

**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday, 11 November 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	Ofsted Improvement Plan
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the progress made following the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services.

The report will be supported by a presentation which will be provided to members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th November.

The findings of the inspection report published in July rated the impact of leadership on social work practice as 'good' and the experience and progress of children in need of help and protection and children in care as 'requires improvement'.

The report outlined 5 key areas for improvement. These recommendations form the basis of Wirral's Ofsted Improvement Plan with specific, measurable and realistic actions which will provide the direction and focus for the next year.

Good progress has been made to address the 5 key areas and a summary of this is provided within the main body of the report. In addition, this report outlines the governance framework which will ensure that progress can be monitored, and relevant officers held to account for the delivery of the Plan.

In addition to the Ofsted Improvement Plan, a wider Social Care Improvement Plan is under development which will capture the wider areas for development within the Inspection report. The presentation provided will provide an overview of progress made within these areas.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Support the progress made in continuing with improvement following the Ofsted inspection in June; and,
- Endorse the actions outlined within the Ofsted Improvement Plan against the 5 specific recommendations highlighted within the inspection report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 To support the ongoing improvement activity within Wirral Children's Services.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Findings from Inspection

The findings of the inspection report published in July rated the impact of leadership on social work practice as 'good' and the experience and progress of children in need of help and protection and children in care as 'requires improvement'.

3.1.1 The report outlined 5 key areas for improvement which were to improve:

1. The quality of analysis within social work assessments to fully take account of the impact of lived experiences of children and lead to good-quality planning for children, including effective planning for permanence.
2. The timeliness and quality of transition arrangements for young people who will require support from adult services.
3. The availability of good-quality services to meet the emotional health and wellbeing needs of all children and young people at the time when they need it, without delay.
4. The provision of education for children in care, including improving their attendance and the timeliness and quality of their personal education plans.
5. The provision of direct work and life-story work for all children at the right time for them to make sure they understand their life experience.

In line with Ofsted requirements, these recommendations are to form the basis of an Ofsted Improvement Plan with specific, measurable and realistic actions.

3.2 Progress since inspection

3.2.1 Since the inspection in June, an Ofsted Improvement Plan has been developed to outline a series of strategic actions which will ensure that improvement is co-ordinated and timely. The Plan will be a working document, able to adjust and amend in line with emerging ideas and innovations as they develop across Children's Social Care. The Plan will be fully reviewed after 1 year to evaluate impact and to redesign and reshape priorities to address the recommendations moving forward.

3.2.2 Progress has been made to initiate actions within the Plan against all 5 improvement areas, including:

1. Assessment and planning:
 - Stockport Council has been engaged in undertaking full review of SFEF, supported by DfE guidance
 - Practice Observations policy and procedure has been implemented as part of launch of new Practice Improvement Team
 - Review of SFEF training initiated
2. Transitions:
 - Review of current assessment procedures and pathways has been initiated with adult services to ensure that assessments are robust
3. Emotional health and wellbeing:
 - Good progress of re-commissioning of contract to support emotional health and wellbeing of CLA
 - Project to explore 'our space' hub for care leavers supported and initiated
4. Education:
 - Launch of attendance campaign at beginning of November
 - Improved 'live' data of CLA in education
5. Life story work:
 - Project exploring digital life story work initiated
 - Life story practice champions appointed

In addition, an initial meeting with the Department for Education as part of their 'supervision and support' role, has taken place where feedback was positive towards progress and performance.

3.3 Delivering the Plan

- 3.3.1 To ensure that there will be a robust framework in place to ensure that sufficiency progress is being made, monthly operational meetings will be set up with lead officers to discuss and report on progress. Local authority officers will also be engaged in joint working with health colleagues to ensure that both improvement actions for Ofsted and CQC are aligned.
- 3.3.2 In addition, the Corporate Director for Children will have monthly accountability meetings where update on progress will be made. A formal accountability meeting with the Department for Education will also be held on a quarterly basis where reports on progress against these recommendations as well as wider progress in children's will be provided.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of the report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no implications arising out of this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Developing the Ofsted Improvement Plan will ensure that strategic focus on areas for development is maintained and that action is delivered to ensure change and transformation. Failure to implement will mean that there is not a co-ordinated and jointed up approach and progress is not sufficiently maintained.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The Ofsted Improvement Plan has been developed through consultation with strategic leads and operational managers across Children's Services including:

- Social Care Heads of Service
- Specific officers with responsibility for activity within the recommendations
- Extended DMT

8.2 Recommendations within the Care Quality Commission Action Plan which has been developed following the inspection of health services has also been included in the Ofsted Improvement Plan where they relate and align, and further work will ensure that there is continual cross over.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No because there is no relevance to equality.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2.

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APPENDICES

Powerpoint.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date