

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

14 SEPTEMBER 2018

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICE – OFSTED MONITORING VISIT FEEDBACK

Summary

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families and the Assistant Director Safeguarding Services (Children's Social Care) have been invited to the meeting to provide an update on the outcome of Ofsted's fifth Monitoring Visit of the Council's children's safeguarding services, which took place on 11 and 12 July and focused on Child Protection and Child in Need.

Background

2. On 24 January 2017, Ofsted published their report entitled 'Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers; and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board'.

3. The overall judgement for Worcestershire was 'inadequate'. Following the Ofsted judgement, an eight-point Service Improvement Plan (SIP) was developed by Children, Families and Communities Leadership Team to cover all of the recommendations made by Ofsted.

4. As a result of this judgement, Ofsted put in place a series of Monitoring Visits to track the Council's progress. To date there have been five such visits in May 2017, September 2017, January 2018, April 2018 and July 2018. The result of the first visit was not published but Ofsted concluded that the Local Authority was not making the expected progress to improve services for children and young people. In the following two visits, however, Ofsted noted that progress was being made.

Feedback from Ofsted Monitoring Visit – No.5

5. Ofsted conducted their fifth Monitoring Visit on 11 and 12 July 2018, with the focus being on the Child Protection and Child in Need. Andy Waugh, Senior Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) from Ofsted, led the inspection, working alongside fellow Ofsted inspectors, Alison Smale (HMI) and John Roughton (HMI). This was the third monitoring visit that Andy Waugh has been involved in in Worcestershire. Andy is also leading the next visit in October.

6. Ofsted published their letter outlining the results of the visit on 3 August 2018. The purpose of each letter following an Ofsted Monitoring Visit is to outline the outcome of the visit. There are no judgements made, but instead a statement summarising the direction of travel. A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix 1.

Next Steps

7. The next Ofsted Monitoring Visit (No. 6) is currently scheduled to take place on 2 and 3 October 2018 and will be likely to focus on the work of our Family Front Door and Partnership activity.

8. The Service Improvement Plan (SIP) was refreshed in April 2018 to reflect work completed to date and ensure priorities remained focused. Monitoring of the SIP is done through monthly Children, Families and Communities Leadership Team (CFCLT) meetings chaired by Catherine Driscoll, Director of Children, Families and Communities, as well as in monthly meetings with Service Leads chaired by Tina Russell, Assistant Director for Safeguarding. Bi-annual feedback is also provided to the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and the Worcestershire Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel. A high level version of the plan is attached at Appendix 2.

9. Our Improvement Partnership programme of work with Essex County Council has also been updated and includes the following:

- Fostering Team visit to Essex – 11 and 12 September 2018
- Partnership workshop and Early Help follow up – 12 September 2018
- Early Help visit to Essex – 24 October 2018
- Edge of Care visit to Essex – 30 October 2018

10. CFCLT will continue to lead the delivery of the SIP and ensure positive momentum is maintained whilst the implementation phase of the Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) is underway in parallel.

Purpose of the Meeting

11. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- consider the information in the report and the presentation to be provided on the day
- determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny, and
- agree whether it would wish to make any comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Ofsted Monitoring Visit Outcome Letter
- Appendix 2 – Service Improvement Plan 2018-19

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children, Families and Communities) the following background papers relate to the subject matter of this report:

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)