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| DECISION-MAKER: | CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL |
| SUBJECT: | ANNUAL CONVERSATION WITH OFSTED AND PROGRESS OF POST-INSPECTION IMPROVEMENT PLAN |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 8 AUGUST 2024 |
| REPORT OF: | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND LEARNING SERVICE |

| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
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| Executive Director | Title | Executive Director Children and Learning | |
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| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | |
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| Not applicable | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | |
| This paper introduces the service's update to Ofsted at its annual engagement meeting. The service reported progress against the inspectorate's recommendations after the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection in June 2023. | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS: | |
| | (i) That the Panel note the content of the presentation attached as Appendix 1. |
| | (ii) That the Panel note the content of the Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting letter attached as Appendix 2. |
| REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS | |
| 1. | The Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting provides context regarding the service's direction of travel. |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED | |
| 2. | Not applicable. |
| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | |
| 3. | Southampton Children and Learning Service hosted Ofsted for its annual engagement meeting on 4 th July 2024. Ahead of this, the service had shared its self-evaluation of practice and self-evaluation. The management teams of both service areas (social care and education and early years) had a dedicated session with inspectors. |

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| 4. | <p>The service provided updates on progress since the last Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection in June 2023. In addition, Ofsted requested updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children • Local response to Working Together and social care reforms • School attendance • Elective Home Education (EHE) and Education Other than in School (EOTAS) • Post 16 provision • Early Years sufficiency <p>The service responses are contained in the appended presentation to Ofsted.</p> |
| 5. | <p>The inspectorate invited discussion regarding the potential theme for a focused visit inspection under the ILACS framework and the service recommended looked after children and / or care leavers, so that progress against the inspection recommendations could be tested.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Attached as Appendix 2 is the Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting letter developed in response to the visit. Both the presentation and letter make reference to developing a safeguarding partnership which incorporates children, adults, and the community safeguarding board. This is a draft proposal that is awaiting approval from Cabinet.</p> |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | |
| 7 | N/A |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | |
| 8. | N/A |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 9. | Children Act 1989 |
| <u>Other Legal Implications:</u> | |
| 10. | N/A |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | |
| 11. | <p>Service improvement is overseen by the service senior leadership team, using Southeast Sector Led Improvement Partnership (SESLIP) peer scrutiny, alongside other opportunities of support through the Department of Education and Local Government Association. Service financial stability is overseen by the corporate improvement board, which is attended by an independent children's service's expert.</p> |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 12. | <p>The 2024 updated Corporate Plan includes the following strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and stable home environments • Accessible education and skills pathways. |

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| | By delivering consistently good outcomes for the city's children and young people, Southampton's Children's Services and Learning Directorate will contribute to achieving these objectives. |
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| KEY DECISION? | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED | All |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | |
| Appendices | |
| 1. | Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting SCC presentation |
| 2. | Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting Letter |

Documents In Members' Rooms

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| 1. | None |
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Equality Impact Assessment

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| 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

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| 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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| 1. | None |