

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 25 September 2018
Subject:	Children's Social Care Continuous Improvement Plan		
Report of:	Director of Social Care and Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Children's, Schools and Safeguarding		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Children's Social Care was inspected by Ofsted under the Single Inspection Framework in April 2016 and were judged as requires improvement. An improvement plan was developed which addressed the 11 recommendations made by Ofsted. Bi – annual reports have been provided to the committee in relation to progress against these recommendations supported by a performance dash – board. The Annual report was presented to the last committee on 10th July 2018

This plan is the third refresh of our Improvement plan and incorporates learning from the Local Government Care Practice Diagnostic which took place in April 2018, the recently published Serious Case Review as well as learning from audits.

The Plan identifies three key objectives:

1. Ensure frontline practice is consistently good, effective and focussed on timely, measurable outcomes for children.
2. To improve management oversight at all levels to ensure effective services for children and young people receive good quality supervision
3. Ensure that frontline services are sufficiently resourced and the workforce appropriately skilled to enable high quality work to be undertaken with children and young people.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Bi – annual reports and performance scorecards continue to be received by the committee for scrutiny and challenge.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Overview and scrutiny committee have an important role in receiving and scrutinising performance data to assure themselves of the effectiveness of Children’s Social Care

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The Children’s Social Care budget is under significant pressure, with the placement costs for Looked After Children is currently forecast to overspend by £4m in 2018/19. Any costs associated with the outcomes from the attached Social Care Continuous Improvement Plan must be contained within existing resources.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications:
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Children’s Social Care have a statutory duty to protect the most vulnerable.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Children’s social care work with children and their families to improve outcomes for children
Commission, broker and provide core services: Children’s social care work in partnership with a range of organisations to ensure vulnerable children are safeguarded

Place – leadership and influencer:
Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.5298/18) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4523/18) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the committee meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Children’s Social Care Continuous Improvement Plan

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

