

Councillor, Scrutiny Lead for Children and Education

- We have the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Tuesday 15th. Agenda includes Covid impact on schools (Educational impact of children isolating, provision of online learning and suitable equipment), Food provision for vulnerable families (holiday meals, food provision for FSM families who are isolating), TH Safeguarding Partnership (one year on – how the statutory partners are working together).
- The situation in schools remains challenging, there have been further school closures and “bubbles” being asked to isolate. The sub-committee will be hearing from primary and secondary heads about the impact on education.
- We have not seen a spike in referrals to Children’s Social Care or early help however referrals have returned to pre-Covid levels. Social workers continue to undertake home visits and see children and families face to face where appropriate. The sub-committee will continue to monitor this
- Inspection activity remains on hold however Ofsted announced a resumption of some focused visits in respect to SEND and Children’s Social Care in January with full inspections planned to resume in April. We remain outstanding for our SEND and Youth Justice inspections and planning continues.
- The consultation in respect to the changes to the Birth-19 Service which includes the changes to the Youth Service has been launched and remains open until the 11th January. The SEND/SLS consultation remains open until the 6th January, and the sub-committee will be kept informed about the outcome of this.