

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	28 th November 2016
Report of:	Nigel Moorhouse, Director of Children's Social Care
Subject/Title:	Progress Report on the Children and Young People's Improvement Plan

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1. This report updates the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress against the Children and Young People's Improvement Plan.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- Notes the progress achieved against the Improvement Plan, as set out at Appendix 1 and 2, respectively.
 - Endorses the progress achieved so far and the proposal for the new Improvement Plan

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 The Improvement Plan covers all wards in Cheshire East.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 As above.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 There are no policy implications.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 If we do not make maintain our progress against the Improvement Plan and we are re-inspected and our services are found to be inadequate, this will have a significant financial impact.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Improvement Plan supports the Council's statutory obligations in relation to our work with children and families.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 Robust arrangements are in place for scrutinising progress against our plan; progress updates and performance are scrutinised on a bimonthly basis by the Director of People's Services, who challenges the Director of Children's Social Care and Heads of Service on progress. The LSCB, CCG Governing Bodies, and Health and Wellbeing Board receive regular updates on progress to ensure partners are held accountable for partnership progress against the plan.
- 9.2 The Department for Education (DfE) have been monitoring our progress against the Improvement Plan to ensure we continue to make sufficient improvements to our services. The DfE have confirmed that they are satisfied with our progress to date and that we will continue to drive improvements independently, and will recommend to the Minister that we no longer need to be subject to monitoring. This is good reassurance, and recognition of the fact that we are making good progress.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The Improvement Action Plan was endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2015 and subsequently approved by the Department for Education (DfE). Appendix 1 provides an annual review of progress since the inspection in July 2015. This review will inform the development of the new Improvement Plan for 2017. Appendix 2 sets out progress against the key quantitative measures to assess impact of the plan.
- 10.2 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
- 10.3 In summary, significant activity has taken place since the inspection, and a number of recommendations have now been fully met. The remaining recommendations concern the key cornerstones of practice and providing a consistently good quality of practice, which will require a longer timeframe to

achieve the shift in culture and practice to ensure services reach the 'good' level achieved by the Adoption Service. An expression of interest to adopt Signs of Safety as our way of working within Children's Social Care has been submitted to the DfE's Innovation Fund. This will support us to achieve the culture shift we need to deliver good, sustainable outcomes for families and ensure children and young people are at the centre of our service. This will be the focus of the Improvement Plan for 2017.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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