

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**9 OCTOBER 2020**

### **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

## **PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR STOCKTON CHILDREN'S HOMES OUTCOMES**

### **SUMMARY**

The aim of this report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with a performance update of Stockton's Children's Homes, as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

To provide comparative analysis to the national picture of Children's Homes in order to give assurance of the quality of care being provided to Stockton's children in our care.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

For the Corporate Parenting Board to note the contents and the assurances the report provides.

- 1 The Resource Team intend to introduce further quality assurance in the monitoring of Stockton's Children's Homes. The purpose will be to ensure that we continue to promote the shared culture, ethos, ambition and drive that is common place in our homes.
- 2 Each home will receive a monitoring visit/peer review at least yearly to support and prepare the home for future inspection. Should any children's home encounter difficulties or a decline in their current judgement, this would prompt a monitoring visit from a member of the Management Team.
- 3 We are fortunate to have a well embedded sound skill and knowledge base in our homes managers and senior management team. Moving forward this will ensure that the necessary support, direction and guidance will be a regular feature for any new managers and existing managers and therefore ensure a consistent high standard is maintained across our increasing range of in-house residential bed base.

### **DETAIL**

#### **National Picture – Ofsted's Main Findings, 2020**

- 1 The number of registered children's homes in England continues to rise. [Ofsted] National Statistics Main Findings: children's social care in England, 2020 notes that there was *"7% increase in the number of homes and 1% increase in the number of places compared with 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019"*.
- 2 It is of note that whilst the number of placements being registered with Ofsted has increased by 1% the demand for residential placements is far greater. We continue to see a year on year increase in the number of children becoming LAC and this directly impacts on the increased need of placements.

- 3 In response to these demands the Local Authority has undertaken and delivered on a business proposal to increase capacity in our internal provision. To date this has included the opening of Oak View, a five bedded medium to long term home for children aged between 7 and 17 years. There are further plans for a second 5 bed home to be opened in early 2021.
- 4 16.5% of all registered Childrens' homes in England are run by local authorities, this represents 17.5% of all placements in England. In comparison 74% are operated by the private sector whom provide 57% of all placements in England.
- 5 *"4 out of 5 Providers, 80% (all types of children's homes) were judged good or outstanding"*. This is in line with the previous year. However slightly fewer homes (2% decrease) were judged to be outstanding compared with 31st March 2019.
- 6 This trend has been replicated in Stockton with six out of seven of Stockton's homes being judged good or outstanding. The seventh home was only registered in March 2020 and is yet to be inspected.
- 7 Stockton's Good homes are within 64% nationally in England and our Outstanding home is within the top 16%.

#### **Ofsted Inspection Activity 2019-2020**

- 8 Ofsted brought about changes to its inspection framework in 2019. The change affected the number of inspections a home would receive in any annual year based on their full judgement inspection. Only children's homes that were judged 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' in the previous inspection year, or homes judged 'good' or 'outstanding' that were subsequently assessed as high risk, would receive interim inspections.
- 9 During the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 17% of children's homes improved their overall effectiveness, 22% declined and 61% remained the same.

#### **Ofsted Inspection Activity for Stockton Borough Council Children's Homes**

- 10 The table below illustrates the Inspection Judgements made by Ofsted on Stockton's Children's Homes in a 2-year cycle.

Home	Ayton Place	Tilery House (Turn-around)	Oak View*	Rose House	Piper House	Hartburn Lodge	Our Place
Unique Reference	SC456710	SC040583	SC035387	SC035222	SC442886	SC035380	2568244
Date of most recent Inspection	28.01.2020	22.01.2020	04.02.2020	30.10.2019	11.09.2019	26.02.2020	N/A**
Overall Judgement	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	
Help & Protect	Good	Good	Good	Good	Outstanding	Good	
Impact & Effectiveness of leaders & Managers	Requires Improvement	Good	Good	Good	Outstanding	Good	
Date of previous Full Inspection	16.01.2019	12.03.2019	N/A	28.01.2019	22.01.2019	12.11.2018	
Overall Judgement	<b>OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING</b>	

\* Previously known as Princess Avenue, registered with a new remit in August 2019

\*\* Previous known as Oasis, Registered as a new provision on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

- 11 There have been 2 registration changes to the Children's Homes since the previous report. The home previously known as Princess Avenue changed remit and registration to become known as Our Place which delivered Edge of Care interventions up until August 2019. Our Place then moved location and took occupancy of 147 Vulcan Way [previous Oasis site]. The decision was based on the physical environment suiting a short break provision rather than a full-time Children's Home. A new registration for Our Place was made and finally accepted by Ofsted on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- 12 Once Our place vacated the site at 37 Princess Avenue, the registration was changed again to allow for the care and accommodation of 5 children medium to long term and the home was renamed Oak View. This decision was taken in agreement with members as additional medium to long term care capacity was needed.
- 13 It is noted that the judgements of 3 of Stockton's children's homes have changed in the last 12-18 months from 'outstanding' to 'good'. To provide context and assurance it is noteworthy for Members to be aware that as outlined above there have been a number of changes to our residential provision to meet changing needs and capacity demands. Any such changes will normally bring about a change in judgement as Ofsted require to see year on year progress and any change will automatically restart that journey or process. Additionally, we have had a change in our residential management arrangements, such events can also bring about declines in judgements.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

14 There are no direct implications from this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

15 There is no specific requirement to produce an annual report.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

16 No additional risks.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

17 There are no specific implications from this report.

### **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

18 The remit of the Corporate Parenting Board contributes to the Council Plan priority to make the Borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm.

### **CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

19 The chair and vice chair have been consulted.

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