

Stronger Families Hub Review - Draft Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

Committee name	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ryan Dell – Democratic Services
Papers with report	None.
Ward	All Wards

HEADLINES

Background

As part of the review into the Stronger Families Hub, Members will be advised to consider findings, conclusions and draft recommendations on the review for discussion. These will be with the intention of improving the service of the Stronger Families Hub.

Summary

The Committee has, to date, held six witness sessions. The intention of these sessions was to obtain feedback from a range of stakeholders with a view to improving the service. The first witness session set the scene and outlined the work of the Stronger Families Hub. The second and third heard testimonies from young people and their parents and carers. The fourth discussed the experience of staff of the hub. The fifth examined partnership working with health representatives, while the sixth heard from education representatives.

As the bulk of witness testimony is now complete, it is considered timely for Members to start to consider their collective findings so these can be worked up in more detail, and ultimately incorporated into the final report to Cabinet. Any subsequent findings from the sixth witness session can still be fed into the process.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee consider conclusions, findings and draft recommendations in relation to the review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In considering this item, Members should bear in mind the following:

1) Scoping report – looking at the original parameters of the review

The updated review scoping report is attached so Members can be reminded of the original Terms of Reference as set out below, and whether the Committee has met these:

1. to understand the Council's current work with the Stronger Families Hub and what it entails.
2. to scrutinise a service that was launched a year ago and review its effectiveness.

3. to review the Stronger Families Hub’s digital process (one number, one address) and how this works in practice.
4. to understand and explore the nature of partnership working.
5. to consider the allocation of information to children and families and access to community support functions.
6. to review the support in place for parents and children that were born during lockdown and the impacts of COVID-19.
7. to acknowledge that all families come in all shapes, sizes and circumstances and how better support can be provided to parents.
8. to explore the measures in place for child protection and safeguarding.
9. subject to the Committee’s findings, to make any conclusions, propose actions, service and policy recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet.

2) Policy review guidance

Members are asked to consider whether draft findings and recommendations:

- Meet the initial aims / objectives of the review (as above)
- Be SMART, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound
- Not be a short-term fix, but a lasting outcome
- Consider the financial aspect, e.g. cost neutral, provide savings or if at a cost, then affordable – and if possible aligned with the MTFP (budget planning process)
- Are based on a broad evidence base as possible and ‘user or resident’ insight
- Not create additional bureaucracy, e.g. if it relates to a policy, then to seek to review or amend existing policies (unless there is an absolute imperative for a new policy)
- If publicity or wider engagement or education is recommended, to target such communications as best as possible rather than generally
- Consider ‘conclusions’ as well as any specific recommendations.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The aim of the review into the Stronger Families Hub is to hear testimonies from stakeholders as to how the service can be improved, in addition to what is currently working well.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.