

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

15 DECEMBER 2016

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: PERFORMANCE UPDATE DIGEST

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on key performance issues for Children's Services, in the form of a series of performance reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Children and Young people's Select Committee is asked to note this report and provide any comments as necessary

DETAIL

1. This report presents Committee with the details of a number of recent update reports on performance.
2. These include:
 - a. Safeguarding and Looked After Children (Annex 1)
 - b. Early help (Annex 2)
 - c. School performance (Annex 3)
 - d. Educational performance of vulnerable groups (Annex 4)
 - e. Ofsted inspection – post inspection action plan (Annex 5)
3. The key issues arising from each are summarised below:

Safeguarding and Looked After Children

4. The data presents a generally positive picture of performance, with the majority of indicators showing continued good performance.
5. Key issues to note are:
 - a. Timeliness indicators such as the proportion of single assessments undertaken on time, indicate a very positive picture;
 - b. Demand pressures continue to be high;
 - c. There remain some challenges on health assessments being undertaken in timescales – there have been some issues with the recording of assessments on social care systems which accounts for some of the issues
 - d. Performance on adoption timescales remains an issue though the priority remains to ensure that placements are appropriate rather than just made in timescales
 - e. Recruitment and retention remains an issue for experienced social workers;

- f. The quality of the borough's children's homes remains high, with three judged as good and three outstanding.

Early help

6. The attached report notes:
 - a. Improving performance in the take up of the free 2 year old childcare offer;
 - b. The high standard of early years provision
 - c. A reducing number of children in need, as evidence of the impact of early help and the Children's Hub

School performance

7. Cabinet received a report on overall school performance at its meeting in September. A further report with updated information is attached.

Educational performance of vulnerable children

8. The attached annex include detailed information in relation to the following vulnerable groups across early years; key stages 1, 2 and 4:
 - a. Disadvantaged pupils (ie this in receipt of free school meals);
 - b. Gender
 - c. Black and minority ethnic pupils
 - d. Looked After Children
 - e. Special educational Needs and Disabilities
 - f. Attendance and exclusion data

Ofsted action plan

9. The attached action plan provides detail on the recommendations from inspection and the actions underway to respond.
10. All actions are on track.

Future reporting on performance

11. Future performance update reports will be brought to Committee in line with quarterly updates reported to Cabinet for Children's Services.

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