

**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel,  
Tuesday, 14th September 2021, 10.00 am**

**Director of Children's Services PDS Report**

**Children's Services**

Children's Services continues to work hard to effectively discharge all Local Authority statutory responsibilities. Demand is high across all services. The workforce continues to work diligently to best support the needs of our local communities.

Children's Social Care continue to facilitate monthly multi agency meetings, all attendees find this valuable, as it offers an opportunity to understand and address challenges across the system.

**Care Review**

Children and Young People across the In-Care Council and the Care Leavers Council have contributed to the Care Review, via the **Coram Voice programme**.

Colleagues across the B&NES are actively involved in the Care Review.

**Virtual School**

As the panel has been previously advised, our virtual school for looked after children had been part of a national pilot to support children in care and children on child protection plans, following DFE funding this extended offer will continue for another 12 months.

**Children's Social Care Covid-19 Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund**

Bath and North East Somerset Contributed to the regional Recovery Plan, via the South West Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance (RIIA). A single response was co-ordinated across the region. We are awaiting an update from the DFE on the regional allocation and what that actually means for B&NES.

**SEND**

As noted in the Lead Member report, SEND continues to be an increased area of need and demand for services remain high. Whilst our services respond are responding positively, we are awaiting a long overdue Government review into SEND and the systems, law and practice that local authorities and CCG's have to adhere too.

### **Children's Transformation Programme.**

A significant Fostering Campaign will be launched across B&NES in September aiming to attract foster carers to B&NES. B&NES now has a dedicated Recruitment Officer for fostering, a marketing apprentice, and have commissioned the services of a marketing agency to support this work- please look out for posters on buses.

### **Service Improvement Plan**

The Local Authority has a robust Service Improvement Plan in place with key areas of the service identified as specific areas of focus; this is rigorously monitored and is progressing well