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

Summary:

The Local Government Association were invited to undertake a Care Practice Diagnostic of Children's Social care to provide external scrutiny and assurance that services have continued to improve and identify areas for further improvement. The onsite element of the review took place in April 2018 (two years on from the Ofsted Inspection of 2016). The final report was received in June, recommendations from the report have been included in the updated and refreshed Children's Social Care Improvement Plan which has also been tabled for today's committee.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Committee receives the report and findings of the Local Government Association.

(2) That Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to receive the bi-annual report and performance score card which incorporates the recommendations of the LGA to ensure progress is being made against the recommendations.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Overview and scrutiny committee have an important role in receiving and scrutinising the LGA report to assure themselves of the effectiveness of Children's Social Care.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A)   Revenue Costs
Any improvement outcomes from the attached LGA report must be supported from within existing resources. The number of children coming into care has increased by 45+ children since April 2018 and the budget is forecast to overspend by £4m in 2018/19. More effective collaboration and commissioning arrangements with the CCG may help to improve the health of LAC and potentially reduce costs to the Council going forward

(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: The scrutiny of Children's social care performance supports the aspiration for all services to children to be good or better.
Drivers of change and reform: There has been significant focus on driving up standards of practice and linking and aligning resources with the framework for change

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Improving outcomes for our most vulnerable children will support them to have aspirations and obtain economic independence.	
Greater income for social investment: N/A	
Cleaner Greener N/A	

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A)   Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5299/18) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4524/18) 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:

Local Government Care Practice Diagnostic

Background Papers: