

Future governance and oversight arrangements for Children's Services Improvement

Children & Young Persons Scrutiny Committee

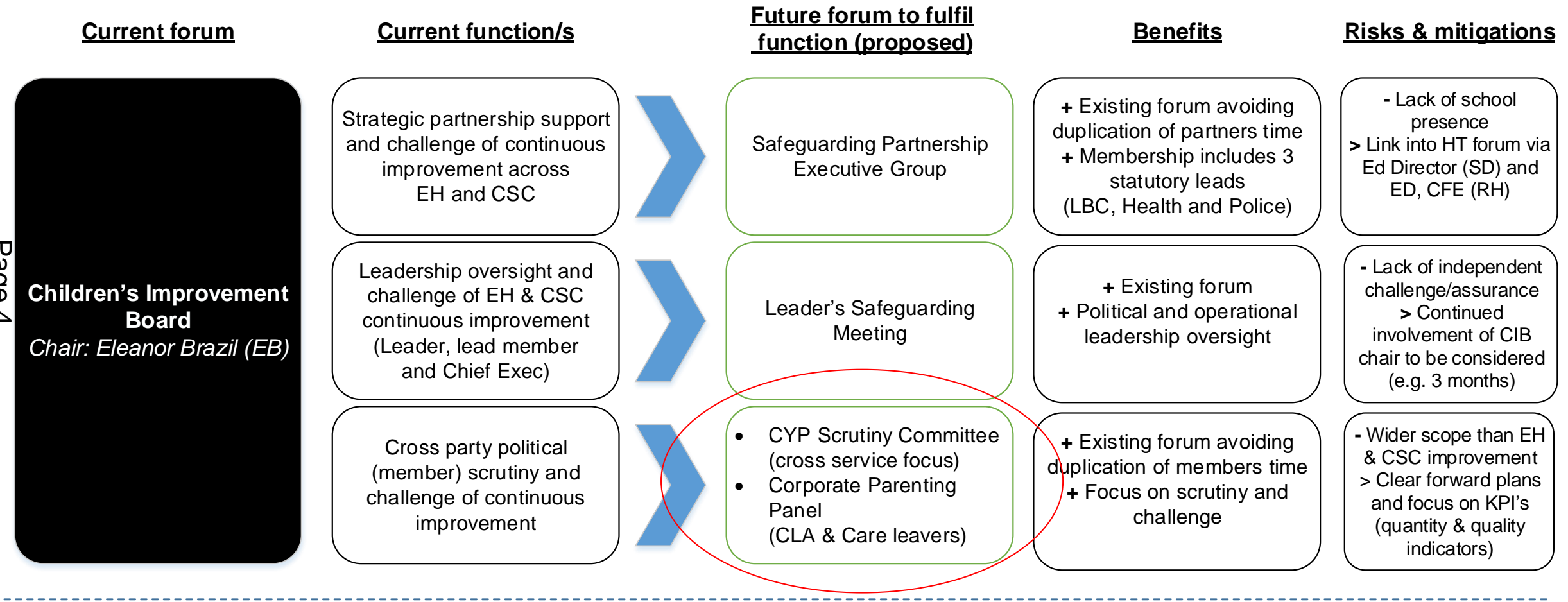
**Rob Henderson, Executive Director, Children, Families and
Education**

- Following the Ofsted SIF judgment in 2017, a statutory direction from the DfE required Croydon to set up an improvement board to oversee the improvement of children's services; the 'Children's Improvement Board'
- The monthly improvement board which has a mixed membership (members, senior officers, senior partners and frontline staff) has been in place since September 2017
- The board has an independent chair, Eleanor Brazil, who was previously Croydon's DfE appointed commissioner
- The board's role and remit is to ensure sufficient multi-agency oversight, support and challenge of Croydon's Improvement Journey

- Croydon's Early Help and Children's Social Care received its 7th and final Ofsted monitoring visit on the 16th & 17th of October 2019
- The council is now anticipating a full re-inspection of Early Help and Children's Social Care under the ILACS Ofsted framework which will occur at any time in the next 6 months
- If the council receives an outcome of Requires Improvement in the next inspection it is likely that the requirement for an improvement board will be dropped
- Proposals are being developed around transitioning away from the improvement board, without losing the level of focus and challenge that it provides. Ideas will be presented to the Improvement Board for discussion on 12th November 2019

Proposal for possible transition away from improvement board after re-inspection

Page 4



- Children and Young People's (CYP) scrutiny committee will have an important role to play in ensuring that there is sufficient political oversight to drive continuous improvement activity across Early Help and Children's Social Care services, if the Improvement Board is closed down
- To date, CYP scrutiny has been focused on reviewing and challenging progress against the Children's Improvement Plan, receiving regular progress reports
- There are a number of options for CYP scrutiny's role going forward if a decision is taken to close down the Children's Improvement Board.
- Once a preferred option is chosen the committee's forward plan and terms of reference will be reviewed

- **Option 1** - Improvement Plan focus (similar to current arrangement)
- **Option 2** - Inspection report focus (reviewing ILACs inspection report recommendations)
- **Option 3** - KPI (data) focus on organisational health indicators such as caseloads, volumes of work and audit outcomes
- **Option 4** - Thematic focus (by service area)