

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 31st May 2016

Report of: Kath O'Dwyer, Director of Children's Services and Deputy Chief Executive

Subject/Title: Children and Young People's Improvement Plan Update.

1 Report Summary

- 1.1. This report updates the Health and Wellbeing Board on the progress against the children and young people's improvement plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- a) Note the update on progress and performance against the improvement plan set out at Appendix 1 and 2, respectively; and
 - b) Endorse the next steps to sustain and embed progress as set out in these documents.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is the accountable body for the improvement plan and has a responsibility to ensure that sufficient progress is being made to address the 25 recommendations for improvement identified by Ofsted in its 2015 inspection report of Children's Services.

4 Background and Options

- 4.1 The improvement action plan was endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2015 and subsequently approved by the Department for Education. Work has been underway to implement the actions within the plan and Appendix 1 summarises activity to date and proposed next steps against each recommendation. Appendix 2 sets out the key quantitative (how much we did) and qualitative (how well we did it) measures to assess impact of the plan.
- 4.2 Progress against the plan is set out under the four key objectives below.
- Embedding listening to and acting on the voice of children and young people throughout services

- Ensuring frontline practice is consistently good, effective and outcome focused
- Improving senior management oversight of the impact of services on children and young people
- Ensuring the partnership effectively protects and ensures good outcomes for all children and young people in Cheshire East

4.3 In summary, whilst significant activity has taken place since Ofsted's inspection of children's services to address their recommendations, further improvement is still needed in most areas to ensure services reach the 'good' level achieved by the Adoption Service.

4.4 Good progress continues to be made around the recruitment and retention of quality Social Workers, which is key to good practice. There are also many other examples of good practice, but the challenge is to ensure that there is consistently good practice for all children and young people. Working together as a partnership to safeguard children is a key factor. Whilst evidence suggests that it can take a significant period for inadequate authorities to get to good; of the 17 local authorities judged inadequate in the same year as Cheshire East, only one that became inadequate for the first time is currently judged as good by Ofsted (a small London borough authority).

4.4 There are some areas of performance where data is not currently available or less reliable due to the system and work is underway to address this or to look at alternatives.

5 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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