

Update on the additional meeting of the People Overview and Scrutiny held on 6th October 2021.

The Committee met on the 6th October and focused on the work of Children's services.

SACRE

The Committee looked at the work of SACRE and its annual report. SACRE is the Standing advisory Committee on Religious Education and it is a statutory body which looks at-

- **Curriculum Design and Development-** Requiring the review of an agreed syllabus for religious education adopted by the Local Authority
- **Supporting Schools-** Providing advice on methods of teaching, choice of materials and provision of teacher training
- **Making Determinations-**Receiving and responding to requests for determinations on Collective Worship
- **Problem Solving-**Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred by the Local Authority
- **Monitoring-** Monitoring standards of Religious Education and Collective Worship
- **Advice-** Advising the Local Authority on matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship

The Committee looked at the positive changes that had been delivered in the recent years and the work that had been undertaken by the council and partners. The Committee asked about the provision for atheists and were informed of the way that these beliefs were accommodated in schools. The Committee noted the annual report and welcomed the progress of SACRE and hard work that had been undertaken.

Safeguarding Review

The Committee were updated on the progress of the review of safeguarding and the arrangements that were in place to carry this out. The Committee looked at what background to the process of the review and the involvement with partners and other Local Authorities in Lancashire. Members drew attention to the training that school governors received and how this could be simplified to ensure that it focused on the governor's role rather than the whole referral process. The Committee would continue to receive regular reports on progress and have opportunity to review the work undertaken by the partnership.

Peer Challenge – Neglect.

The Committee were updated on the peer challenge that had taken place to look at the Effective understanding, recognition and response to neglect. The review had been carried out between 21st and 25th June and had looked at leadership, management and culture of the authority and how the visions and strategy were incorporated. The Committee looked at the reporting arrangements for the monthly neglect champions sub group and how this reviewed progress. The Committee noted that the review did not highlight any areas that the council were not already working at improving and would continue to look at progress.

Safe return to schools.

The Committee looked at the progress in ensuring the safe return to schools and the issues that had been addressed to achieve this. The Committee were informed that as of 1st October 514 pupils had tested positive and 85 adults. The arrangements for tracking of cases was outlined and attendance monitoring that was carried out. The Committee were informed that the borough had attained the highest rates of attendance with over 90% in schools.

Vaccination in schools was to commence from next week, 11th October which would be with the agreement of parents. The Committee noted that it was a positive start to the year and work was being undertaken to restructure curriculums to ensure that knowledge gaps could be filled where necessary and supported future learning. The Committee thanked those involved in the hard work that had ensured the safe return to schools.