



Walsall Council

Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: **Monday 31st January 2022 at 6.00 p.m.**

Meeting at: Walsall Council House.

Public access to meeting via: <https://youtu.be/eFL4j1O8oS4>

MEMBERSHIP:

Chair: Councillor A. Hicken
Vice Chair: Councillor F. Mazhar
Councillor H. Bashir
Councillor G. Flint
Councillor A. Hussain
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor K. Murphy
Councillor A. Nawaz
Councillor A. Nazir
Councillor L. Rattigan
Councillor C. Statham

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor T. Wilson.

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Democratic Services, Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW
Contact: Nikki Gough ☎ 01922 654767 E-mail: nikki.gough@walsall.gov.uk

If you are disabled and require help to and from the meeting room please contact the person above.

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AGENDA

1.	Apologies To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.	
2.	Substitutions To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.	
3.	Declarations of interest and party whip To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.	
4.	Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda (if applicable).	
5.	Minutes of the previous meeting To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting that took place on 23 rd November 2021.	<u>Enclosed</u>
<u>Scrutiny</u>		
6.	Childrens and Adults Transition To consider the arrangements for transition from Children's to adults services.	<u>To Follow</u>
7.	Youth Justice Peer Review To receive the findings from the Youth Justice Peer review.	<u>Enclosed</u>
8.	Areas of Focus To review the Committees Work Programme and the Forward Plans for Walsall Council and the Black Country Executive Committee.	<u>Enclosed</u>
<u>Overview</u>		
9.	Date of next meeting To note that the date of the next meeting will be 8 th March 2022.	

The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

Access to information: Exempt information

Part 1

Descriptions of exempt information: England

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
 - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
 - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
 - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
 - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALSALL COUNCIL HOUSE

TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Councillor A. Hicken (Chair)
Councillor F. Mazhar
Councillor H. Bashir
Councillor G. Flint
Councillor A. Hussain
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor K. Murphy
Councillor A. Nawaz
Councillor A. Nazir
Councillor L. Rattigan
Councillor C. Statham

Portfolio Holder

Councillor T. Wilson

Officers

Colleen Male Director - Children's Social Work
Andrea Potts Director - Early Help and Partnerships
Tanya Collier – Lead Accountant
Helena Kucharczyk – Head of Performance Improvement and Quality
Zoe Morgan – Head of Support and Protection
Phil Rutherford – Strategic Lead for Youth Justice Services
Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officer

16/21 **Apologies**

There were no apologies received for the duration of this meeting.

17/21 **Substitutions**

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

18/21 **Declarations of Interest and party whip**

There were no declarations of interest for the duration of the meeting

19/21 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

20/21 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th October 2021 were considered by the Committee.

Resolved

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th October 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

21/21 **Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26**

The Director stated that the draft revenue budget, as reported to Cabinet on 20 October 2021, included the latest medium term financial outlook for the four year period from 2022/23 to 2025/26. It also outlined the draft revenue budget for 2022/23 to 2025/26 (this included savings proposals for consultation), draft capital programme for 2022/23 to 2025/26, and set out the process and timescale for setting a legally balanced budget for 2022/23. It was noted that this report provided an extract which related to the remit of the Committee, and feedback from Members on this report would be provided to Cabinet in December.

Members were informed that appendix 1 and 2 detailed the level of savings for 2022/23. Within this the Director confirmed that the proposal 'P1', would be delivered in 2022/23.

The areas outlined in appendix one had already been considered by the Committee previously. From a Childrens social care perspective, all areas proposed were green. However it was noted that 'Ref 45' Grandparents plus was amber due to delays within the court and CAFCASS system. The Committee were assured that these delays were in the process of being resolved.

Officers described proposals for 2023/24 and it was noted that the proposal relating to Early Help, and the savings would equated to 30 redundancies and a third of the budget. The Committee were informed that a change to statutory nature and requirements of Local Authorities in the delivery of early help. Due to this uncertainty the saving had been delayed to 2023/24, work was underway to mitigate the impact of this saving and work with partners to strengthen the early help platform.

A Member questioned 'OP11' and the impact of recruitment and retention of foster carers. Officers confirmed that this saving aimed to avoid foster care disruption, through the provision of a foster care support team. Savings would be achieved by the avoidance of the use of residential care (prevention of placement breakdown).

In response to a query from a Member, Officers confirmed that the Daisy project was a 12 month pilot which worked with parents at risk of multiple children removed from the family. The aim of the project was to break cycles and the need for children to be removed from families, where this could not be achieved a plan for an unborn child could be made early on in the process to avoid costly foster placements. The Portfolio Holder stated that savings were as a result of investments which created efficiencies and produced better outcomes.

A Member questioned 'OP9' turning point, and asked for further information on investment. The aim of this project was to prevent older children coming into care and residential homes, this was achieved through an intensive work with children and families. The proposal relating to 'troubled families' created £1m funding from government, due to uncertainty with this funding this was included as a contingency within the budget.

A Member asked for further information on how savings were identified in relation to 'Grandparents Plus'. Officers confirmed that identification of children would could be transferred from LAC to special guardianship. There was potential for further growth in these areas, however there were external factors which affected this proposal.

Resolved (Unanimous)

That the Committee considered and noted the draft revenue budget proposals attached that related to the remit of this committee as shown in Appendices 1 and 2, and that feedback would be presented to Cabinet on 15 December 2021.

22/21

Corporate financial performance – quarter 2 financial monitoring position for 2021/22

The Lead Accountant presented the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). Members were informed that the report provided the

budget monitoring position for Period 5 2021/22. For services under the remit of this committee the forecast revenue position was net nil as at Period 5, after net use of reserves of £3.65m (the reasons for the use of reserves was provided at table 1). Further detail on the use of reserves was provided, and revenue risks – as detailed in table 4 of the report. The total capital programme budget for the services under the remit of the committee is £269k and this was expected to be fully spent.

Resolved:

To note the revenue and capital forecast for the financial year end 2021/22 for the services under the remit of the committee.

23/21

Children’s Services Performance and Benchmarking for children in need

The Head of Performance Improvement and Quality presented the report (annexed) and highlighted the salient points. The report presented the performance and benchmarking data in relation to children in need, including child protection for 2020-21, compared to national, regional and statistical neighbours.

Officers described high levels of deprivation in the Borough, with Walsall being the 19th most deprived Local Authority in country in relation to deprivation affecting children. Despite this, children in need and subject to a plan, were reducing, most recently dropping 9%.

Through pandemic there was not a dip in referrals received, the service generally continued to receive referrals despite the pandemic. Audits were carried out and the outcomes of these indicated that decision making in MASH was accurate. The Authorities performance was weaker than statistic neighbours for ‘repeat referrals’, and children who were referred tended to be more complex – work being done was helping to reduce this. It was noted that there were a higher number of referrals for domestic violence in comparison to statistical neighbours, although this had started to reduce. Further analysis was being carried out to understand this further.

A Member clarified that contacts to children’s social care had not dipped during lockdown and questioned where referrals were received from. Officers confirmed that this was the case and during the pandemic the police made the most referrals. A Member asked for further details on work done with Partners to ensure that referrals were appropriate. Officers stated that work was done with schools – in particular designated safeguarding leads. The Director stated that, as a pilot local authority, schools would receive supervision from a social worker to support them in managing referrals, this work would then be evaluated. It was noted that the Authority had a good relationship with schools. A

Member asked for clarification in relation to the timeliness of referrals, Officers confirmed that MASH considered referrals within 48 hours, although decisions were often made within 24 hours. Officers also confirmed that Partner response was good and timely.

Clarification was sought in relation to return home interviews, and Officers stated that every child was offered a return home interview however not all accepted it.

Resolved

That the Children's Services Performance and Benchmarking report be noted.

24/21

Children's Services Performance and Benchmarking – deprivation analysis

The Head of Performance Improvement and Quality presented the report (annexed) and highlighted the salient points. The report presented the performance and benchmarking data in relation to deprivation analysis. This analysis outlined levels of deprivation by the four locality areas across Walsall. The demographic make-up of different areas had been combined with deprivation data to provide an overview of deprivation and need across the borough.

Officers provided a description of the characteristics of each locality with central and western areas typically much more deprived than eastern areas, although pockets of deprivation existed even in the more affluent parts of the borough. The 2019, Index of Multiple Deprivation ranked Walsall as the 25th most deprived English local authority (out of 317), placing Walsall within the most deprived 10% of districts in the country.

A Member questioned if health outcomes indicated similar trends across the borough, and the impact of deprivation on infant mortality. It was suggested that this would fall within the Public Health remit and acknowledged that deprivation impacted all services within the Authority.

A Member questioned if money was being spent in the areas that needed it the most. Officers responded to state that budgets were based on locality models and allocation of staff and resource/capacity was allocated to ensure they were in the areas that needed it the most. It was stressed that Children's Services were focused on improving deprivation and improving outcomes for children, however this needed to be addressed through a whole system approach. The Portfolio Holder stated that budgets were not allocated to specific areas but to those children who needed it. A Member stated that children growing up in the East and North of the Borough would have different outcomes and challenged what was being done to improve this and ensure that children had the same opportunities. Officers and the Portfolio Holder responded to state that deprivation was a Council wide and a Partner responsibility, and stressed that resources followed demand.

Officers were asked for further clarity on locality differences in relation to

children subject of child protection plans. Officers stated that the differences were often due to larger sibling groups.

Resolved

That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the analysis on the impact of deprivation on children's needs and the impact that deprivation can have on the needs of children and demand within children's services.

25/21

Overview of Missing Children Performance and Data

The Head of Performance Improvement and Quality presented the report (annexed) and highlighted the salient points. The report presented the performance and benchmarking data in relation to overview of missing children performance and data. This had been taken to the Committee as a result of the indicator within the 'measure of success' flagging as red. It was noted that when the target had been re-evaluated it was identified that it had been set using data during the lockdown period, during this time the number of children missing was significantly reduced.

Members were informed that each child reported as missing was offered a return home interview, and this information was considered at a multi-agency triage meeting.

Resolved

That the Overview of Missing children performance and data report was noted

26/21

Safeguarding children with disabilities

The Head of Support and Protection presented the report (annexed) and highlighted the salient points. The report presented the performance and benchmarking data in relation to safeguarding children with disabilities. The Team currently supported 149 children and their families, 125 children were supported under section 17 (those with a child in need plan), 22 children were in the care of the local authority and 2 of these were on child protection plans. Referrals were received for all children aged 0 -18 with a diagnosed disability requiring significant support. The Team worked closely with Partners, and was co-located at the Goscote hub. A review of the service had been completed as part of a themed audit, and from that work streams had followed this, this included transition to adult services. Feedback from the themed audit was described, and many positive points were raised.

A Member questioned why the cut off point for the service was 18 years for this cohort of children, the Head of Support and Protection stated that this was why the transition support was important, and work was ongoing to ensure that this was commenced early. Further challenge was provided around transition, and if this was cross border.

A discussion was held around support for parents, and officers confirmed that support provided was a whole family approach – in particular for siblings. Feedback indicated that families felt supported. In addition the team worked closely with schools, and partnership working was good.

The Committee discussed staffing challenges within the team, and Members questioned if this had impacted children and families. Officers confirmed that the service continued to be provided, and during the pandemic work had been carried out differently to meet their needs.

Resolved

That the Safeguarding children with disabilities be noted.

27/21

Youth Justice – First Time Entrants

The Strategic Lead for Youth Justice introduced the report and highlighted the salient points (annexed). Context to the service was provided, alongside a description of key performance indicators. The focus on the report was in response to the performance indicator 'Reducing the number of young people entering the justice system for the first time'. Data was for the period April 2020 – March 2021, and this covered lockdown periods. A first time entrant was a young person between the age of 10 and 17 years old that received their first substantive outcome (receive a caution or conviction). Since 2014, the latest published data (2020) indicated a 50% reduction in Walsall in the number of first time entrants. The spike in 2019 was understood, and the service was back on track in 2020.

Members were assured that since May 2021 there had been a steady reduction in numbers entering the system, and performance had stabilised. It was important that the correct benchmark target was identified to demonstrate adequate performance for this indicator.

The work, alongside Partners, that was ongoing to reduce the number of first time entrants was described. Partnership working had improved and this would assist with the performance of this indicator.

A Member questioned how much gang related crime featured in Walsall, and the Committee were informed that there was activity to tackle criminal exploitation. The Youth Justice Team were part of the exploitation hub, the offer for young people at risk of this was strong.

In response to a query, Officers described the relationship with schools as good, and often a significant number of referrals were provided by schools for young people at risk of committing criminal activity. The criteria for these referrals was robustly monitored, and data was reviewed regularly. Further to this, the importance of the 'Think Family' approach was detailed, and the complex needs within families for children at risk of offending.

Resolved

That the Youth Justice – First Time Entrants report was noted.

28/21

Areas of Focus

The Clerk described amendments made to the draft work programme.

Resolved

The areas of focus and forward plans were noted.

The date of the next meeting was 31 January 2021, 6pm.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 8 p.m.

Signed

Date

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Agenda
Item No.**

Date: 31st January 2022

7

Title of the Report: Youth Justice HMIP Assurance Project

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Cllr T Wilson - Children's Services Social Care

1. Aim and purpose

- 1.1 The aim of the YJS review is to provide the Walsall YJS Performance and Partnership Board with assurance that the response to key inspection findings (HMIP Inspection 2019) have been robust and that the changes made as a result (for example to ways of working and practice) have been sustained so that the Board can confidently sign off on the issues raised by HMIP.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide scrutiny with an overview of the findings of a review of progress against Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) recommendations for Walsall Youth Justice Service (YJS), commissioned by the Youth Justice Partnership.

2. Recommendations

1. To note the findings and assurance provided by the review
2. To support the future priorities and areas for development identified

3. Report detail: know

Context and scope

- 3.1 In 2019, an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) of Walsall Youth Justice Service (YJS), and the partnership responsible for it, resulted in a judgement of 'Requires Improvement'.
- 3.2 Since then, and against the challenging backdrop and disruption of Covid-19, a programme of improvement activity has taken place to address the recommendations made by the Inspectorate.
- 3.3 In 2021, the partnership commissioned an independent specialist Youth Justice practitioner, experienced in undertaking peer reviews, to carry out a review of improvement activity, progress made, and critical areas of development to be addressed before the next round of inspection. In keeping with the peer review ethos, the review was evidence based upon desktop analysis and review of key documentation. In order to test and validate the written evidence, a programme of meetings and focus groups took place involving service managers, YJS

practitioners and partnership staff and additional triangulation of evidence was provided through an analysis of a small number of case records in person at Walsall Civic Centre.

- 3.4 The review aimed to provide the YJS Board with assurance that the response to the inspection findings had been robust and that the changes made as a result have been sustained so that the Board can confidently sign off on the issues raised by HMIP. The Partnership Board agreed the scope to focus on four specific aspects of the service where key recommendations had been made in the inspection report, specifically those relating to:
- Out of Court Disposals (OOCd)
 - Management of risk of harm
 - The offer to victims and restorative activity
 - Use of performance information and Board engagement
- 3.5 Interim findings, summarised below, were presented to the YJS Performance and Partnership Board in November 2021 and will form the basis of a Board strategic planning event in January 2022.

Summary of Findings: Out of Court Disposals (OOCd)

- 3.6 In summary, the key findings of the 2019 HMIP Inspection included a lack of joint decision making, assessments were not always completed prior to decisions on outcomes and gaps in representation at the panel from children's social care.
- 3.7 The 2021 review concluded all issues raised by HMIP in relation to OOCd have been successfully addressed and practice adjusted, ensuring a more robust and sustainable approach to OOCd. Minor adjustments are required to reflect updated inspection standards and the partnership board should continue to monitor the operation of the OOCd process to ensure it remains a joint process. The next round of strategic planning is an opportunity to build on the progress made to date.
- 3.8 The review identified particular areas of strength including clear guidance documentation articulating the use of an approved assessment prior to decision, an effective and well attended partnership panel including the recent inclusion of Early Help, capacity and capability of the workforce has improved.
- 3.9 Specific areas for development to be incorporated in future plans were a review of the YJS strategy document to incorporate new inspection criteria which would include a review of the assessment tool used for young people subject to OOCds.

Summary of findings: Management of Risk of Harm

- 3.10 In summary, the key findings of the 2019 HMIP inspection included that risk of harm to others was not identified, assessed, planned for or responded to well enough.
- 3.11 The 2021 review concluded that the main issues relating to practice highlighted by HMIP have been successfully addressed through training and ongoing quality assurance arrangements. Partnership commitment to working with high-risk cases requires refreshing to take into account the range of structures in place to manage multi-agency engagement with this group of children
- 3.12 The review identified particular strengths including significant improvements in assessment of risk. Clearer guidance on analysis and recording has been

implemented across the service through training and the YJS risk panel was maintained through the pandemic with expert chairing. There was good evidence of oversight of the improvements to management of risk by the Partnership Board.

- 3.13 Specific areas for development to be incorporated in future plans were that although the evidence indicates that although the High Risk Panel is valued, is well led and seen as an effective vehicle for multi-agency management of high-risk cases, the current system is not sustainable due to the level of demand and therefore the risk procedures need a review. There is also scope to develop young person plans to improve the use of external controls to keep others safe.

Summary of findings: Victims and restorative practice

- 3.14 In summary, the key findings of the 2019 HMIP inspection included that the service had lost focus on public protection issues and the lack of a lead worker for victim issues has resulted in an inconsistent service and lack of priority.
- 3.15 The 2021 review concluded arrangements put in place following HMIP findings, had not delivered the improvements required for victims of youth crime but endorsed the very recent change of approach involving the creation of a dedicated Victim Officer post within the YJS, approved by the Board in November 2021.
- 3.16 The review identified particular strengths including that the service managers responded quickly after the HMIP report was published and implement a new Victim Model which addressed issues identified by HMIP. In addition, the reviewer found that the YJS Board maintained strategic oversight of the model through regular reports and audits and should be commended for its efforts to improve services for victims.
- 3.17 Despite swift actions to respond to the HMIP findings, it has become clear that the arrangements put in place have not delivered the improvements required. The service deserves credit for keeping this topic under close review and taking steps to try to resolve issues before finally agreeing that a change of approach is needed. In November 2021, the YJS Board agreed to create a dedicated Victim post within the YJS to ensure compliance with HMIP and the Youth Justice Board requirements.

Summary of findings: Use of performance information and YJS Board engagement

- 3.18 In summary, the key findings of the 2019 HMIP Inspection included that the YJS Board did not have sufficient information about practice or the evidence base that supports effective work.
- 3.19 The 2021 review concluded the Board has responded decisively to many of the areas identified in inspection and reached a stage where it can press ahead with its positive agenda by making best use of the strategic position it holds; strengthening links with wider strategies, identifying opportunities to collaborate and seek cross cutting solutions, including mobilising resources where possible.
- 3.20 The review identified particular strengths including that the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for is well written and provides a good framework for youth justice activity. Of particular note is the work carried out to analyse and respond to disproportionality. The reviewer concluded that the diagnostic activity initially undertaken during 2020

has the potential to influence policy and practice and should help to shape the next strategic plan. The concern about insufficient information being provided to the Board has been largely resolved.

- 3.21 Specific areas for development to be incorporated in future plans were that there is further work to do to ensure that the totality of crime diversion work is visible to the Board. The reviewer also suggested that the YJS Board may wish to review if it has the full range of services needed to respond to the complex needs of the cohort of children.

4. *Financial information*

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. *Reducing Inequalities*

The provision of Youth Justice Services to young people aims to support those at risk of harm and who need safeguarding. This includes young people from protected characteristics of gender, disability, race and religion. We are aware that there is overrepresentation of black and mixed heritage young people within the justice system in Walsall at this time and our wider plans will seek to improve outcomes for this group and others.

6. *Decide*

The Youth Justice Performance and Partnership Board is due to meet in February 2022 to fully consider the findings of the 2021 assurance review and will utilise the information to determine our priorities for the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

7. *Respond*

Cabinet will consider the Youth Justice Strategic Plan in May 2022 and refer to full Council for approval. It is a statutory requirement in the Youth Justice Effective Practice Grant to submit the approved plan to the Youth Justice Board in June 2022.

8. *Review*

- 8.1 Progress against the priorities and the delivery plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the YJS Performance and Partnership Board.
- 8.2 Progress against the priorities set out in the Youth Justice Strategic Plan, together with a review of achievements will be completed in the planning schedule for 2023.

Background papers

'An Inspection of Youth Offending Services in Walsall' HMIP report published 27th June 2019

Author

Phil Rutherford
Strategic Lead – Youth Justice Services

☎ 650400

✉ Philip.rutherford@walsall.gov.uk

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22

Committee date	2nd Sept	12 th October	23 rd November	31st January	8 th March	13 th April
Report Deadline	24 th August	4 th October	15 th November	21 st January	28 th February	5 th April
Safeguarding young people with disabilities			ZM/HK			
Family Safeguarding		<i>If CAMHS not available</i>				
CAMHS						
Effectiveness of partnership working (strategic level)					IV	
Understanding the impact of deprivation			HK			
Children's services Performance			HK			
Transition into adult services				ZM/KJ		
Holiday Activity Fund – impact		IV				
Child Exploitation						ZM/Partners
Youth Justice peer review				PR		
Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report						
Finance			Q2 Finance report Budget			

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)

Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement - Deed of Variation

Key Decision to be considered:

Approval of the proposed amendments, as highlighted, to the Collaboration Agreement covering the removal of the Advisory Board and revised Black Country Executive Joint Committee governance, and Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones, included as Appendix 1 to this report.

Date first entered into the plan:

02 August 2021

Contact Officer:

Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk

Main consultees:

Walsall Council

Date Item to be considered:

09 February 2022

Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme changes

Project Name - Hatherton Street Phase 2

Key Decision to be considered:

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Jessups Brothers Ltd, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hatherton Street Phase 2 project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.

Note that change request relates to a change in match funding and outputs.

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)

Date first entered into the plan:

01 November 2021

Contact Officer:

Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk

Main consultees:

Walsall Council

Date Item to be considered:

30 March 2022

Project Name – i9 Wolverhampton

Key Decision to be considered:

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Ion Projects Limited, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the i9 Wolverhampton project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year. Note that change request relates to a change in outputs.

Date first entered into the plan:

01 November 2021

Contact Officer:

Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk

Main consultees:

Walsall Council

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)

Date Item to be considered:

30 March 2022

Project Name – Dudley Advanced Construction Centre

Key Decision to be considered:

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley College, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Advanced Construction Centre project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.

Note that change request relates to a change in outputs.

Date first entered into the plan:

06 April 2021

Contact Officer:

Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk

Main consultees:

Walsall Council

Date Item to be considered:

30 March 2022

Project Name - Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills

Key Decision to be considered:

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.

Note that change request relates to a change in outputs

Date first entered into the plan:

06 September 2021

Contact Officer:

Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk

Main consultees:

Walsall Council

Date Item to be considered:

30 March 2022

Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) Programme changes

Project Name - Sandwell Housing Gap Funding

Key Decision to be considered:

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council, to deliver the Land & Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.

Date first entered into the plan:

10 January 2022

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)

Contact Officer:

Tony McGovern Tony.McGovern@sandwell.gov.uk

Main consultees:

Sandwell Council

Date Item to be considered:

30 March 2022

Project Name – Globe House, Walsall

Key Decision to be considered:

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Globe Property Limited, to deliver the Land & Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Globe House project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.

Date first entered into the plan:

06 December 2021

Contact Officer:

Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk

Main consultees:

Walsall Council

Date Item to be considered:

30 March 2021



Walsall Council

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Council House,
Lichfield Street,
Walsall, WS1 1TW**
www.walsall.gov.uk

10 January 2022

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive (Cabinet). Also included on the plan are other decisions to be taken by the Cabinet (“non-key decisions”). Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. Copies of the plan can be obtained from Democratic Services, Walsall MBC, Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at www.walsall.gov.uk. The Cabinet is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan, however, a notice will be included on the agenda for the relevant Cabinet meeting which explains the reasons why.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change. Please contact the above addressee if you wish to check the date for a particular item.

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet on the Council’s website. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Cabinet and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they are confidential. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer. These details can also be found in the forward plan.

Meetings of the Cabinet are open to the public. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are confidential and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting. The forward plan will show where this is intended and the reason why the reports are confidential. Enquiries regarding these reasons should be directed to Democratic Services (helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk).

“Key decisions” are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. With regard to key decisions the Council’s Constitution states:

- (1) A key decision is:
 - (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates or
 - (ii) any decision that is likely to have significant impact on two or more wards within the borough.
- (2) The threshold for “significant” expenditure/savings is £500,000.
- (3) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

[Page 25 of 31](#)

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
FEBRUARY 2022 TO MAY 2022 (10.1.22)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
61/21 (6.9.21)	Corporate Financial Performance 2021/22 and Covid-19 update – To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2021 and impact of Covid-19.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	9 February 2022
85/21 (1.11.21)	Corporate Plan 2022-25: To agree the 2022-25 Corporate Plan which outlines the council's future priorities and objectives and recommend Council to approve.	Cabinet Non-key decision Council	Stephen Gunther Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	Cabinet 9 February 2022 Council 24 February 2022
62/21 (6.9.21)	Corporate Budget Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25, incorporating the Capital Strategy; and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2022/23: To recommend the final budget and Council tax for approval by Council	Cabinet Key decision Council	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations	Councillor Bird	Cabinet 9 February 2022 Council 24 February 2022
37/21 (7.6.21)	Sale of Council land in Blakenall: To seek approval to the freehold disposal of Council land in Blakenall <i>Contains commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private	Nick Ford, Team Leader – Asset Management Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022

14/21 (8.3.21)	<p>Willenhall Framework Plan: To support the Framework Plan to guide a 10 year vision for housing growth and place making in Willenhall; and to approve actions to support its delivery including the use of compulsory purchase powers in-principle and budget to fund site acquisitions.</p> <p><i>Report in two parts. Private report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person</i></p>	Cabinet Key decision Private Session	Willenhall Masterplan: Strategic Land Acquisitions. Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022
86/21 (1.11.21)	<p>Award of new contract(s) for Disabled Facility building works and other Housing related Works and Services: To approve the award of new contracts for the period 1 march 2022 to 22 February 2027</p> <p><i>Report in two parts. Private report contains commercially sensitive information</i></p>	Cabinet Key decision Private session	David Lockwood David.lockwood@walsall.gov.uk Bill Weston William.weston@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022
89/21 6.12.21	<p>Contractor Procurement Strategy for Connected Gateway Project: to approve a procurement strategy for the project which is a £36m project, part funded by Government's Future High Street Fund, which aims to better connect Walsall rail and bus stations, providing improvements to the Saddlers Centre and transformed public spaces.</p>	Cabinet Key decision	Peter Wright Interim Town Projects Manager. Peter.wright@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022

1/22 (10.1.22)	Black Country Collaborative Framework Contract for Minor Works 2021-2024/25: To recommend that Walsall Council formally join the Black Country Collaborative Framework Contract for Minor Works 2021-2024/25	Cabinet Key decision	Kathryn Moreton Kathryn.moreton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022
67/21 (4.10.21)	Green Space Strategy: To agree an updated Green Space Strategy including a programme to improve and update/upgrade our children's playgrounds and to consider new/improved outdoor gym facilities	Cabinet Key decision	Alan Bowley Alan.bowley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Ward Councillors	Councillor Butler	9 February 2022
90/21 (6.12.21)	Fly tipping: To increase capacity and provide streamlined systems to ensure that fly-tipping and littering in the borough is reduced by focusing on key hotspots, identifying and fining perpetrators	Cabinet Key decision	Paul.gordon@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Butler	9 February 2022
49/21 (2.8.21)	Domestic Abuse services contract award: To approve the contract awards for the provision of Domestic Abuse emergency accommodation and support; and support to Domestic Abuse victims and their children <i>Report in two parts. Private report contains commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private Session	Neil Hollyhead Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk Isabel Vanderheeren Isabel.vanderheeren@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services, Service users external stakeholders	Councillor Andrew Councillor Wilson	9 February 2022
2/22 (10.1.22)	School Admissions Scheme: Determination of the Scheme for coordinated admissions, and the Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools for the 2023/24 academic year	Cabinet Key decision	Sharyn Duffey Sharyn.duffey@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services. No changes to previous year so no requirement to consult stakeholders.	Councillor Towe	9 February 2022

75/21 (4.10.21)	General building Repair and Maintenance Contract: To award the contract for the Council's general building repair and maintenance. <i>Note: Contains confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private Session	Ian Lister Ian.Lister@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	9 February 2022
76/21 (410.21)	Mechanical and Electrical Service and Maintenance Contract: To approve the award of the contract award the contract for the Council's mechanical and electrical service and maintenance contract. <i>Report in two parts. Private report contains confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private Session	Ian Lister Ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	9 February 2022
88/21 (1.11.21)	Corporate Plan 2021/22: To note the Quarter 3 performance against the Measures of Success in the Corporate Plan 2021/22	Cabinet Non-key decision	Stephen Gunther Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	16 March 2022
78/21 (1.11.21)	Upgrade of education IT systems: Authority to procure software as a service (SaaS) cloud based education system via relevant procurement frameworks and associated costs	Cabinet Key decision	Helena Kucharczyk Helena.kucharczyk@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	16 March 2022
3/22 (10.1.22)	Walsall Council's Digital Strategy 2022-2025 To approve a three-year strategic strategy for the Digital ambitions and vision for Walsall Council.	Cabinet Key decision	Luke Morgan Luke.Morgan@walsall.gov.uk 01922 658305	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	16 March 2022

22/21 (8.3.21)	Walsall Council Housing Allocations Policy: To update the policy which sets the principles for the allocation of affordable housing	Cabinet Key decision	Neil Hollyhead Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Public, Housing Associations, Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	16 March 2022
77/21 (4.10.21)	Supported Housing Repair and Maintenance Contract: To approve the award of the contract.	Cabinet	Ian Lister ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	16 March 2022
46/21 (2.8.21)	Emotional Wellbeing and Therapeutic Support for Children and Young People in need: To approve entering into an appropriate agreement with the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to provide therapeutic services for children and young people in need, including those who are looked after.	Cabinet Key decision	David DeMay David.demay@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services, Walsall CCG and Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Councillor Wilson	16 March 2022
74/21 (4.10.21)	COVID Memorial Garden: To consider options for a COVID Memorial Garden	Cabinet Key decision	Dave Brown Dave.brown@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services. Stakeholders dependent upon options being developed	Councillor Perry	16 March 2022
4/22 (10.1.22)	Early years funding formula: To approve the Early years Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of funding to early years providers in Walsall	Cabinet	Neil Millward Neil.millward@walsall.gov.uk Cabinet report 8 Feb 2017 & 17 March 2021; Walsall Schools Forum report 20 Sept 2016 & 9 March 2021; Gov't response to the early years consultation and fact sheet	Internal Services Schools Forum	Councillor Towe	16 March 2022

83/21 (1.11.21)	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2021: To note the refresh of the updated data by Council and partner officers and to assist with identification of priorities in the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-25.	Cabinet Non-key decision Council	Stephen Gunther Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services & Council partners through the Health and Wellbeing Board.	Councillor Craddock Councillor Bird	Cabinet 20 April Council 24 April
84/21 (1.11.21)	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-25: To agree the 2022-25 Joint Health and wellbeing Strategy which outlines agreed priority areas and how the Council and NHS will work together to improve health and reduce health inequalities in the borough; and to recommend Council to approve.	Cabinet Non-key decision Council	Stephen Gunther Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services, Integrated Care Partnership, Council partners through Health and Wellbeing Board.	Councillor Craddock Councillor Bird	Cabinet 20 April Council 24 April