

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

1 DECEMBER 2016

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Cllr Ann McCoy

OFSTED SINGLE INSPECTION FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN

1. Summary

This report provides detail on the action plan being implemented post inspection by Ofsted under the Single Inspection Framework in May / June. Ofsted required an action plan to be submitted by 14 November. This report therefore updates Cabinet on the contents of that action plan

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to note the report.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

To ensure Cabinet is aware of the action plan submitted.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of

business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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SUMMARY

This report provides detail on the action plan being implemented post inspection by Ofsted under the Single Inspection Framework in May / June. Ofsted required an action plan to be submitted by 14 November. This report therefore updates Cabinet on the contents of that action plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to note the report.

DETAIL

1. Ofsted undertook their inspection in May and June 2016. The final report was published on 5 August, and was reported to Cabinet on 1 September.
2. Ofsted require the submission of an action plan detailing work undertaken, proposed or planned to address the recommendations in the final report, which were:
 - a. Improve the quality of supervision across children's services, explicitly linking supervision to accountability, professional development and ensuring that the best possible outcomes for children are being pursued.
 - b. Ensure that return home interviews are offered to all children who go missing from home or care, and that each episode is analysed to inform the child's safety plan and wider strategic planning in relation to prevention and risk reduction.
 - c. Improve the quality and consistency of all children's and young people's plans, ensuring that the overall aim is clear, detailing the services or support that will be offered, and that reasonable timescales are set which reflect the child's needs and development.
 - d. The local authority should satisfy itself that all placements where children and young people are placed with connected persons and private fostering are appropriate, and that all carers are assessed under the relevant regulation.
 - e. Develop 'edge of care' services to respond in a flexible, family-friendly way to offer realistic alternatives to full-time residential or foster care.
 - f. Ensure that the care planning process for children looked after children always considers adoption as a possible permanence option at the four-month review, including consideration of foster to adopt. In addition, ensure that the family-finding process begins as soon as adoption becomes the plan following a statutory review.

- g. Ensure that the best quality legal advice is available to social workers and their managers to support effective and timely planning for children and young people.
 - h. Ensure that there are sufficient foster carers, residential placements and potential adopters to meet the needs of the children.
 - i. Ensure that when children are separated from their birth families, they have the opportunity to understand their past and move positively into the future through the provision of sensitive and timely life-story work.
 - j. Continue to challenge and monitor the attendance of Cleveland Police at strategy meetings to ensure compliance with Working Together 2015. In addition, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector will act within the terms of the published information sharing protocol (agreed between all the relevant inspectorates) in sharing these findings with HMI Constabulary for it to decide what course of action is appropriate.
3. The plan is attached at Annex 1.
4. Key issues to note are:
- a. Action is underway on all recommendations.
 - b. Some have been completed and were in fact underway throughout the time of inspection and in advance of the publication of the final report eg (d).
 - c. The action plan will be incorporated into the Children's Services Strategy for Change and Improvement, and will therefore be reported as part of quarterly performance updates to Cabinet and Children and Young People Select Committee.
 - d. Although the Local Safeguarding Children Board was not required to produce a similar action plan, the recommendations have been built into the LSCB Business Plan which will be agreed on 17 November.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no specific community implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any implications arising from individual actions will be considered as appropriate.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. There are two recommendations which require a consideration of our approach to legal advice and support.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. This action plan is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

9. The inspection process and the actions proposed relate strongly to all of the policy principles
- Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention – the focus on early help and targeted work with communities was well regarded by Ofsted.
 - Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention.

- Developing strong and healthy communities – the inspection included an assessment of the contribution of health partners and commissioned services. No specific recommendations were made in this area.
- Creating economic prosperity – the role of services in supporting young people towards independence was recognised, and the specific contribution of leaving care services to supporting care leavers was regarded as outstanding.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

10. A number of recommendations relate to the support the Council and partners provide to children in care. These are detailed in the action plan.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

11. The Cabinet member for Children and Young People has been consulted.

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Education related?

Yes

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

None

Property

There are no property implications.