appendix 1.

ALISON JEFFERY

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Vicky Finnemore

Head of Specialist Services, Children's Services Department

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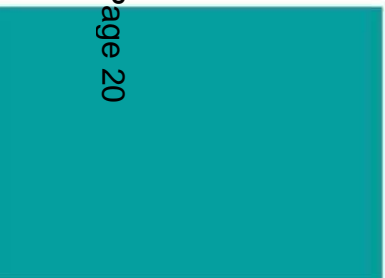


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East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership

County Lines – East Sussex Multi Agency Response

People Scrutiny Committee 24th March



COUNTY LINES

WHAT ARE COUNTY LINES?

- County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas (within the UK), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move (and store) the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.
- Running a County Line involves establishing a dealing location in a County town, transporting drugs to the location and taking orders by mobile phone.
- The methodology employed for each stage of this operation varies greatly. Some line holders transport the drugs themselves by vehicle, others put runners on a train with the drugs. Likewise, some dealers ‘cuckoo’ addresses, whereas others deal from vehicles.
- To evidence the activities of the entire network, a variety of techniques must be employed and will vary depending on the methodology of the line. This is often a resource intensive process that takes a number of months to complete. Invariably, a large amount of time is spent evidencing the activities and criminality of runners and cuckooed subjects. Cuckooing checks also lead to disruption of the line.
- There is one constant in every County Line, however; the drugs line. The following method is designed to focus on this point of weakness. This method can be employed on any drugs investigation, not just a County Line.
- To record a county line it **MUST** have evidence of using a phone line and show either the movement of drugs, money or people from one area to another *or* the involvement of gangs or criminal networks. It **CAN** also have evidence of exploitation.

WHAT DOES A COUNTY LINE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC) DO IN AN INTELLIGENCE HUB?

- The County Lines SPOC completes scanning of custody reports but generally intelligence is fed in by the community, be that direct or via Crimestoppers, that a phone number and line name is dealing a commodity.
- The SPOC will identify where it's running to and from and who it's in contact with to try and obtain physical evidence of messages being sent from that number advertising drugs for sale. If it's local (in Sussex) Sussex Police would deal with it or if it's travelling out of Sussex then the SPOC will liaise and pass details to Drugs Enforcement Teams in the relevant force area, i.e. The Met, British Transport Police (BTP), Merseyside, etc.
- Once a County Drug Line is identified, a Section 8 Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) warrant can be obtained to recover the handset and arrest the possessor but it is important to demonstrate that it has been in the possession of the defendant for a period of time (ideally including the time that the broadcast messages recovered were sent). Officers have a range of other powers, not just via PACE, that assist in tackling lines. This includes stopping a vehicle / searching a runner during a stop and search (someone who is possibly on foot).
- The ultimate goal is to get the line phone and the SIM card and attribute it to a person (the line holder). Although just one of those items carries weight for a successful prosecution. It matters not how we reach the point where we apprehend the suspect with the line. There are just too many scenarios to show how this is possible.



EVIDENCING THE DRUG LINE

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There are a number of features within the call data that can be evidenced to demonstrate the phone is being used for commercial purposes.

The transmission of bulk messages.

Pattern in the transmission e.g. inactivity on phone, messages sent, then busy with calls.

Disproportionate number of sent messages [i.e. not a conversation].

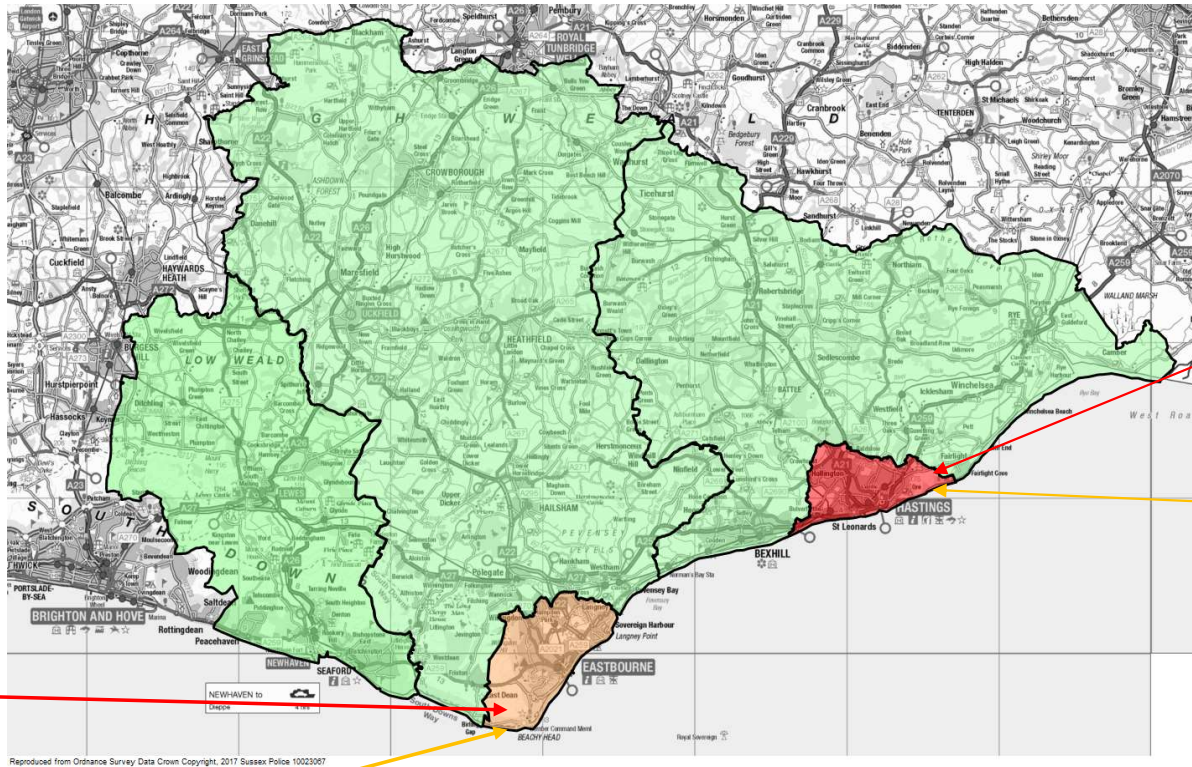
Short average call durations.

This process can be completed using the phone and data, but is much easier with specialist analytical software for handling communications data.

Information and evidence is also found whilst investigating other matters.

CURRENT NUMBER OF COUNTY LINES IN EAST SUSSEX

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**ACTIVE LINES IN
HASTINGS (10)**

**EMERGING LINES
IN HASTINGS (2)**

**ACTIVE LINES IN
EASTBOURNE (5)**

**EMERGING LINES IN
EASTBOURNE (1)**

THIS IS EVER-EVOLVING....

NUMBER OF COUNTY LINES DISRUPTIONS (IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS)





Disruptions are recorded on a different system from recorded crime and intelligence. The times relate to the recording/claiming of the disruption and not when each event occurred.

	October 21 Disruptions	November 21 Disruptions	December 21 Disruptions	January 22 Disruptions	February 22 Disruptions
MINOR	5			1	
MODERATE	2	7	1	1	1
MAJOR	1	1			

October 21 Arrests	November 21 Arrests	December 21 Arrests	January 22 Arrests	February 22 Arrests
16	3		1	2

October 21 Weapons Seized	November 21 Weapons Seized	December 21 Weapons Seized	January 22 Weapons Seized	February 22 Weapons Seized
6				2

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October 21 Drugs Seized	November 21 Drugs Seized	December 21 Drugs Seized	January 22 Drugs Seized	February 22 Drugs Seized
<p>15 wraps of Cocaine.</p> <p>2 x bags of Herbal Cannabis</p> <p>1 x Two black bags containing grey rock powder substance.</p> <p>Several wraps of suspected Crack Cocaine.</p> <p>Wrap of suspected Crack Cocaine - 839g.</p> <p>One wrap of Crack Cocaine – 103g.</p> <p>Block of unknown substance wrapped in cling film – 24.5g.</p> <p>5.1g Crack and 7.35g Heroin.</p> <p>Around 103 wraps of Class A.</p> 	<p>Small wrap of suspected Crack Cocaine.</p> <p>170 Wraps of Class A Cocaine.</p> <p>Herbal cannabis in poly bag.</p> <p>One wrap containing Herbal Cannabis</p> <p>Small wrap of suspected crack cocaine.</p> 		<p>30 Wraps of Crack Cocaine.</p> <p>1 Gram of Herbal Cannabis.</p> <p>Clip-seal bag containing Herbal Cannabis.</p> 	<p>Small amount of Herbal Cannabis within clear grip seal bag.</p> <p>8 small grip seal bags containing Herbal Cannabis.</p> 

Police Operations

- **Operation Wagon** - Police identified a group of young people in Hastings involved in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) (recovered from London addresses etc) – contextual assessment – resulting in focussed one to one and group work in Hollington.
- **Operation Hyrax** - This is the first Modern Slavery conviction for British Transport Police (BTP) and first time that an individual, under 18 at the time of the offence, has been convicted of a Modern Slavery offence, for County Lines-related modern slavery.
- **Operation Orochi** - At the end of 2019, the Metropolitan Police received funding from the Home Office to tackle County Lines. The Met launched Operation Orochi, which is a dedicated operation to target county lines drug dealers at the source.
- **Operation Centurion** - Centurion is a dedicated central referral team across Surrey Police and Sussex Police, collaborating with the Op Orochi team at the Metropolitan Police to target county lines activity between London and Surrey and Sussex.

Operation Centurion disruptions (since September 2020)

	<u>East Sussex</u>	<u>West Sussex</u>	<u>Brighton</u>	<u>Total</u>
• Lines taken out	23	14	15	52
• Current live inv.	10	7	2	19
• Being developed	1	3	0	4

Examples of sentences for County Lines-related convictions

- Male (22) operating in Hastings. GUILTY - possession of Class A (crack cocaine) and Class B (cannabis) & possession of knife in public place. Youth Offender Institution (YOI) 21 weeks & 2 weeks concurrent, & imprisonment 6 weeks consecutive with previous conviction.)
- Male (18) operating in Eastbourne. GUILTY - supply of Class A (crack cocaine & heroin). Youth rehab orders, activity requirement, supervision requirement, exclusion requirement not to enter Cambridgeshire, unpaid work requirement.
- Male (21) operating in Hastings. GUILTY - GBH & possession of knife in public place. YOI 6 years + 6 months concurrent.
- Male (43) operating in Eastbourne. GUILTY – Possession With Intent To Supply (PWITS) Class A (cocaine & heroin) & facilitate the acquisition of criminal property. Imprisonment 33 months + 6 months concurrent.)




Safeguarding and Disruption Interface

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Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Multi-agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Group

- Sussex Police
- ESCC Children's Services
- Youth Offending Team
- NHS Children's Safeguarding Leads
- Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust
- Schools – Designated Leads
- YMCA

Place based or contextual responses involve district and borough councils, trading standards etc



Child Criminal Exploitation Meeting structure

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Multi-agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Hub – screens all safeguarding referrals

MACE Operational – Co
Chaired

Vulnerable Adolescent Risk Panel (VARP) – Co
Chaired

Police Child Exploitation Intel Meeting

Police MACE Escalation –
monthly

Police Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TTCG) – monthly

MACE Strategic – Quarterly
chaired by CS Head of Service and Detective Chief Inspector, Safeguarding Investigations Unit

Managing risk

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All cases are subject to a multi agency plan that incorporates safeguarding, risk reduction and disruption measures

Every child has an identified lead professional and a trusted adult

All risk assessed Red cases are discussed at the monthly Police Multi-agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Escalation meeting. They are each allocated to individual Detective Inspectors to own and produce a plan to disrupt

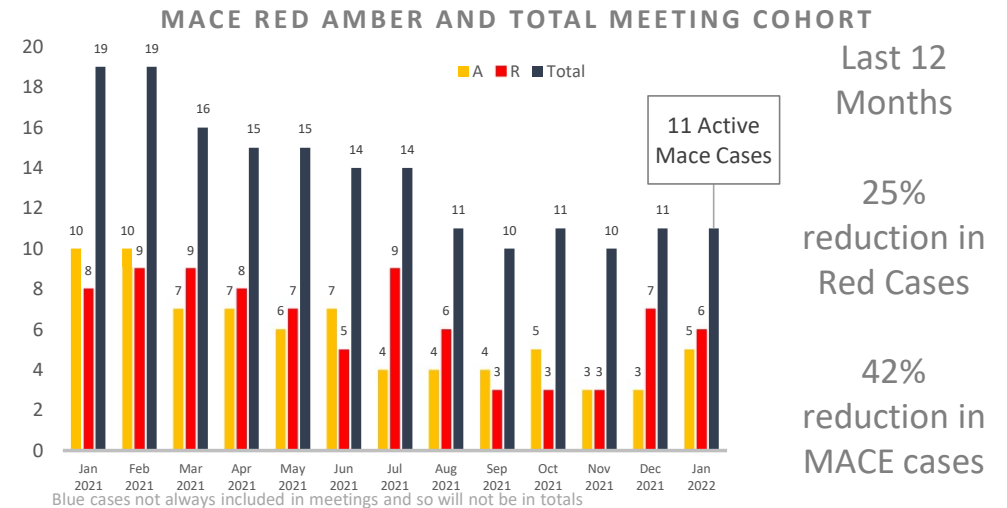
Highest harm / risk subjects are brought to the TTCG for consideration to allocating additional policing resources

All MACE 12 month plus cases are escalated to strategic leads for review

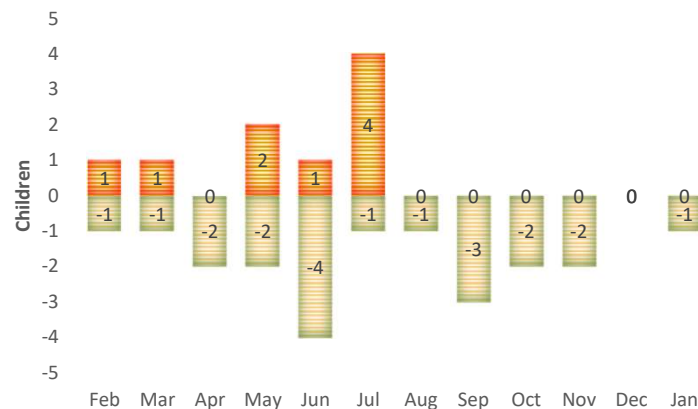
Complex case planning can be convened if cases are high risk and "stuck"

Multi-agency Child Exploitation (MACE) (to end January 2022)

31 children on
MACE
between April
2021 and
January 2022



MONTHLY RAG INCREASE/DECREASE

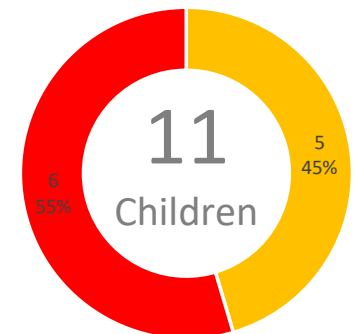


9 Increased
20 Decreased

No children have seen a
RAG rating increase in
the last six months
during which time nine
have decreased.

Number of children each month increasing RAG rating shown in red, decreasing shown in green

Current MACE Children

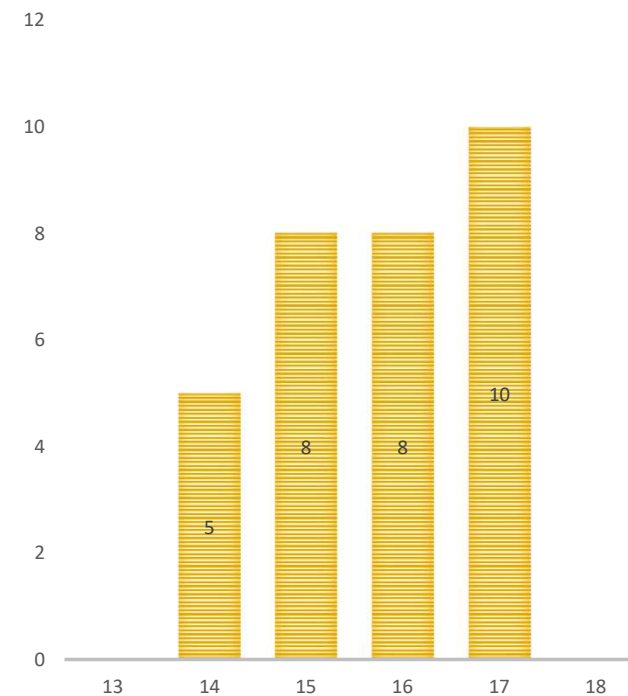


MACE Demographics

- All aged 14 to 17 years in 21/22

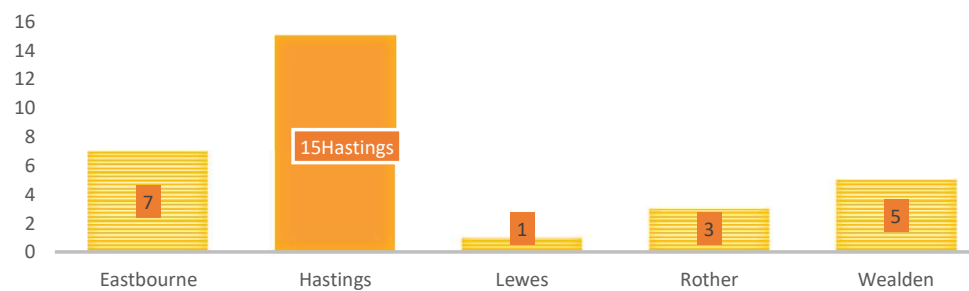
- 15 Female and 16 Males
- Gender variations regarding exploitation profiles

AGE AT MOST RECENT MEETING

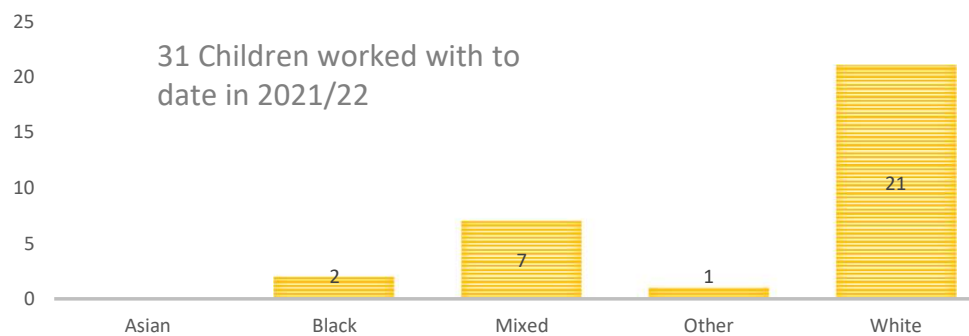


Demographics

RESIDENCY AT LAST MEETING



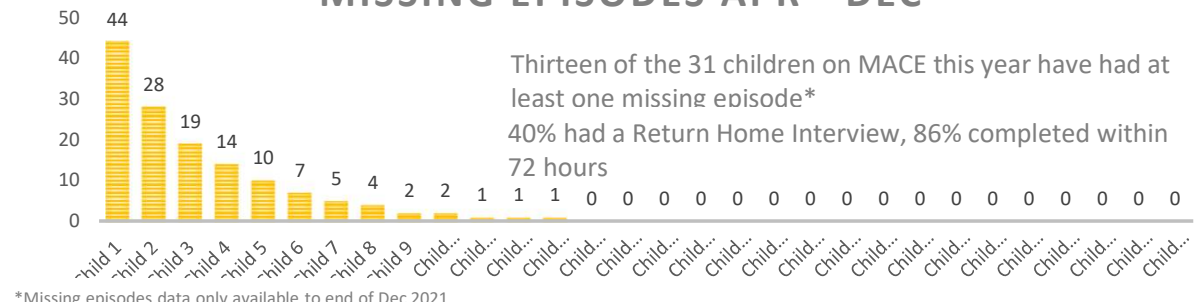
ETHNICITY



Other Profile Factors

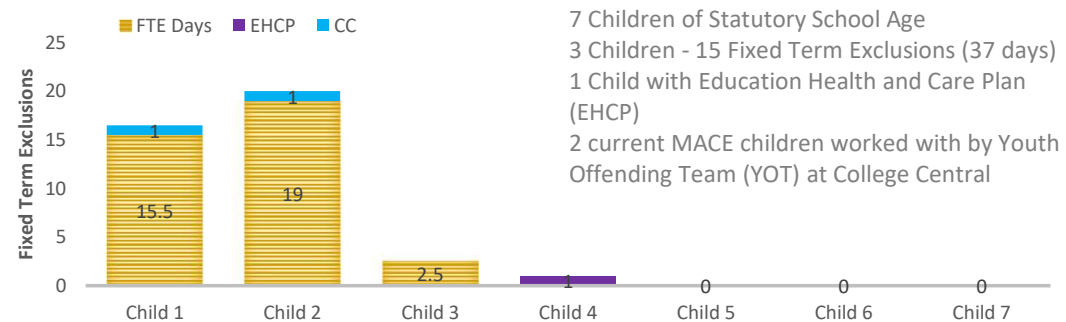
Missing Episodes are frequently reported for this cohort

MISSING EPISODES APR - DEC



Significant school non-attendance

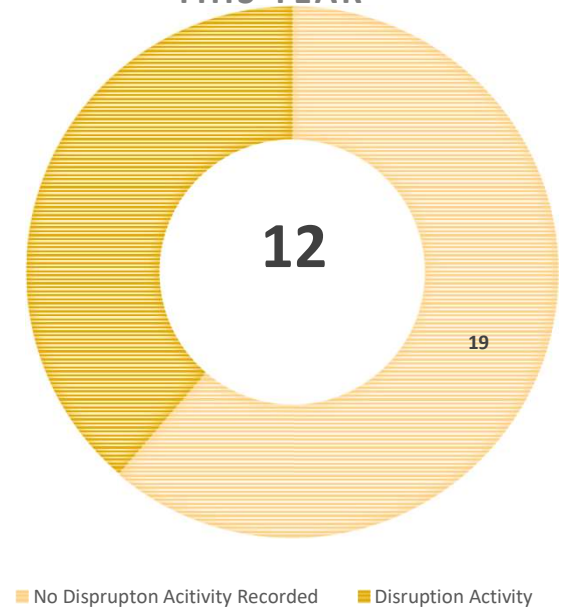
FIXED TERM EXCLUSIONS (DAYS) LAST 12 MONTHS



Disruption

Regarding the 31 children at MACE, 12 disruption measures actioned at the meeting

DISRUPTION ACTIVITY CHILDREN THIS YEAR



Place based disruption – Hastings, Hailsham and Uckfield

Identified areas for improvement

- Too many meetings, some single agency – should there be a multi agency Criminal Exploitation team
- Education
- Positive Youth Activities
- Transitions





Questions?

Report to:	People Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	24 March 2022
By:	Chief Executive
Title:	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)
Purpose:	To review scrutiny's input into the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources process for the financial year 2022/23 and to consider related items for inclusion in the committee's work programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Review the committee's input into the RPPR process;**
- 2) Agree proposed enhancements to the RPPR scrutiny arrangements set out in paragraph 2.6;**
- 3) Consider any further changes or improvements to the process from a scrutiny perspective; and**
- 4) Identify any potential areas for inclusion in the committee's future work programme on services or issues within the Committee's remit.**

1 Background

1.1 The Council's integrated business and financial planning process, Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR), matches available resources with our delivery plans for our priority outcomes so that we focus and protect our spending where it will deliver our priority objectives most effectively. It also ensures we have the demographic trends and performance information to monitor progress.

1.2 Scrutiny committees actively engage in the process, firstly to allow them to bring the experience they have gained through their work to bear and, secondly, to help inform their future work programmes, so that scrutiny work can continue to inform RPPR on an ongoing basis.

2 Scrutiny engagement in Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources

2.1 In September 2021 each scrutiny committee considered a range of information about the services within the remit of the committee to set the scene for the work on the RPPR process. This included extracts from the Savings Plans agreed by Council in February 2021, the current Portfolio Plans, extracts from the Financial Budget Summary for 2021/22 and the latest capital programme for the period 2021/22-2029/30 (extracts taken from the *State of the County* report considered by Cabinet in July 2021).

2.2 At the November meetings the committees considered an updated version of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and updated proposed savings schedules as set out in a report considered by Cabinet on 30 September 2021, which also outlined significant updates to the policy context since *State of the County*. The scrutiny committees were asked to identify any further work or information needed for consideration at their RPPR Board meetings.

2.3 The scrutiny committees established scrutiny RPPR Boards to provide more detailed input into the RPPR process. These met in December 2021 to consider and agree any recommendations on the draft 2022/23 Portfolio Plans and the existing savings plans. The Boards:

- considered any amendments to the draft Portfolio Plans and how priorities were reflected against the proposed key areas of budget spend for the coming year;
- assessed the potential impact of planned savings on services provided to East Sussex County Council customers; and
- agreed comments and recommendations to Cabinet.

2.4 Appendix 1 summarises the comments and recommendations made by the People Scrutiny Committee RPPR Board to Cabinet.

2.5 The committee is invited to:

- consider any areas arising from RPPR scrutiny discussions for inclusion in the committee's future work programme - careful selection of topics will enable the Committee to be well positioned to comment on the impact of service changes, future service delivery and budget proposals as part of the ongoing RPPR process; and
- review the committee's input to the RPPR process and consider any improvements to the process from a scrutiny perspective.

2.6 Some enhancements to the existing scrutiny RPPR arrangements have been identified in consultation with the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs. These are:

- A proposal that scrutiny committees consider relevant parts of the quarter 4 (end of year) monitoring report and the State of the County report annually at their July meetings to enhance scrutiny's consideration of performance achievements and challenges over the preceding year, alongside earlier engagement with the forward-looking demographic, policy and financial analysis in the State of the County report; and
- A proposal that each scrutiny committee holds an annual work planning awayday in early September, to enable further consideration of issues arising from State of the County for the services within the committee's remit and to ensure that key issues are incorporated into the committee's ongoing work programme.

2.7 Scrutiny committee meeting dates in the summer and autumn have also been adjusted to ensure scrutiny has the opportunity to discuss and comment on RPPR information provided to Cabinet in a timely way.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Committee is recommended to review its input into the RPPR process and incorporate any areas into its future work programme that are likely to inform the future RPPR process. The committee is also recommended to agree the proposed enhancements to scrutiny RPPR arrangements as outlined in paragraph 2.6 above.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Beth McGhee, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser

Tel. No: 01273 335828

Email: beth.mcghee@eastsussex.gov.uk

People Scrutiny Committee – Comments to Cabinet 2022

1.1 The People Scrutiny RPPR Board met on the 13 December and agreed comments to be put to Cabinet, on behalf of the parent committee, for its consideration in January 2022. The information supplied to the Board to support its discussions comprised of relevant extracts of the Local Government Association's briefing on the Autumn Budget and Spending Review and the draft portfolio plans for the Adult Social Care and Health Department and the Children's Services Department.

1.2 The comments of the People Scrutiny Committee RPPR Board are set out below:

Adult Social Care and Health

1.3 The Board received an update from the Director of Adult Social Care on the reforms to Adult Social Care (ASC) announced in 2021, focussing particularly on the most recent announcements made in the ASC Reform white paper. The Board clarified the Council's latest understanding on the detail of the reforms and expected implementation in East Sussex.

1.4 The Board were concerned that important detail was still awaited from Government on how the ASC reforms to charging announced earlier in the autumn would be implemented in practice, as this is needed to undertake informed budget and service planning, particularly given the potential impact the reforms could have on ASC. The Board also questioned whether the ambitions of the latest ASC reform White Paper, particularly the ambition to deliver tailored care, were achievable in light of the underlying service and workforce pressures facing the Department and wider care system.

1.5 The Board welcomed the draft Portfolio Plan for Adult Social Care and Health and supported the priorities and plans set out within it. No changes were requested. In discussing the plan and the Department's work, the Board:

- highlighted the importance of ensuring new and existing housing was accessible to enable people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible;
- encouraged consideration of options for alternative models of care, which the Director confirmed the Department and care providers actively explore;
- sought assurance on the latest position in face-to-face delivery of ASC services following disruption earlier in the pandemic; and
- discussed measures to improve workforce recruitment and retention, welcoming recent success in recruiting Newly Qualified Social Workers.

Children's Services

1.6 The Board received an update from the Director of Children's Services on the Department's priorities for the coming year, including in responding to national policy changes and delivering priorities and programmes outlined in the draft Children's Services Portfolio Plan. The Board discussed these areas and:

- requested information on the potential impact of the Government's ambitions for all schools to join a multi academy trust and remove school improvement grants to local authorities;
- asked about the mechanisms in place to ensure inclusion and the roles of schools in the community was upheld when schools joined academies trusts; and

- sought assurance social workers had manageable and safe case-loads, which the Director confirmed the Department monitored closely and took steps to address when they were too high.

1.7 The Board agreed to report to Cabinet that they are very concerned about the potential for savings to be made in the Early Help service.

1.8 The Board supported the draft Children's Services Portfolio Plan and the plans and priorities within it.

General comments to Cabinet

1.9 The Board were disappointed the Levelling Up White Paper has not been published in line with the Government's original timeline, as it was expected that the further detail this would provide on the levelling up agenda would have a range of implications for the County Council that the Board were keen to understand.

Report to:	People Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	24 March 2022
By:	Assistant Chief Executive
Title:	People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Purpose:	To review and discuss the People Scrutiny Committee's future work programme

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) review and agree the updated work programme set out at Appendix 1;
 - 2) accept the recommendations of the Scoping Board on ASC Workforce Challenges and Scoping Board on School Attendance not to progress with scrutiny reviews of these topics at this stage (as set out at paragraphs 2.9 and 2.13);
 - 3) discuss topics for potential scrutiny reviews to be included in the Committee's future work programme; and
 - 4) review upcoming items on East Sussex County Council's Forward Plan as set out at Appendix 2 to identify any issues that may require more detailed scrutiny.
-

1 Background

1.1 The work programme is an important tool in ensuring the correct focus and best use of the Committee's time in scrutinising topics that are of importance to the residents of East Sussex, and the efficient and effective working of the Council. It also provides clarity for those who may be requested to give evidence to the Committee on the issues under review, and the questions the Committee requires answers to.

1.2 Discussion of the work programme provides the Committee with the opportunity to consider topics that it may be of value to scrutinise, and to decide whether further scoping work is required. This provides a basis for deciding the best way of scrutinising a topic, the timescale, and who from the Committee will be involved in carrying out the review work. If there are a number of potential topics for review, Members can determine the priority of the work within the resources available to the Committee.

2 Supporting information

Work programme progress update

2.1 The following work has taken place since the Committee last considered their work programme in November:

Loneliness and Resilience Reference Group

2.2 A meeting of the Loneliness and Resilience Reference Group took place on 8 December 2021 to provide ongoing scrutiny and input into a Public Health-led project which aims to understand the nature and impact of loneliness on East Sussex residents and identify systemic opportunities and approaches to mitigate its worst effects. The Group received a detailed update from officers and Collaborate Community Interest Company (who have been commissioned to deliver the project) on insights from partner and community engagement activities undertaken during the autumn. Members asked questions on the research methodology and emerging

findings, provided additional insights on the drivers of loneliness in their divisions and asked for further information on the role of Village Agents in East Sussex. The Group heard that the next step of the project was to synthesise the insights from the engagement activities into recommendations and a further meeting has been arranged for 21 March 2022 to consider an insights report and emerging recommendations for the project. Next steps and the need/timeline for further meetings of the reference group will be determined then.

Presentation on Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

2.3 A briefing presentation on ESCC's work to tackle Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) was held on 10 December 2021. The presentation included a briefing on the draft pan-Sussex Strategy on Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support. The Committee welcomed the draft Strategy, particularly plans to ensure sanctuary schemes were available across the county and plans to increase support for children, particularly boys and young men. A note of comments from the meeting was submitted to the Department and taken into account in development of the final Strategy which was reported to the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) in January 2022.

2.4 The briefing presentation also covered ESCC's work to tackle VAWG and the Children's Services Department (CSD)'s work to support children in families with domestic abuse. The Committee asked questions on various aspects of the work outlined, welcomed the work taking place and requested that updates on work to implement the new DA Strategy and tackle VAWG be included in the next Annual Review of Safer Communities report to the Committee. The Committee also requested that any learning for ESCC from the national review into the death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes was shared with the Committee as part of the annual update on learning from case reviews provided in the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report update. These requests have been captured on the Committee's updated work programme.

RPPR Board 2021

2.5 The Committee held its RPPR Board on 13 December 2021. A summary of the Board's comments to Cabinet are included elsewhere on this meeting's agenda.

Scoping Board on Adult Social Care (ASC) Workforce Challenges

2.6 The Committee agreed at its November 2021 meeting to proceed with scoping two topics for potential scrutiny review in the new year.

2.7 A scoping board for a potential review of Adult Social Care Workforce Challenges was held on 9 March 2022. The Board was formed of Cllrs Chris Dowling (substituting for Cllr Geary), Ungar (Chair) and Webb. The Board heard that challenges facing the ASC workforce locally, in recruitment, retention and workforce development and planning are significant, but not specific to East Sussex; and while these challenges existed before the coronavirus pandemic, they had also been compounded by it. The Board were updated on the wide range of activities the ASCH Department is undertaking in response, including recent recruitment of new staff to support the work; the activities planned to get underway in the coming months; and how these build on the recommendations of the Committee's previous review of the Adult Social Care Workforce in 2019.

2.8 The Board discussed the work outlined and asked a number of questions including on: progress to deliver a bespoke website for social care vacancies (as recommended in the previous ASC workforce scrutiny review), work to address gender imbalance in the workforce, the impact of the Kickstarter programme, the latest vacancy rate for care roles and potential barriers to progression. The Board also requested further detail on a number of areas of work planned and made suggestions for how some areas could be expanded, which the Department welcomed and committed to look into.

2.9 The Board welcomed the update and concluded that as the Department was just starting, or about to progress, a wide range of work in response to the challenges outlined, the Board would recommend to the Committee that it was not an appropriate time to commence a scrutiny review of this area. The Board instead requested that the Department provide a progress report to the Committee in nine months setting out what has been delivered in that time and the impact

it is having. The need for further scrutiny of this area could be considered by the Committee at that point. The progress report has been scheduled for the 17 November 2022 People Scrutiny Committee meeting on the attached updated work programme.

2.10 In the meantime, the Board requested that the Department re-visit the recommendation of the previous scrutiny review that *'All councillors, via their connections with local groups and organisations... help raise awareness of the role of the Personal Assistant and the related advice and support available from the Support with Confidence team'* as the Board felt the pandemic had prevented this recommendation from being fully delivered. The Department committed to look at how it could provide councillors with further information and materials to fully deliver this action. The minutes of the scoping board will be circulated to the Committee once they are finalised.

Scoping Board on School Attendance

2.11 A scoping board for a potential review of School Attendance was held on 10 March 2022. The Board was formed of Cllrs Adeniji, di Cara, Field, Howell (Chair) and Nicola Boulter (Parent Governor Representative). The Board heard that issues with overall and persistent school absence rates had been a challenge in East Sussex for some time. Despite effective joint working and improvements in targeted schools, this had not yet led to consistent improvement across the county. As was the case nationally, the situation had been compounded by COVID, with COVID-related illness and parent/carer and pupil anxiety related to COVID currently seen as the most common reasons for school absences in East Sussex; and pupils with historic persistent absence having been further impacted by changing expectations on attendance and uncertainty during the pandemic. The Board also heard about the offer the ESCC Education Support, Behaviour and Attendance Service provide to schools to improve school attendance; specific projects undertaken to improve attendance; and work CSD undertakes with strategic partners to secure full attendance of children and young people.

2.12 The Board discussed the latest situation and the work of the Department to improve school attendance rates in East Sussex. The Board asked questions and sought assurance on: whether ESCC has oversight of the education status of all children in East Sussex, including child refugees; how fees and sanctions are used to improve attendance; the reasons children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities are more likely to have higher school absence rates; what work takes place to address the underlying causes of school absence; whether there were interventions that had not been taken but needed to be; the role of messaging to parents/carers in improving attendance; how the picture of school attendance is linked to school exclusions; and how much issues with absence rates in special schools were historic or influenced by COVID.

2.13 The Board concluded that while there are clear challenges with school attendance rates in East Sussex that merit further consideration by People Scrutiny, as so much of the current situation regarding school absence rates is related to the ongoing impact of, and disruption from, the coronavirus pandemic, it was too early for the Committee to undertake a scrutiny review of school attendance. The Board concluded it would recommend to the Committee that the review should commence in Spring 2023 when we expect to have a clearer sense of the long-term impact of COVID on school absences. This timeframe has been reflected on the attached updated work programme, and it is proposed that a further short scoping meeting take place in early 2023 to establish the terms of reference for this review. In the meantime, the Board requested that an update on school attendance rates is provided to the Committee before next spring and this has been scheduled for 17 November 2022 Committee to be considered as part of the work programme report to assist with work programming of this planned review. The minutes of the scoping board will be circulated to the Committee once they are finalised.

Future work

2.14 The scrutiny review of school exclusions remains on the work programme and is proposed to progress in early autumn with a further short scoping meeting to consider an update from the Department on work that has been undertaken with ISOS consultancy in this area and any amendments required to the existing Terms of Reference before proceeding.

2.15 A review of Elective Home Education (EHE) also remains an area of interest for the Committee and it is proposed to consider how to proceed with this once the Committee receives an update from the Department on their work on EHE, and recent national developments, at the November 2022 Committee.

2.16 A meeting of the Health and Social Care Integration Programme Reference Group will be held on 6 April to consider the Integration White Paper and progress with establishing a Sussex Integrated Care System.

2.17 The Committee is asked to review, discuss any amendments to, and agree the latest work programme.

2.18 When considering potential topics for inclusion in the work programme, the Committee is asked to consider a range of questions. These include:

- Is the topic relevant to the Council's Corporate Priorities?
- Is the issue of concern or of relevance to East Sussex residents?
- Can Scrutiny have an impact and add value by scrutinising this issue, service or policy?
- Is the issue one that the Committee can realistically influence?
- Are the resources needed to undertake the review available?

2.19 Any suggestions for potential Scrutiny Review topics should be discussed with the Chair, or the Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser, in advance of the Committee meetings.

Forward Plan

2.20 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 March 2021 to 30 June 2022 is included at Appendix 2. The Committee is requested to review the forthcoming items on the Forward Plan to identify any issues within the remit of this Committee that may require more detailed scrutiny. The Forward Plan is revised and published on a monthly basis and Committee members should regularly review the Forward Plan.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 An important part of managing the work of the People Scrutiny Committee is regularly reviewing its future work programme. This involves the Committee assessing its priorities, ensuring its ongoing reviews are completed in a timely fashion and identifying new areas for scrutiny.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Beth McGhee, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser

Tel. No. 01273 335828

Email: beth.mcghee@eastsussex.gov.uk

People Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
School Exclusions	<p>The previous Committee agreed in March 2020 to undertake a Scrutiny Review of issues relating to school exclusions. The Committee also agreed the Terms of Reference proposed by the Scoping Board. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the availability of schools to contribute to further work on this review, it was subsequently paused with the intention to recommence it at a suitable future date.</p> <p>Since the original review was scoped, the Department has commenced a project with ISOS consultancy to draw together aspects of good and emerging practice into a clear, whole-system, strategic approach to inclusion and the use of Alternative Provision for secondary-age pupils in East Sussex.</p> <p>The Committee wishes to recommence this review and, subject to agreement at the March 2022 Committee, will hold a further short scoping meeting in early autumn (anticipated to be October) to consider the outcomes of the ISOS project and any adjustments required to the existing Terms of Reference before commencing the review.</p> <p>Membership of the Review Board: Councillors Adeniji, Field, Maples and Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative.</p>	To be confirmed when second scoping board undertaken in early autumn 2022 (anticipated to be October).
Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
School Attendance	<p>The Committee heard at their 2021 work planning awayday that overall school absence and persistent absence rates across East Sussex are high, when compared to national and statistical neighbours; and that East Sussex has a significant number of children and young people deemed too ill to attend school due to anxiety and poor mental health, and increasing levels of Emotionally-Based School Avoidance.</p> <p>A scoping board meeting was held on 10 March 2022 and the Board agreed that although the subject was appropriate for a Scrutiny Review, as so much of the current situation regarding school absence rates in East Sussex was related to</p>	To be confirmed following a further short scoping board in early 2023.

	<p>the ongoing impact of, and disruption from, the coronavirus pandemic, it was too early for the Committee to undertake a scrutiny review of school attendance.</p> <p>The Board therefore agreed that the review should commence in Spring 2023 when we expect to have a clearer sense of the long-term impact of COVID on school absences. Subject to agreement at the March 2022 Committee, a further short scoping board meeting will be held in early 2023 to build on issues discussed at the 2022 scoping board and draft Terms of Reference for this review. In the interim, an update on school attendance data will be reported to the November 2022 Committee as part of the work programme update to support work programming of this review.</p> <p>Membership of the Scoping Board: Cllrs Adeniji, di Cara, Field and Howell (Chair) and Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative.</p>	
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Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review Topics

Suggested Topic	Detail
Elective Home Education	<p>The Committee heard at their 2021 work planning awayday that issues relating to the increase in the numbers of children being electively home educated (EHE) remain a concern for the Children's Services Department and expressed an interest in scrutinising the work the Department is doing in response.</p> <p>The Committee also heard about national developments expected to impact future policy and the approaches of local authorities in this area, including an Education Committee enquiry into strengthening home education (published July 2021) and a judicial review into the approach taken by Portsmouth City Council to assurance on EHE. In February 2022, the Government published its response to its 'Children not in school' consultation which outlined that, subject to the necessary time in Parliament, the Government intends to legislate on the proposal to place a duty on local authorities to maintain a register of children not in school.</p> <p>The Committee agreed at the November 2021 meeting to retain this as a potential area for review and an update on the Department's work in this area and national developments impacting this work is scheduled for the November 2022 Committee to support consideration of how and whether to progress with a scrutiny review.</p>

Scrutiny Reference Groups

Reference Group Title	Subject area	Meeting Dates
Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HASCIP) Reference Group	The Committee agreed to establish a Reference Group to monitor progress of the East Sussex Health and Social Care Integration Programme and identify	Next meeting: 6 April 2022.

	<p>areas for future scrutiny. It will review HASCIIP progress reports provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and meet on an ad hoc basis as required to consider issues arising in more detail.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Clark, di Cara, Geary, Howell, Ungar and Webb.</p>	
Loneliness and Resilience Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a Loneliness and Resilience Scrutiny Reference Group at its meeting in March 2021. The purpose of the group is to provide scrutiny input into a loneliness project being undertaken by the Adult Social Care and Health Department. The project will aim to develop practical solutions that will help address some of the key negative impacts of loneliness on local communities in East Sussex.</p> <p>The Group have had presentations on progress with the project in August and December 2021. A further meeting is planned to take place in March 2022, for the Group to consider and feed into development of the project's emerging recommendations.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Clark, Geary, Maples, Howell, Ungar and Webb.</p>	Next meeting: 21 March 2022
Educational Attainment and Performance Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed in June 2018 to establish a Reference Group to focus on reviewing data on educational attainment in East Sussex and related issues. The group meets on an annual basis.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Adeniji, Field and Howell and Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative.</p>	Next meeting: Autumn 2022
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	<p>RPPR Board meet annually to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the emerging portfolio plans and spending and savings proposals to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the scrutiny committee.</p>	Next meeting: December 2022
Strategic Commissioning Review of Early Help Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The purpose of this Reference Group is to provide scrutiny input into the Children's Services Department review of Early Help services.</p> <p>The Reference Group of the previous Committee requested an opportunity to review progress with the implementation of the revised Early Help strategy in spring 2021, but as some changes were postponed this was deferred and a further meeting will be considered if required.</p> <p>Membership of the group: to be confirmed if meeting required.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Further meeting TBC if appropriate</p>

Reports for Information		
Subject Area	Detail	Proposed Date
Better Care Fund	Following a request made by the previous Committee at its meeting in March 2021, the Director of Adult Social Care undertook to provide Members with a briefing on developments relating to the Better Care Fund. The Department was awaiting guidance from central government for the 2021/22 financial year. Now this has been received the information will be reported to next HASCIP Reference Group, 6 April 2022.	Next HASCIP Reference Group meeting.
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Review	<p>The Committee heard at their work planning awayday that the Children's Services Department faces challenges in delivering SEND services following reforms to the system implemented in 2014; and that a national major review into support for children with SEND is currently underway, which may make recommendations or provisions that help clarify roles and responsibilities in the system.</p> <p>The Committee has requested a briefing presentation when the national SEND Review is published on the implications of the Review for ESCC and our planned response to inform potential areas for future scrutiny work. If the Review is delayed much into 2022, the Committee has requested a general briefing on the Council's approach to delivering SEND provision, and challenges within that, to inform potential areas for future scrutiny work.</p>	Dependent on publication of SEND Review by Government
Training and Development		
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Proposed Date
Future Committee Agenda Items		Author
22 July 2022		
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
27 September 2022		

Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2023/24	The Committee will begin the process of examining the Departmental Portfolio Plans and budget for the 2023/24 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report	The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report outlines the safeguarding activity and performance in East Sussex during the previous financial year, as well as some of the main developments in place to prevent abuse from occurring.	Chair, Safeguarding Adults Board
Annual Review of Safer Communities	To update the Committee on performance in relation to Safer Communities in 2021/22 and the priorities and issues for 2022/23 that will be highlighted in the Partnership Business Plan. The Committee has requested the update cover progress on work to implement the Strategy for Domestic Abuse Accommodation and Support for Sussex; and to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls.	Tom Hook, Assistant Director - Planning, Performance and Engagement
East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) Annual Report	<p>Presentation of the annual report of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Committee requested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the report provide contextual information on figures included (e.g. trajectory over time) and an update on partnership work on Elective Home Education (at Nov 2021 Committee); and that the section of the report on learning from case reviews covers learning for ESCC from the national review into the death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes (at Dec 2021 presentation on ESCC work on domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls). 	Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership
17 November 2022		
Adult Social Care Workforce progress report	<p>A scoping board of a scrutiny review of Adult Social Care Workforce Challenges was held in March 2022. The board heard that challenges in recruitment, retention, development and future planning of the ASC workforce are not new or specific to East Sussex and had been compounded by COVID-19. The Board heard that in response, the Department are planning and delivering a wide range of interventions to address these challenges in ESCC's ASC workforce and in the independent sector, building on the learning and recommendations from the People Scrutiny Committee ASC Workforce Review undertaken in 2019.</p> <p>As it was too early to know what impact these interventions would have, the Board requested that the Department report back to the Committee with a progress report on the work and the impact it is having in nine months.</p>	Leigh Prudente, Assistant Director Operations and Samantha Williams, Assistant Director Strategy, Commissioning and Supply Management

Elective Home Education	The Committee has expressed an interest in undertaking a scrutiny review of Elective Home Education (EHE). This report will update the Committee on work the Department undertakes in this area and recent national developments impacting the response to EHE to support consideration of how and whether to progress with a scrutiny review.	Assistant Director, Education
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2023/24	The Committee will continue the process of examining the Departmental Portfolio Plans and budget for the 2022/23 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Committee Work Programme	<p>To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.</p> <p>This report is to include an update on school attendance data for the 2021/22 academic year and start of the 2022/23 academic year, to support work programming of the planned review of school attendance.</p>	<p>Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser</p> <p>Assistant Director, Education</p>

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN

The Leader of the County Council is required to publish a forward plan setting out matters which the Leader believes will be the subject of a key decision by the Cabinet, individual Cabinet member or officer in the period covered by the Plan (the subsequent four months). The Council's Constitution states that a key decision is one that involves

- (a) expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the County Council's budget, namely above £500,000 per annum; or
- (b) is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions.

As a matter of good practice, the Council's Forward Plan includes other items in addition to key decisions that are to be considered by the Cabinet/individual members. This additional information is provided to inform local residents of all matters to be considered, with the exception of issues which are dealt with under the urgency provisions. Only key decisions to be taken by officers are included.

For each decision included on the Plan the following information is provided:

- Page 53
- the name of the individual or body that is to make the decision and the date of the meeting or relevant time period for an officer decision
 - the title of the report and decision to be considered
 - groups that will be consulted prior to the decision being taken
 - a list of documents that will be considered when making the decision
 - the name and telephone number of the contact officer for each item.

The Plan is updated and published every month on the Council's website two weeks before the start of the period to be covered.

Meetings of the Cabinet/individual members are open to the public (with the exception of discussion regarding reports which contain exempt/confidential information). Copies of agenda and reports for meetings are available on the website in advance of meetings. Key decisions taken by officers will not be taken at a meeting – documents listed can be made available on request to the contact officer, with the exception of those which contain exempt/confidential information.

For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please contact Andy Cottell at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or telephone 01273 481955 or send an e-mail to andy.cottell@eastsussex.gov.uk. For further detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the Cabinet, individual Member or officer please contact the named contact officer for the item concerned.

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

For copies of reports or other documents please contact the officer listed on the Plan or phone 01273 335274.

FORWARD PLAN – EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (including Key Decisions) –1 March 2022 TO 30 June 2022

Additional notices in relation to Key Decisions and/or private decisions are available on the [Council's website](#).

Cabinet membership:

Councillor Keith Glazier - Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development
Councillor Nick Bennett – Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change
Councillor Rupert Simmons – Lead Member for Economy
Councillor Claire Dowling – Lead Member for Transport and Environment
Councillor Carl Maynard – Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Bob Bowdler – Lead Member for Children and Families
Councillor Bob Standley – Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

Date for Decision	Decision Taker	Decision/Key Issue	Decision to be taken wholly or partly in private (P) or Key Decision (KD)	Consultation	List of Documents to be submitted to decision maker	Contact Officer
1 Mar 2022	Cabinet	Council Monitoring: Quarter 3 2021/22 To consider the Council Monitoring report for the third quarter of the financial year 2021/22 as part of the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources process			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Beard <i>07894 708914</i>
1 Mar 2022	Cabinet	Conservators of Ashdown Forest – budget for 2022/23 Cabinet in asked to approve the Conservators of Ashdown Forest's core budget for 2022/23.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell <i>01273 481399</i>

March 2022	Chief Operating Officer	Award of contract for Microsoft Licencing Solution Partner (LSP) To approve the award of contract to the recommended supplier for the supply of Microsoft Enterprise Licencing.	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Matt Scott 07552 286752
7 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act ('RIPA') and Investigative Powers Act ('IPA') update The Leader is recommended to approve the amendments to the County Council's Policy in relation to the use of Covert Investigative Techniques ('the Policy') as set out in Appendix 1 to the Lead Member Report.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Philip Baker 01273 48156
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Formation of the South East Coast Path National Trail Partnership The Partnership will manage the Medway to Shoreham section of the England Coast Path, a new National Trail around the coast of England. As well as East Sussex, the Partnership will also involve Brighton & Hove City Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Kent County Council and Medway Council.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Andrew Le Gresley 0345 6080193
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition calling on the County Council to address cycling measures in Alexandra Park, Hastings The petition "calls upon East Sussex County Council to remove their support for a shared cycle/pedestrian pathway through the lower part of Alexandra Park, between Dordrecht Way and Bethune Way. Otherwise there will be inevitable conflict			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Tracey Vaks 01273 482123

		between pedestrians, children, dogs, buggies, cyclists, the elderly and the blind."				
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit on the A2100 London Road, Battle To consider the petition calling on the County Council to extend the 40mph speed limit beyond that being proposed for the new Lillybank development to a suitable location north of Canadia Road. The limit is being extended as part of a Section 106 Agreement for the Millwood Homes development (Lillybank Farm), and an extension north of Canadia Road will help protect vulnerable residents from the excessive speeding frequently endangering lives			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Helen Pain <i>0345 6080193</i>
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition - Review of speed limits on the A272 at North Chailey The petition states: Many residents living near the A272 North Chailey would like to see a review of the speed limits and safer crossing solutions. Sandwiched between a 30mph speed limit at the King's Head roundabout, the speed on Station Road jumps to 50mph, which many believe is too fast. Then when approaching Newick it becomes 40mph and then 30mph. Recently we have seen new housing developments and there is a need for an updated review of the speed limits.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Michael Higgs <i>01273 482106</i>
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for	East Sussex County Council Major Road	KD	Stakeholder and	Report, other	Jon Wheeler

Page 57	Transport and Environment	<p>Network A22 Outline Business Case Submission</p> <p>(1) Note the proposals for the A22 corridor in Hailsham and Stone Cross to support the delivery of housing and employment growth in the Eastbourne/South Wealden area;</p> <p>(2) Approve publication of the outcome of the stakeholder and public consultation held in summer 2021 on the proposals which will help shape the next design phase for these schemes;</p> <p>(3) Approve East Sussex County Council's submission of the outline business case seeking £29.2m of Major Road Network funding to be submitted to Government's Department for Transport at the end of March 2022.</p>		public consultation between June – September 2021. This included Local Members from Wealden District, East Sussex County Council and Eastbourne Borough Council.	documents may also be submitted	01273 482212
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Devonshire Road/Station Approach, Hastings, signalised junction improvements – outcomes of consultations.</p> <p>The report presents the outcomes of the stakeholder and public consultation exercises for the Devonshire Road/Station Approach signalised junction improvement proposals. The report seeks approval to proceed to detailed design and construction.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Deborah Parker</p> <p>01273 336685</p>
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Capital Programme for Transport Improvements 2022/23</p> <p>To seek Lead Member approval, following consultation with local members, of the list of transport schemes and associated expenditure</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Andrew Keer</p> <p>01273 336682</p>

		included in the programme for design and/or delivery in 2022/23				
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition - request to upgrade pedestrian crossing facilities in Old Town, Eastbourne To consider and respond to the petition presented by Councillor Ungar and received at Full Council on 7 December 2021 requesting the upgrade of the Church Street zebra crossing to a signalised crossing and the introduction of pedestrian crossing phases at the Summerdown Road/Church Street/Victoria Drive/East Dean Road signalised crossroads in the Old Town area of Eastbourne.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jon Wheeler 01273 482212
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Combe Valley Countryside Park Community Interest Company Following a recent review of its governing document, the Articles of Association, the CIC is consulting with each of the Local Authorities that are Members of the Company to seek agreement to reduce the number of local authority councillor representatives on the CIC Board from a maximum of 2 councillors each to a maximum of one councillor from each authority. The Local Authorities currently have 1 vote each on the Board and this will continue to be the case.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Virginia Pullan 01273 482639
14 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Eastbourne Levelling Up Fund – Grant Agreement with Eastbourne Borough Council To seek Lead Member approval for East	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Richard Lambert 07783 802411

		<p>Sussex County Council, as the delivery partner, to enter into a grant funding agreement with Eastbourne Borough Council in relation to the £4,742,687 of Levelling Up funding allocated to the Borough Council for the delivery of the Victoria Place pedestrianisation of Terminus Road between Grand Parade and Seaside Road</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport (CET), in consultation with the Section 151 Chief Finance Officer, to agree the terms of the grant funding agreement between Eastbourne Borough Council and ESCC.</p>				
22 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	<p>Learning Disability Supported Living developments</p> <p>To endorse and authorise ASC financial investment proposals to redevelop and transform existing Learning disability services from traditional residential care services, to high quality supported living services. This is with the aim of appropriately meeting the care and support needs of adults with a learning disability in East Sussex, in line with personalisation principles set out in national and local policy. The developments will also contribute towards increasing the range of settled accommodation options available in the county, a key national performance indicator for the Council.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Fraser Cooper 01424 726614
22 Mar 2022	Lead Member for	To issue updated Terms and Conditions for	KD		Report, other	Stephen Byrom

	Adult Social Care and Health	Providers of Residential and Nursing Homes for older people The Terms and Conditions for Residential and Nursing Home placements for older people have been updated. Following engagement with Providers, the documents have been finalised ready to be issued in April. Lead Member is requested to authorise the issuing of the documents.			documents may also be submitted	01273 481633
22 Mar 2022 Page 60	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Sexual Health Services recommissioning The decision being sought is to approve the proposed next steps for ensuring a Specialist Sexual Health Services contract is in place from October 2022. Services proposes that the current service contract is extended for a minimal length of time, to be negotiated with the service provider, to enable determination of the best re-procurement options available.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Tony Proom 01273 335252
22 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Direct Payments Support Service DPSS Provision To approve an allowable contract extension of 24 months to the current contract for Direct Payment Support Services. This will enable an Adult Social Care review of personalised care and self-directed support, development of the Personal Assistant market and the Support with Confidence accreditation scheme and to commission services in the future that actively shape the market to support quality, choice, market	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Mark Stainton 01273 481238

		resilience and enabling, person-centred care.				
31 Mar 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Write off of debt 2021/22	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Emma L Brown 01273 33747
14 Apr 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	The future of Uckfield and Heathfield Leisure Centres next steps To review options and agree next steps for the future of the Uckfield and Heathfield Leisure Centres, held freehold by the County Council following the end of the current Joint Use arrangements with Wealden District Council from 17 July 2022	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Brown 07394 410630
28 Apr 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	The future of Ringmer Swimming Pool - next steps To review options and agree next steps for the future of Ringmer Swimming Pool	P		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Brown 07394 410630
11 Apr 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Polegate High Street Movement and Access Improvements and 20mph scheme To consider responses for the stakeholder and public consultation exercises on the proposals to improve movement and access on Polegate High Street, including the introduction of a 20mph speed limit, To seek approval to progress the Polegate High Street scheme to detailed design and construction.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nicholas Mitchell 01273 336627
19 Apr 2022	Cabinet	External Audit Plan 2021/22	KD		Report, other	Ian Gutsell

					documents may also be submitted	01273 481399
19 Apr 2022	Cabinet	Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 2022/23	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Russell Banks 01273 481447
19 Apr 2022	Cabinet	NHS Health and Care Bill To update Cabinet on progress with the Sussex Integrated Care System (ICS), and seek Cabinet's agreement to the recommended arrangements for Council representation in accordance with the national proposals to put ICSs on a statutory footing in England by April 2022			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Mark Stainton 01273 481238
19 Apr 2022	Cabinet	Auditor's Annual (VFM) Report on East Sussex County Council 2020/21 Consideration of the Value For Money judgement of the External Auditors	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399
26 Apr 2022	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Proposed Specialist Facility at All Saints CE Primary School, Bexhill - final decision on proposal To seek Lead Member approval to establish a specialist facility at All Saints CE Primary School, Bexhill.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Gary Langford 01273 481758
28 Apr 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Ashdown Forest Parking Charges Ashdown Forest Conservators approved the introduction of car parking charges at their recent Board meeting. Under the Act they are now required to seek the approval of the			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Karl Taylor 01273 482207

		charges from ESCC, WDC, the AA and the RAC				
24 May 2022	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2022-2023 The Lead Member is recommended to approve the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement for the 2022-23 academic year following the required consultation.	<i>KD</i>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Crudge <i>0300 3309472</i>
25 May 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition to reduce the speed limit on the A22 from Cackle Street to Lampool roundabout To determine the response to the petition to reduce the speed limit to 40mph on the A22 between Cackle Street and Lampool roundabout			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Michael Higgs <i>01273 482106</i>
7 Jun 2022	Cabinet	Conservators of Ashdown Forest Budget 2021/22 To approve the draft Conservators of Ashdown Forest budget for the financial year 2021/22 and to consider the contribution from the Trust Fund.	<i>KD</i>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell <i>01273 481399</i>

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Report to:	People Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	24 March 2022
By:	Director of Adult Social Care
Title:	Developing Care Markets – Home care and Care Homes
Purpose:	To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the market position in relation Older Peoples and specialist bedded care and Home Care

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee is recommended to consider the current market position for the areas of social care provision covered in this report.

1. Background

1.1 This report provides an update on the position for Older Peoples and specialist bedded care and Home Care, following the previous Scrutiny report in September 2021.

1.2 The report focusses on the areas of social care provision with the highest volumes of activity and highest levels of spend, namely Home Care and residential/nursing care or 'bedded care' for older people and for adults with complex mental health and learning disabilities. The slides in Appendix 1 contain additional supporting information.

1.4 These services are all regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and East Sussex compares favourably to other areas in terms of the proportion of regulated services rated 'Good'.

1.5 Adult Social Care work very closely with independent care providers to arrange packages of care to meet individual needs. Choice and control for the client and service quality are key considerations which must be balanced against the availability of suitable provision at Local Authority rates.

2. Supporting information

2.1 Since the September 2021 update, the social care sector has continued to face significant challenges in relation to Covid19 and workforce shortages. Care homes have continued to manage outbreaks, resulting in the need to close to admissions; deal with significant staffing shortages and sometimes restrict visiting arrangements to meet the necessary infection, prevention and control requirements.

2.2 In January 2022 the number of monthly confirmed cases of Covid19 amongst staff and residents in East Sussex Care Homes was 1,346. This had increased from a position of 149 in October 2021. In February 2022 the figure was still relatively high at 771 confirmed cases amongst staff and residents.

2.3 The workforce pressures also continue to challenge all types of social care provision, nationally and locally. The latest figures published by Skills for Care show vacancy rates in the East Sussex Social Care sector increasing from 5.9% in March 2021 to 9.5% in January 2022. Locally there are a range of recruitment and retention initiatives in-train to support Local Authority and Independent Sector providers with this ongoing pressure. As previously reported, there were workforce pressures prior to Covid, but the pandemic and a range of other factors have compounded this issue.

2.4 On 7 September 2021, the government set out its new plan for adult social care reform in England. This includes a lifetime cap on the amount anyone in England will need to

spend on their personal care, alongside a more generous means-test for local authority financial support. Under the new plans, from October 2023:

- There will be an £86,000 cap on care costs across an individual's lifetime.
- Anyone with less than £20,000 of assets won't have to pay anything towards their care from their assets.
- People with between £20,000 and £100,000 of assets will be eligible for some means-tested financial support on a sliding scale. The current limit is £23,250. This means more people will be eligible for some state support than before.

2.5 The government also intends to tackle 'persistent unfairness' in the social care system by ensuring that self-funders are able to ask their local authority to arrange care on their behalf, so they can get a better deal. Currently, people who fund their own care usually pay higher fees than people who are funded by their local council.

2.6 The slides in Appendix 1 show the percentage of the local care market currently purchased by ESCC. Most of the care is purchased by people who fund their own care in East Sussex. The impact of the social care reform plans will therefore be significant for the Local Authority and work is underway to model and quantify this further. More specifically, Local Authorities are required to complete a Cost of Care review by September 2022. We will work with local providers to complete the review and work will commence on this in the coming weeks.

2.7 In recognition of the pressures facing all providers of adult social care in East Sussex and following negotiations with the East Sussex Registered Care Association, we will be allocating a 6% increase to Local Authority fee levels in 2022/23. For a second year in succession a one-off uplift payment has also been agreed. The 2022/23 fee uplift levels will therefore be brought forward by three months to 1 January 2022.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 The Adult Social Care Supply Management and brokerage teams have long and well-established relationships with providers of Home Care and bedded care in East Sussex.

3.2 The Adult Social Care Department will continue to work with the market to support recruitment and retention issues and develop new ways of working including the role that technology can potentially play in supporting peoples care needs.

3.3 Work on the cost of care review and wider social care reform has commenced.

3.4 The 6% fee uplift and one-off uplift payment brought forward to January 2022 has generally been welcomed by the local care sector.

3.5 The committee is recommended to consider the current market position for the areas of social care provision covered in this report.

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Developing Care Markets – update March 2022

Appendix 1

Strategic Overview

Update March 2022

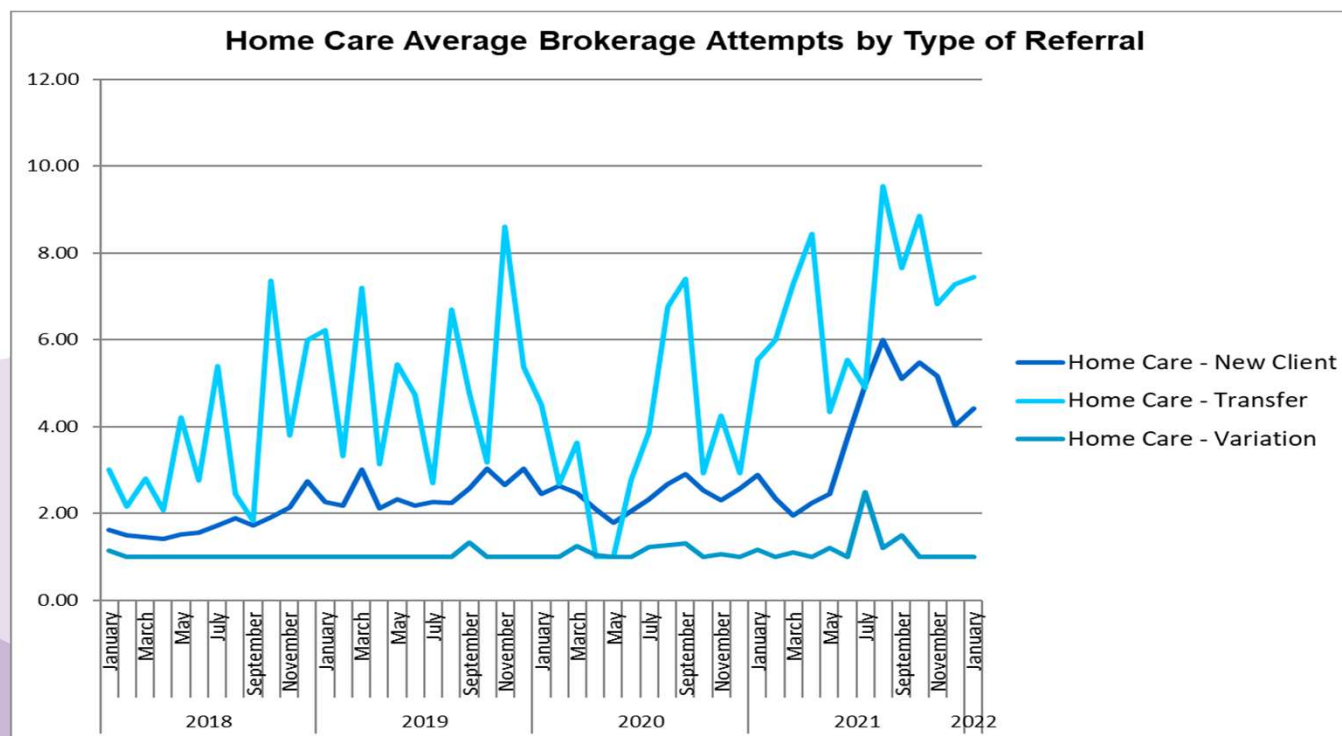
- Summary of Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulated care services
 - Older People's Homecare
 - Older People's Bedded Care
 - Specialist services supporting adult's with complex mental health and learning disabilities
- Current risks and service challenges

Homecare – latest position

- Demand for homecare increased during 2021 and it is believed this trend will continue
 - Average package of care is 12 hours per week – this is an increase of two hours per week on the pre-pandemic average
 - Average referrals per month has increased to 571, from a figure of 464 referrals per month on average in 2018
- Homecare staff availability is currently impacting on the ability of the homecare market to meet the demand levels
- At least three homecare providers are actively recruiting workers from overseas to complement the current workforce. 35 staff are already working, and this number is expected to increase.
- The homecare contracts are being re-tendered to begin January 2023. Key changes include, paying providers on a rostered basis, increasing the number of lead providers, and localities.
- Rates are set within the contract between ESCC and the provider – 6% uplift and backdated to January 2022
- We spend over £30m per year on homecare services and approximately 2192 clients receive homecare. ESCC currently contracts with 48 homecare providers.

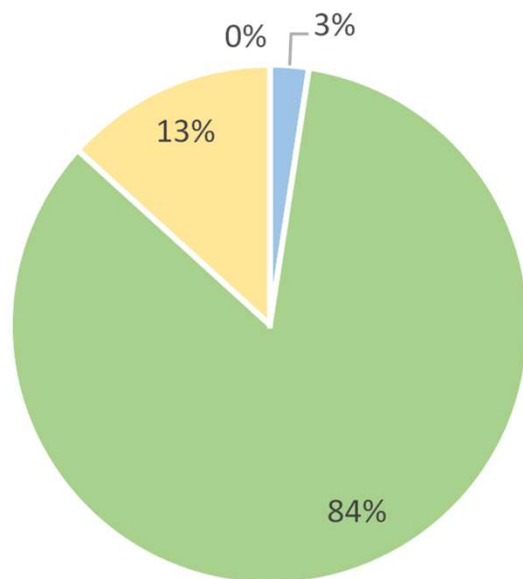
Sourcing homecare

- ESCC Brokerage staff are now having to contact many more providers before they are able to secure a homecare service.
- This number of providers increases if the person has to transfer from one provider to another.
- Critically, the number of providers contacted to consider a new package of care has increased due to market capacity.

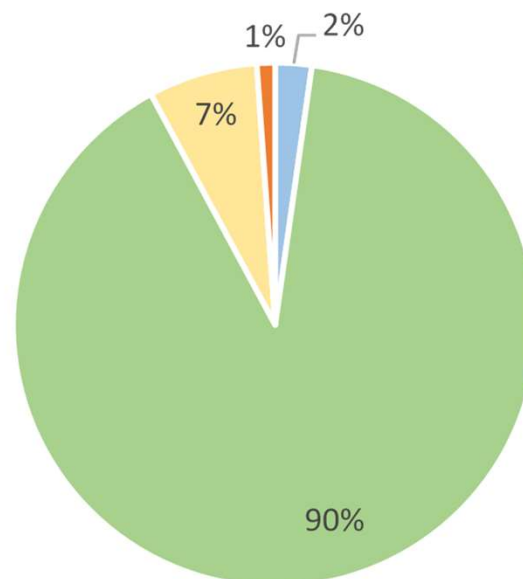


Quality in Domiciliary Care Registered Services

February 2020



February 2022



- There has been a significant improvement in the ratings of domiciliary care providers in East Sussex since 2020; 89.9% of these providers are now rated by CQC as 'Good', an increase of 5.6% since 2020.
- In East Sussex, the share of the market rated as requiring improvement has reduced by 6.5%.
- 18 providers in East Sussex had their rating reviewed by CQC between 2020 and 2022; of these four received an improved rating, 12 saw no change to their rating, and two services received a lesser rating.

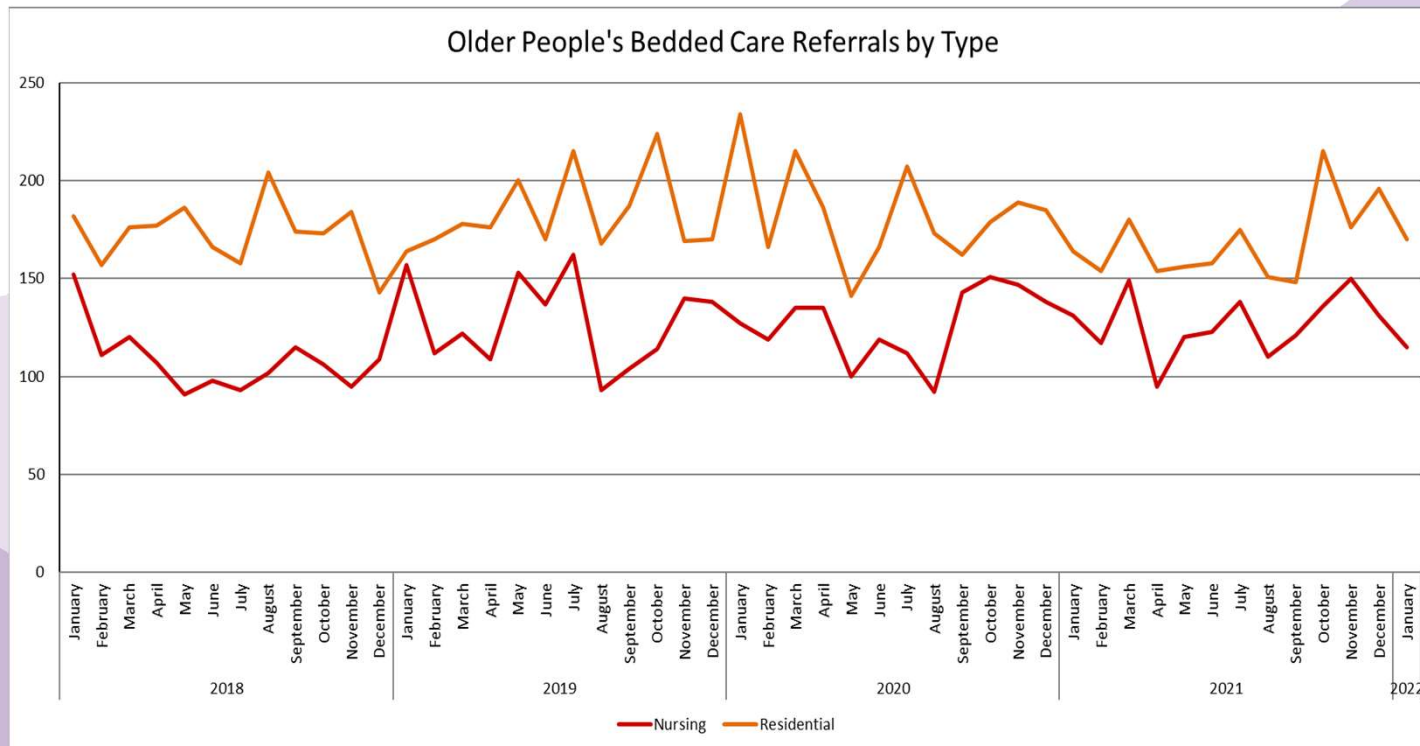
Older People Bedded Care – latest position

- The rate of referrals for residential care is now reaching pre-pandemic levels. Average demand levels for nursing increased over the same period.
- Proportion of referrals from hospital teams into bedded care brokerage has risen in the last three months and now makes up nearly 40% of the team's work.
- We continue to purchase using local authority set rates, that have been uplifted by 6% for 22/23, and backdated to January 2022.
- We are now spending over £66m per year with older people's bedded care services.
- There are approximately 1394 people currently funded by ESCC in older people's bedded care services in East Sussex, across 166 services, 122 provider organisations.

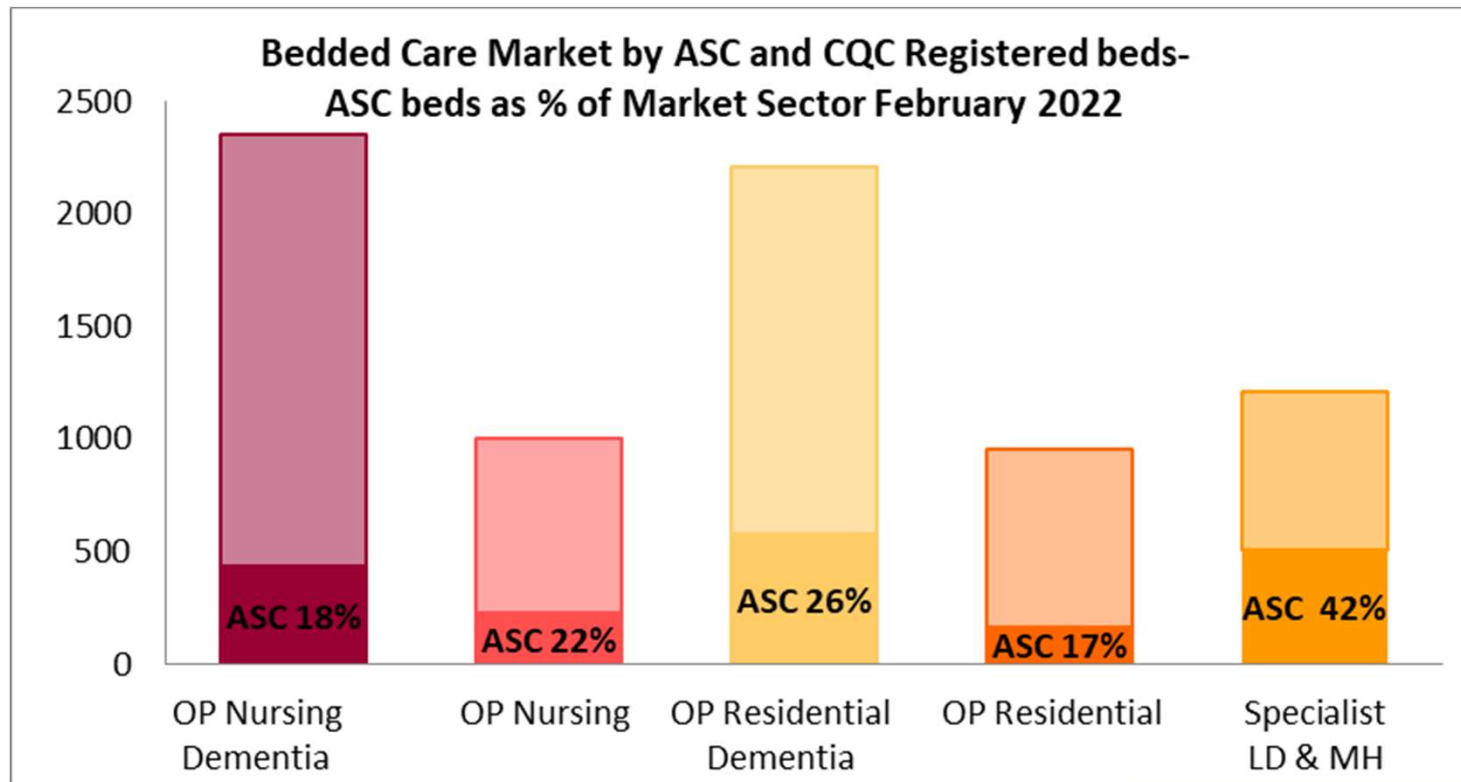
Sourcing Bedded Care

- Referrals for bedded care, particularly residential settings, dropped slightly during the pandemic to an average of 167 per month, and has now increased to 189, which matches the pre-pandemic demand levels.
- Over the last two years the bedded care market has reduced in size, and fewer homes are consistently open to admissions due to the continuing impact of covid in these settings, and staffing availability.
- Brokerage staff are having to approach more providers in certain locations and for clients with more complex needs, to secure an appropriate care home place at ESCC local authority rates.

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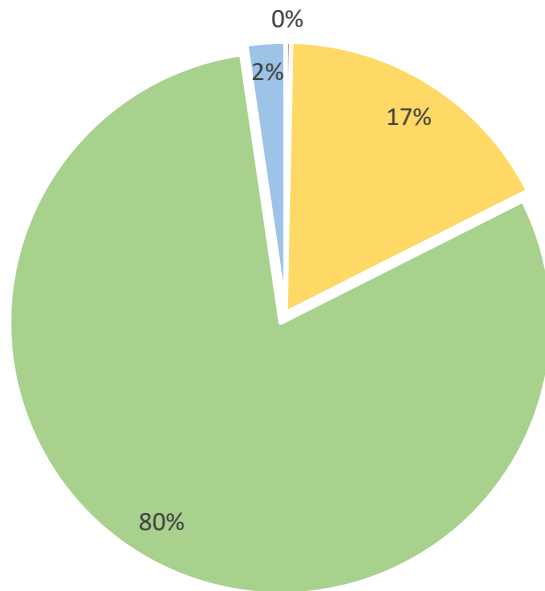
Bedded Care Market Share



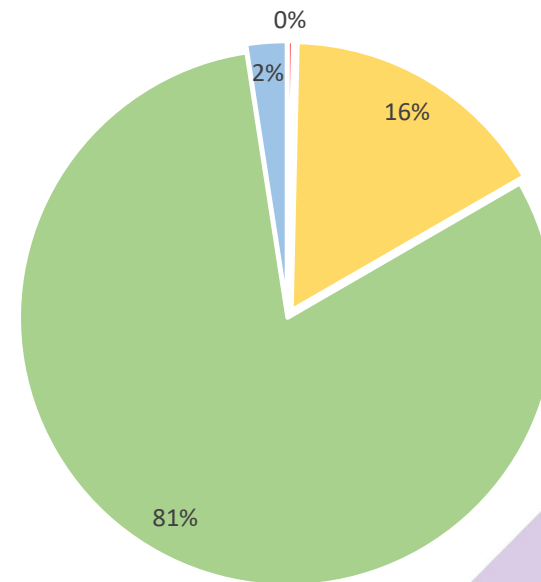
- The percentage of the market ESCC are currently purchasing in all sections of the Older Peoples Nursing and Residential sector has reduced by 1% since July 2021. The proportion of the specialist market purchased has increased by 1%.
- The remaining portions of the graphs represent beds occupied by people funding their own care, people funded by other authorities, and vacancies.
- The current vacancy levels in the market is estimated at 25% for older people's bedded care and 10% for specialist bedded care services.

Quality in Bedded Care Services (including Older People and Working Age)

February 2020



February 2022



■ Inadequate
■ Requires improvement
■ Good
■ Outstanding

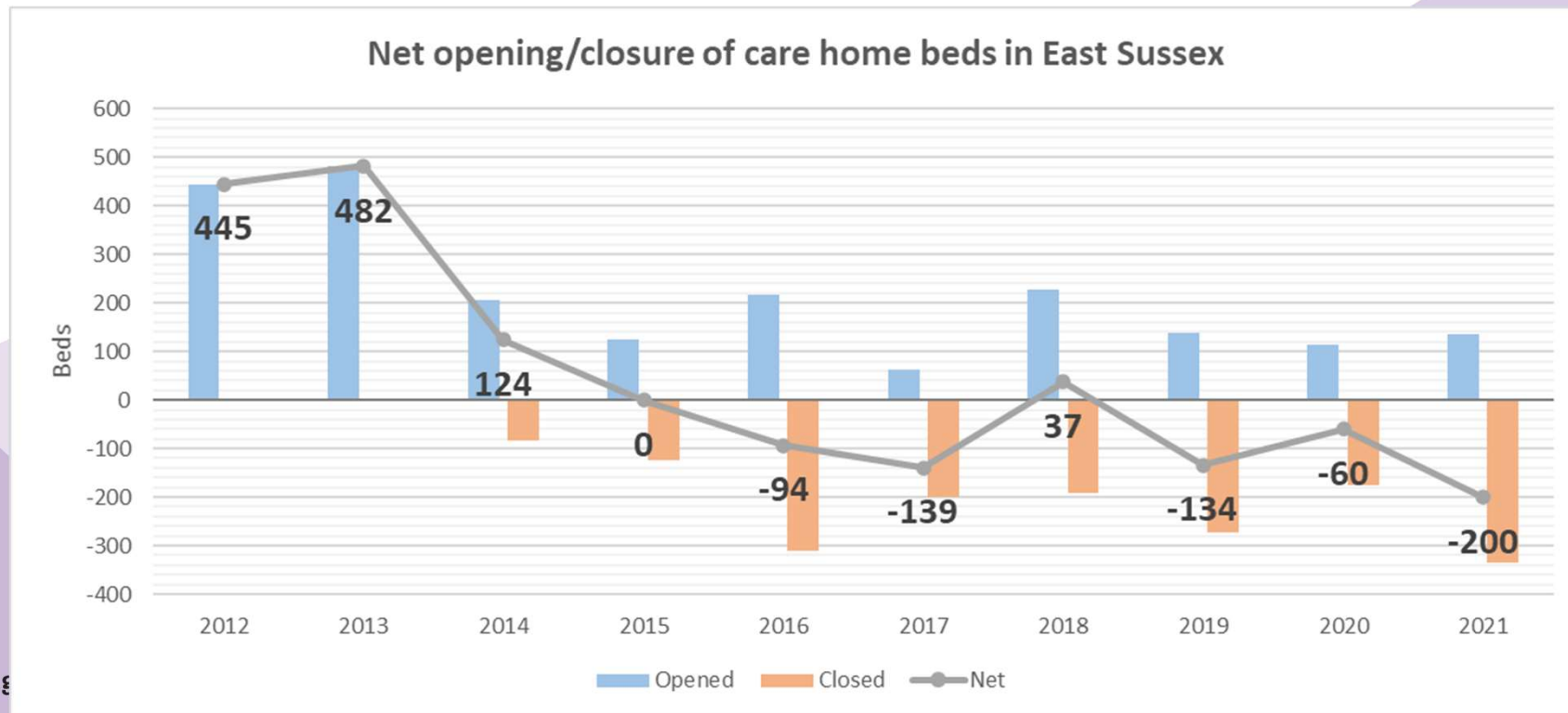
- There has been a general improvement in the CQC ratings for care homes in East Sussex over the last two years.
- One service has been rated Inadequate and we are working with the service to support improvements.

Specialist working age services

- Referrals increased towards the end of 2021 to approximately 170 open referrals, and have remained at a higher level (the pre-pandemic level was 140-150 referrals)
- Strategic direction is to increase supported living opportunities in East Sussex and reduce reliance on residential care
- Complexity of need continues to increase
 - Individuals in healthcare and hospital settings requiring accommodation and support on discharge.
 - Young people with complex needs
- Many of working age services are staff intensive to meet client need, and this a particular challenge for sourcing services in the environment of recruitment challenges, e.g. during Feb 2022, 11 services closed to new admissions due to covid and a further 12 closed to new admissions due to staffing availability
- 6% Uplift and backdated to January 2022
- We spend over £75m per year on specialist registered residential care and supported living, supporting over 1200 people.

Care Home openings and closures

- Net reduction of residential and nursing bed numbers across the county since 2011.
- Only one year saw a net increase in bed capacity (2018).
- There is a 7% loss overall in OP bedded care capacity since 2014 which potentially represents a 20% loss to the bed capacity the local authority funded clients may access.
- Some common characteristics of care homes that closed included, significant reductions in occupancy, smaller, independent providers, older buildings that could be developed, owners seeking retirement.



Risks/issues/challenges

- Workforce
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Building and retaining resilient and skilled workforce that feel valued
- Impact of business continuity
 - Acknowledging the impact of closures and transfers of homecare services on continuity of care for vulnerable people
 - Staffing agencies have been unable to provide sufficient temporary additional staff, on which the sector has always relied
- Funding reform
 - The impact of the reform requires ambitious market reshaping, which will be challenging to deliver in the short to medium term.
 - Cost of care review to be completed by September 2022 'to determine the sustainable rates and identify how close they are to it
 - It is as yet unclear whether the funding allocated for social care reform will be sufficient to fund the reforms
 - We may experience some destabilisation or further care home closures within the market as public funding may not be available to meet providers' expectations.

Thank you and questions

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