

Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families  
Committee – 18 May 2018

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## Progress on Recommendations arising from the Ofsted Inspection Report, January 2018

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### 1. Context

- 1.1. Ofsted re-inspected Somerset Services for children in need of help and protection in November 2017. The report was published in January 2018 and provided an overall outcome of Requires Improvement to be Good in all service areas, other than Adoption which was judged to be Good. The report outlines 13 recommendations (Appendix 2) for improvement which have been incorporated into Programme 6 of the Children and Young People's Plan for 2018/19. (Appendix 1)

Key headlines in the report were:

- The judgement indicated that services were just over the line.
- The front door service is strong whereas Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting arrangements are weaker (although adoption is strong)
- Placement Sufficiency is not a high enough priority
- Leadership & Management Capacity is highly dependent on a few individuals. Ofsted were concerned about the sustainability of this and the consequent impact of the Council's ability to get to good.
- Partnership Working has good senior management engagement but operationally is weaker (including services we commission)

### 2. Issues for consideration/Recommendation

- 2.1. Members are asked to consider and comment on progress made against each of the 13 recommendations as set out in Appendix 1.

### 3.0 Background

Key areas of focus since the Ofsted Inspection have been:

- A planned visit from the DfE Advisor for Leaving Care to support the development of the new Leaving Care offer
- Contributing to the Corporate Peer Review –Children Services' overspend was identified as a key issue
- Strengthening placement sufficiency arrangements, including an in- depth review of permanence planning for all children in residential care.
- A planned meeting with Coram/BAAF to review the end to end effectiveness of our in-house fostering service
- Planning for a Neglect Peer Review in July with Wiltshire as part of the regional sector led improvement plan

- Building the capacity and leadership ability of middle managers through a programme of workshops
- Raising aspirations/expectations about the consistency and quality of services – with a focus on rigorous assessments and detailed plans based on best practice
- Confirming Essex as our Practice Improvement Partner for a further period with a focus on developing the skills in our ISRO service and further embedding robust care planning in all areas of service
- Implementing a new Family Support Service including Children's Centres Progressing service reviews with the creation of new Adolescent Support Services to work intensively with children on the edge of care, and to develop SEND central services

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1 – Programme 6, Somerset Children and Young People's Plan 2018-19**



CYPP Action Plan  
Programme 6 May 18

### **Appendix 2 – Recommendations arising from the Local Authority Ofsted Inspection Report published January 2018**



Ofsted 2017  
recommendations.doc

## **For Information**

### **Somerset County Council Ofsted Reinspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers**



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inspection of LA child