

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

27 SEPTEMBER 2023

WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN FIRST – OFSTED INSPECTION OF WORCESTERSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDRENS SERVICES (ILACS)

Summary

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families and the Chief Executive of Worcestershire Children First have been invited to the meeting to update the Panel on the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of Worcestershire Local Authority Childrens Services (ILACS) carried out in May 2023.

Background

2. In 2016 the local authority was judged 'inadequate' and following statutory direction from the Department for Education, the Council agreed to work in partnership to create Worcestershire Children First (WCF) a wholly owned Council Company.
3. In June 2019, with progress having been made in many areas where improvements were needed, a further Ofsted inspection of the services for children and families took place and the service was judged as 'requires improvement to be good'.
4. WCF took over operational responsibility for the delivery of children's services on behalf of the Council in October 2019, and since then the WCF senior leadership team has continued to work effectively with political leaders and partners to improve children's experiences.

Ofsted Inspection Report 2023

5. An Ofsted Inspection of WCF took place between 15 – 26 May 2023 and a judgement of 'good' was awarded (Ofsted Report attached at Appendix 1). All areas of the inspection were judged to be 'good', with the exception of the 'experiences and progress of children in care' which was highlighted as 'requires improvement to be good'. The inspection identified 4 areas that needed to be addressed for WCF to improve.

Purpose of the Meeting

6. The Panel is asked to:
 - Note the outcome of the ILACS Ofsted Inspection which took place in May 2023,
 - Consider whether it would wish to make any comments to the

- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families; and
- Determine whether any further information or Scrutiny is required.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Ofsted Inspection of Worcestershire Local authority children's services Report

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agendas and Minutes of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 14 August 2017, 29 October 2017, 22 March 2018, 16 May 2018, 14 September 2018, 16 November 2018, 6 March 2019 and 19 September 2019.

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