

Briefing for CYP Scrutiny Committee 15.08.13: Update on Service Improvement Plan

1. Background

This is the third progress report regarding the Service Improvement Plan developed following the Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services in June and July 2012. Progress reports were previously presented in November 2012 and May 2013.

2. Summary of Progress

It will be seen from the Service Improvement Plan tabled with this report that the majority of actions have now been completed. A summary of those actions which are behind schedule follows:

R22: Clarify and agree who is responsible for life story book work.

This has been delayed, but the refreshed policy has now been drafted and amended following consultation with foster carers and practitioners and a group of children and young people in care. The policy will be implemented from 01.09.13

R10: Commission CAMHS to provide a stable placement team.

R11: Put arrangements in place to secure compliance with Mental Health Act s136 regarding arrangements for 16-18 year olds.

Both these actions are behind schedule. Work is being undertaken at a strategic level by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), CAHMS and the council in resolving the issues. There has been some recent progress with the stable placement team – with a joint referral and care pathway to be trialled in September 2013

R14 Explore ways of directly recording children, young people and families views in a reportable way

Develop the template for a Single Assessment

Work continues on these actions, which are behind schedule. The delay for the Single Assessment from the original Ofsted timescale was due to delays at a national level in publishing the refreshed 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' Guidance, which was finally published in April. A draft template for a single assessment has now been developed, which will be piloted during August and implemented across all social work teams from 1st October. A variety of activity has been undertaken to improve the recording of children and young people's views. Joint working with ICT will enable these improvements to be reportable.

3. Next steps

As stated earlier, most of the actions on the current Service Improvement Plan have been completed. A new service improvement model is being drafted and will be discussed by Children and Family Service Senior Leadership Team in August. Alongside the model will be a refreshed action plan, which will include those actions outstanding from the current Service Improvement Plan as well as actions from the recent Peer Review (please see separate report) and actions identified internally.

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30th July 2013