

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING POSITION STATEMENT
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	6 JULY 2023
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN AND LEARNING

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director Children and Learning</b>	
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Robert Henderson</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 4899</b>
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<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Head of Quality Assurance</b>	
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**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not applicable

**BRIEF SUMMARY**

The Executive Director of Children and Learning will give a presentation to the Scrutiny Panel outlining the context in which the service is working with and for children and families in Southampton; successes and challenges and the service priorities for the coming year.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

	(i)	That the Panel note and consider the content of the presentation.
	(ii)	That the Panel note and consider the content of the attached Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting letter.

**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.	The Scrutiny Panel has oversight of the service's improvement journey and the Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting provides context regarding the service's direction of travel.
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**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2.	Not applicable.
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**DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

3.	<p>The Executive Director for Children and Learning will provide an overview of the service which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local context in which the service is working – including information regarding key issues affecting children</li> <li>• An overview of improvement activity to date and the impact</li> <li>• The principal challenges for the service</li> <li>• The service priorities for 2023 – how we will meet these challenges</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key issues in relation to Education and Early Years and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.</li> </ul>
4.	The service's annual engagement meeting with Ofsted took place in March 2023. Senior managers in education and children's social care met with inspectors and the Ofsted record of the discussion is attached for the Panel's attention. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was not discussed and Ofsted have indicated that there will be a meeting later in the year, date to be confirmed.
5.	Annual engagement meeting discussions inform the timescale and focus of inspection activity. Because of the time passed since previous inspections, the service is anticipating a SEND inspection as well as the scheduled Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) in 2023/24.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
6.	N/A
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
7.	N/A
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
8.	Children Act 1989
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
9.	N/A
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
10.	Oversight of the service improvement activity is provided by our Improvement Board and independent chair.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
11.	<p>The 2022-2030 Corporate Plan includes, as one of its four goals, strong foundations for life where people are able to access and maximise opportunities to truly thrive, Southampton will focus on ensuring residents of all ages and backgrounds have strong foundations for life.</p> <p>By delivering consistently good outcomes for the city's children and young people, Southampton's Children's Services and Learning Department will contribute to achieving this objective</p>

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED</b>	All
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Executive Director's introduction to Children and Learning Services
2.	Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting Letter

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?		No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>		
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>		
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>	
1.	N/A	