

# **North Somerset Council**

## **Report to the Children & Young People Policy and scrutiny Panel**

**Date of Meeting: October 20<sup>th</sup> 2022**

**Subject of Report: Children's Improvement Progress**

**Town or Parish: All**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Sheila Smith, Director of Children's Services**

**Key Decision: No**

**Reason: This report provides information on aspects of the Improvement Journey and no decisions are required.**

### **Recommendations**

That Members note the progress made in relation to two different service areas: the Front Door and our Care Leavers' Service.

### **Summary of Report**

This report provides updates on two separate service areas.

Firstly, there is information that was provided to Ofsted Inspectors at the start of their Focused Visit, looking at our Front Door which is the service that receives contacts and referrals (single- or multi-agency), where decisions are made about:

- child protection enquiries – such as strategy discussions or section 47 enquiries
- emergency action – liaison with police to use powers of protection or applications for an emergency protection order
- child in need assessments
- decisions to accommodate
- step-up from and step-down to early help
- no further action/signposting

The second update is on our Care Leavers' Service, and it was prepared for the recent visit of Mark Riddell, the DfE's national adviser on care leavers following his previous visit in Summer 2021.

## **1. Policy**

A council which empowers and cares about people

## **2. Details**

Please see the attached presentations which provide specific information for Members to scrutinise in relation to our progress in two specific areas, both of which have recently been examined by external bodies.

## **3. Consultation**

A wide range of staff were consulted on their contributions to the work outlined. Parents and carers as well as care experienced young people also contributed to messages given to both the Ofsted Inspectors and the DfE adviser.

## **4. Financial Implications**

We await the final report from Ofsted before determining if additional resources are required. The DfE adviser's visit has not identified any financial shortfalls in our Care Leavers' Service.

## **Costs**

None identified at present.

## **Funding**

See above.

## **5. Legal Powers and Implications**

N/A

## **6. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

The Front Door and Early Help services are provided from a range of venues which do consider the impact on the environment – there is a balance between providing opportunities locally to reduce families' travel distances but equally workers have to undertake home visits which are done on foot or by electric car when possible. The Care Leavers' Service provides a drop in so that young people can access it via public transport.

## **7. Risk Management**

N/A

## **8. Equality Implications**

N/A

## **9. Corporate Implications**

N/A

## **10. Options Considered**

N/A

## **Author:**

Sheila Smith  
Director of Children's Services

## **Appendices:**



(B)Presentation to  
Ofsted - Sept 2022 (1'

1. Presentation to Ofsted September 2022:



Mark Riddell Visit - 6  
September 2022 (003'

2. Mark Riddell Visit September 2022:

### **Background Papers:**

None