

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	27 AUGUST 2020
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FINANCE AND COMMERCIALISM

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
Not applicable	
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	
To brief the Panel on the OFSTED Improvement Plan and outline the next steps.	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
	(i) That the progress be noted
	(ii) That the revised Improvement Plan be presented to the Panel at the Panel meeting in October or December 2020.
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	The journey for the improvement in the outcomes by Children's Services requires a robust improvement plan.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
2.	None
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
3.	The OFSTED inspection took place between 18 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2019. The draft report was received for comment on 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2019. The final report was published on 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 with a judgement of 'Requires Improvement'.
4.	This was the third time that the service received this judgement, It was therefore vital that a robust improvement plan was put in place to ensure that at the next inspection the service would have improved and at a minimum a judgement would be received as GOOD. The last full inspection was in 2014 and before this in 2010 ( <a href="https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80558">https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80558</a> ).
5.	An improvement board was established with the following terms of reference:

	<p><b><u>Children &amp; Families Service Improvement Board</u></b>  <b><u>Terms of Reference – Jan 2020</u></b></p> <p>A) The Board will monitor, review and direct key defined areas of service performance and improvement, with a specific focus on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children Looked After</li> <li>• SEND and high cost provision</li> <li>• Children in need of support and protection</li> </ul> <p>B) To determine learning drawn out of the Quality Assurance Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit findings and learning outcomes</li> <li>• Recommendations from the children’s social care performance Group</li> <li>• Recommendations from the Education performance group</li> </ul> <p>C) To ensure sufficiency in relation to service offer and the budget.</p> <p>D) To monitor high level improvement plans and embed key learning for the service.</p> <p>E) To promote cultures and ways of working towards learning and performance.</p> <p>F) To convene monthly.</p> <p>G) Attendance and participation by the Children’s Leadership Team, Finance Leads (to be determined)</p> <p>H) Chaired by Exec Director for Finance, Deputy Chair Exec Director for Children &amp; Families</p>
6.	The Board had its first meeting in February 2020 to consider the preliminary draft of the improvement plan. An updated version was considered at the March meeting.
7.	The April meeting was devoted to considering the impacts of COVID on the service and the improvement journey. The Board has then met 3 times to consider the delivery of the improvement plan and also to improve the reporting format.
8.	The Board has received specific presentations from the service managers accountable for critical areas including Assessment and Protection and Court. It will receive a presentation from the Service Manager for Looked after Children in August 2020. It has been important to consider the wider strategic delivery of the improvement plan and not the detail.
9.	As part of the improvement journey Hampshire County Council were brought in to review the improvement plan so that for the first time it had an external critical review.
10.	<p>Hampshire County Council were brought in through the ‘Partners in Practice’ initiative. Partners in Practice is a DfE sponsored national initiative where ‘outstanding’ or ‘good’ authorities partner with those that are assessed to be ‘inadequate’ or ‘requires improvement’. The report is currently been reviewed and acted upon. The summary headlines were:</p> <p><b>Quality Assurance Review Conclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>Quality Assurance (QA) Framework</i> includes most of the elements one would expect. Some omissions could be included as per suggestions. Additional work to provide clarity would enhance the</li> </ul>

	<p>framework, as well as linking QA activity and feeding into the self-evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>self-evaluation</i> needs to be refocused according to the ILACS (<i>Inspection of local authority children's services</i>) framework and should be evidence based and focused on outcomes and impact, before it provides the level of assurance required.</li> <li>• The <i>improvement plan</i> requires more work in the areas identified including less task-based measures, current performance reporting which links to targets and success measures, accurate RAG rating and explicit measures to address Ofsted improvement actions, to ensure that it provides assurance for senior managers and the Improvement Board.</li> <li>• The <i>High-Level Improvement Plan</i> does not provide the required level of detail for reassurance and could be a distraction from the detail in the improvement plan. Suggestions made regarding how this could be adapted into a report which aids understanding and leads to exception reporting and further discussion regarding improvement priorities.</li> </ul>
11.	The next version of the plan is aimed to be concluded in September 2020 in readiness for the new incoming Executive Director of Wellbeing (Children and Learning) and statutory Director of Children's Services (DCS) to review. Ofsted require a copy of the plan to be submitted by 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2020.
12.	It is recommended that an updated improvement plan is considered by the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel at the meeting on either 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2020 or 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
13.	None at this stage
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
14.	None at this stage
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
15.	S.111 Local Government Act 1972
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
16.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
17.	The overall improvement plan is risk assessed.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
18.	None.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

**Appendices**

1. Children and Families Improvement Plan – June 2020

**Documents in Members' Rooms**

1. None

**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
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**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
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**Other Background Documents**

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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