

PEOPLE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 JULY 2025

Present: Cllrs Beryl Ezzard (Chair), Louise Bown (Vice-Chair), Jindy Atwal, Alex Fuhrmann, Ryan Holloway, Stella Jones, Steve Murcer, Jon Orrell and Byron Quayle

Present remotely: Cllrs Mike Parkes

Also present: Cllr Shane Bartlett and Cllr Steve Robinson

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Paul Dempsey (Executive Director of People - Children), Paula Golding (Corporate Director for Care and Protection), Rachel Partridge (Acting Director of Public Health), Amy-Jane White (Quality Assurance and Programme Lead) and Louis Wicks (Democratic Services Officer Apprentice)

Officers present remotely (for all or part of the meeting):

Julia Ingram (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations)

10. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

11. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2025 were confirmed and signed.

13. Public Participation

There were no public questions.

14. Councillor Questions

There were no questions from councillors.

15. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

16. Families First for Children Pathfinder Update

The Executive Director for People – Children introduced the report. He outlined the council's involvement in the Families First pathfinder and that it was now supporting the national roll-out of the Family First delivery model for Children's Services. The Corporate Director for Care and Protection highlighted the key parts of the report and the changes that would need to be made by March 2026 to align with the national guidance.

The Committee discussed the report and asked questions of the officers. The following points were raised:

- There were no details of the funding allocations, although a national amount of money has been announced. The allocations were expected later in the year. It has been raised as a concern with the DfE.
- There was no indication on timing for the funding allocation. Last year the funding was allocated in late January.
- A member asked that the committee be updated when the funding allocations have been announced.
- Child protection conferences had changes made to them to make them more family friendly. Social workers chaired child protection conferences during a pilot; however, this was not favoured by families.
- The council had been given £190k to support the national roll-out of the Children's Services reforms.
- There would be options for contingencies in the Children's Services budget if there was not adequate funding. Cost efficiencies could be made through early intervention to reduce the number of high-cost placements.
- There are a new set of regulations for agency social workers. They will need to work in a Local Authority for 3 years before being able to join an agency.
- Families were finding it difficult to get the support they need with EHCP's. Officers advised they were reviewing support around EHCP's and they were also expecting a Government White Paper on their reform.
- Service levels and quality should remain the same if savings are made. Costs had been taken out of the placement budget due to early intervention.
- School nurses visit children on a child protection plan, which identifies new health needs.

The Committee would have an informal meeting to discuss contingency options in the children's services budget.

The Committee noted the report and supported maintaining the local Families First delivery model, alignment to national guidance, and the role as a Pathfinder Local Authority in supporting the Families First Pathfinder national programme.

17. **Committee's Work Programme and Cabinet's Forward Plan**

The Committee noted its work programme and the Cabinet Forward Plan.

Members were reminded that they could suggest items for the committee's work programme.

18. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 2.54 pm

Chairman

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