

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
25 March 2021

Children's Integrated Services Improvement Programme

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

1.1 To scrutinise progress on the actions being taken in response to the issues identified by Ofsted in its focused visit to 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 focused 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. However, there were also areas where improvements were required to ensure that all children get the right support at the right time. Overall, the service was rated as 'requires improvement to be good'. The Committee has explored work relating to some of the areas identified in that inspection report.

3.2 In February 2020, Ofsted undertook a Focused Visit to look specifically at Nottingham City Council's arrangements for children in need and those subject to a child protection plan, with a focus on children at risk of neglect.

3.3 Ofsted issued two priority actions as a result of their findings:

- (a) Address the systemic failures in social work practice to ensure that planning and intervention for children improve their experiences, and that new and emerging risks are identified and responded to.
- (b) Stabilise the workforce and address the significant shortfall in capacity to enable social workers and first line managers to respond effectively to children in need of help and protection.

3.4 An action plan was developed to address these priorities and an update report has been provided by colleagues to set out progress made against these actions over the last 12 months.

4 List of attached information

4.1 Report from 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 Reports to, and minutes of the meetings of the Health Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 19 November 2020, 17 December 2020, 11 February 2021 and 30 July 2021.

7 Wards affected

7.1 All.

8 Contact information

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