

## Children and Families Services - update

Reference Number: PAF/28/20

<b>Report title:</b> Children and Families Services - update	
<b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 7 December 2020	<b>For:</b> Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chairman has requested a broad update on Children's and Families services and projects and to highlight challenges as a result of the pandemic.

### 2. Action Required

To consider the update and identify any follow-up scrutiny actions

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Chairman has requested a broad update on Children's and Families services and projects and challenges as a result of the pandemic.
- 3.2 The Committee has previously highlighted issues raised by parents and carers using respite services for children and young people. The Committee have had three separate discussions and updates on this issue with the most recent being on 18 June 2020 with a link to meeting papers here - [PAF 18 June 2020 meeting papers](#) and a link to the minutes of that meeting here - [PAF 18 June 2020 minutes](#) . The Chairman has agreed that a further update on this issue can be incorporated into this broader Children and Families update.
- 3.3 This broad update will also include reference to the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service. The last time this was specifically discussed by the Committee was on 27 June 2019. A link to the meeting papers is here [PAF 27 June 2019 meeting papers](#) and a link to the minutes of that meeting is here [PAF minutes 27 June 2019](#)
- 3.4 The pandemic has presented further challenges to Children and Families services and the Chairman and Vice Chairmen have asked that the update also comments on how the pandemic has impacted on the provision of services and how ECC has responded to it, particularly in relation to vulnerable people.

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### **4. Update and Next Steps**

- 4.1 Councillor Louise McKinlay, Cabinet Member – Children and Families, will be in attendance for this item.
- 4.2 See Appendix A for the update.
- 4.3 Next Steps are as in Action Required above

### **5. List of Appendices**

Update from Councillor McKinlay [paper to follow]