

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13th November 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Reality Check Visit Update Reports
REPORT OF:	Corporate Director Of Children's Services – Paul Boyce

REPORT SUMMARY

The Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee have previously agreed to undertake a series of 'Reality Check' visits by small groups of members to enable direct engagement with frontline staff.

The reports from these visits are then presented to the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider any recommendations.

Visits so far have included:

- 1) MASH 17th September 2018
- 2) Leaving Care Team 18th October 2017
- 3) Early Childhood Service 7th December 2017
- 4) Performance Dashboard 19th February 2018
- 5) Cheshire Lines 30th July 2018

Members have requested that update reports for each visit are brought to Committee once a year so that members can receive a progress report on any recommendations previously made. As the visit to Cheshire Lines was recent, it had been agreed that this will not be included in this series of update reports.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Committee notes the reports.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The reality visit update reports will enable Committee members to complete part of the Committee's work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Principles of Reality Check visits

Key operating principles for the visits include:

- A programme of visits will be scheduled and will form part of the Committee's work programme. A visit will normally take place approximately every eight weeks. Visits will be set or amended taking into account the programme of externally set scrutiny by Ofsted and the Department of Education.
- There will be no direct relationship between each visit. Therefore, Members may volunteer to participate in any particular visit.
- Prior to each visit, a short briefing note will be prepared to inform members of the function of the service area, background information and any issues directly relevant to the Ofsted report.
- Each visit will comprise a maximum of six members supported by a scrutiny officer. A visit will usually take a maximum of 2 hours.
- The visits will give Members the opportunity to talk directly to staff so they can understand their perspective of the service. Members will be able to ask questions directly, for example, on caseloads, support offered to staff, auditing of cases and the outcomes for Children and Families.
- The findings from each visit will be reported to the next meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES:

- 1. Reality Check Visit to Mash**
- 2. Reality Check Visit to Early Care Services**
- 3. Reality Check Visit to Leaving Care Services**
- 4. Reality Check Visit to Performance Dashboard**

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date