

<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>30 July 2020</b>
<b>Children's Integrated Services Focused Visit and Improvement Programme</b>
<b>Report of Head of Legal and Governance</b>

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To scrutinise the action being taken in response to the issues identified by Ofsted in its focussed visit of Children's Services in February 2020.

## **2. Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) review the action being taken, and progress being made in responding to the issues identified by Ofsted in its February 2020 focussed visit;
- b) seek assurance regarding ongoing and future work to address these issues; and
- c) consider next steps in the scrutiny process.

## **3. Background information**

- 3.1 Ofsted carried out an inspection of children's social care services in November 2018 and the report was published in January 2019. The report noted that there were areas of good practice across the services and a range of services had improved since the previous full inspection in 2014, but that there were also areas where improvements were required to ensure that all children get the right support at the right time. Overall, the services were found to be 'requires improvement to be good'. The Committee has explored work relating to some of the areas identified in that inspection report and in January 2020 the Committee reviewed the extent to which the need for improvement identified by Ofsted had been met and whether there was further work required. The Committee noted that the Council anticipated there would be a re-inspection within the next year.
- 3.2 In February 2020, Ofsted carried out a focused visit looking specifically at arrangements for children in need and those subject to a child protection plan, with a focus on children at risk of neglect. The Committee was due to hear about the outcome of the focused visit at its meeting in March, but the meeting was cancelled as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.
- 3.3 Information about the outcomes of the visit is attached, including details of two Priority Actions identified by Ofsted. The Corporate Director for People and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People have been invited to attend the meeting to expand on the issues identified by Ofsted and the action that has

been taken so far and planned to be taken in response. Written information about those actions is attached.

**4. List of attached information**

4.1 Report from Corporate Director for People and Director of Children's Integrated Services

**5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

5.1 None

**6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

6.1 Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care Services (January 2019)

6.2 Report to, and minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 30 January 2020

**7. Wards affected**

7.1 All

**8. Contact information**

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