

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6 FEBRUARY 2018

PROGRESS UPDATE REGARDING SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOLLOWING OFSTED SIF JUNE - JULY 2016

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: CHILDREN'S SAFEGARUDING & SPECIALIST SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To enable the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider progress regarding the Service Improvement Plan following the Ofsted Single Inspection framework (SIF) in June – July 2016

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the report and agree any recommendations or further actions.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The Telford & Wrekin Council's SIF took place between 13 June and 7 July 2016, and the report published on 26 August 2016

The overall grading was that "*Children's Services in Telford and Wrekin require improvement to be good*". Out of the five judgement areas, two were found to be good already (adoption performance and experiences and progress of care leavers).

Verbal feedback received from the inspection team was that they could see that significant improvements had been made, and that the Council should '*keep doing what you are doing*' to achieve consistently good services.

11 recommendations for improvement were made and a Service Improvement Plan was presented and agreed by Ofsted on 11 January 2017.

4.0 KEY INFORMATION

A summary of activity and impact against each of the 11 recommendations is attached at Appendix 1.

It will be seen from the summary that there has been a considerable amount of improvement activity across all the recommendations, and that from quality assurance activity we can see that this is resulting in improvements in practice and in the quality of service being offered to children and young people.

It will also be seen that there is still a way to go before we can say with confidence that all requirements have been met and are resulting in improved outcomes. This is to be expected, as some improvements can be made more quickly than others, and improving practice so that it is consistently good requires changes in culture and working practices which takes time to achieve and embed.

5.0 ACTIONS TO ADDRESS

Progress against the recommendations was discussed with Regional Lead Inspector Christopher Sands when he visited on 19th September 2017. Following on from the visit, he then delivered a workshop on case tracking for team managers which they fed back to be interesting and helpful. This led to a review of quality assurance activity and the development of a new plan of QA activity for 2018 with accompanying guidance and promotional materials '*Good Practice: Good Outcomes*'

Details of completed and planned actions against each of the recommendations are noted in Appendix 1.

6.0 DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES INSPECTIONS

From January 2018 the Single Inspection Framework will only be used for re-inspections of local authorities previously judged to be inadequate. A new ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) framework will be used for all other inspections. Under ILACS framework each local authority will be inspected every 3 years, within a timeframe of 6 months before and 6 months after the 3 year anniversary date of the previous inspection. We are therefore expecting to be inspected under ILACS framework during 2019.

Report prepared by
Tilly Heigh
SDM: Service Improvement
01952 380923
Tilly.heigh@telford.gov.uk