

Agenda Item

Report to CYP Select Committee 16th
December 2015

Report of Corporate Director, CESC

OFSTED INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS – SELF EVALUATION

Summary

This report provides information regarding work that has been undertaken within Children, Education and Social Care Services (CESC) to:

- evaluate how well services are currently performing in the context of the requirements set out in the Ofsted inspection framework, and
- identify those areas where there is likely to be some challenge with regard to our current arrangements;
- inform our future service improvement planning.

Recommendation

That the report be discussed by the Committee to inform a shared understanding of key areas for improvement, linked to the inspection framework.

Background

1. Work has been undertaken, and is ongoing, within CESC to evaluate our position against the key judgement areas and associated evidence requirements as set out in Ofsted's inspection framework and handbook documents.
2. This work has helped to inform our assessment of areas where we feel practice is sound and likely to be judged as 'good' and areas likely to be judged as 'requires improvement'. The outcomes of this evaluation will be used to inform the development of an improvement plan designed to move practice towards good or outstanding across all areas.

Discussion

3. The following documents are attached to inform a discussion with the Committee:
 - a. **Key areas of likely challenge.** This summary will form the basis of our presentation to the Select Committee. It focuses on the issues which our assessment indicates are likely to be key lines of enquiry for Ofsted. Heads of Service will provide background detail and updates on work in hand to address these issues. This document is grouped

under seven thematic areas – five of these are the judgement areas within the inspection framework which contribute to the ‘Overall Effectiveness’ judgement; the other two (Early Help and Voice of the Child) are added as key areas of priority for our internal improvement planning.

- b. **Common weaknesses.** This is a recent Ofsted report, providing a summary of common weaknesses in local authorities that were judged inadequate in inspections between January and May 2015, aimed at helping local authorities identify whether they have these or similar weaknesses and improve practice. Any items identified in this document which may be relevant to us are covered in the ‘Key areas of likely challenge’ document referred to above.
- c. **Tees Early Help Peer Review.** The final report and two appendices from this recent review provide useful learning in relation to our inspection preparation and improvement work.
- d. **Annex M Assessment.** This is an assessment of our position against the guidance given in Annex M of the Ofsted Inspection Handbook (this guidance is, in effect, a checklist of key issues that inspectors should examine, although it is not an exhaustive list of all sources of evidence that will inform the inspection judgements).

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