

Progress on Ofsted Inspection Outcomes

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1. Summary

- 1.1. Since Children's Social care (CSC) were visited by Ofsted in November 2017, plans have been in place to address the recommendations outlined in the Ofsted report and improve the quality of social work practice, and the service offered to Children and Families in Somerset. Good progress has been made in improving services across the board, and this improvement was recognised when Ofsted undertook a Focused Inspection in Somerset in January 2019. This visit looked at the Front Door and Early Help services and found that we were making good progress. The inspectors reported a highly motivated and professional workforce focused on the needs of the children, with evidence of continuous improvement since the 2017 Inspection. Managers know their service well in terms of both areas of strengths and areas for further improvement.

The majority of cases reviewed met Ofsted practice standards for Good, with examples of effective multi-agency child protection work at the front-end of the service. No inadequate cases were identified.

Inspectors reported progress on moving to a practice led service - with proportionate interventions focused on strengthening families - with engaging and tenacious examples of good social work practice.

- 1.2. The current CSC service plan is in development and will reflect the messages outlined in the attached presentation, as well as the recently launched CYPP.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are asked to consider and comment on the report and the attached PowerPoint presentation, detailing the progress on Ofsted recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1. In November 2017, Children's Social Care were subject to an Inspection under the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework (SIF). The report found that Children's services in Somerset require improvement to be good. As a result of the inspection, and linked to the CYPP, improvement plans have been in place to address the areas for improvement highlighted by Ofsted.

4. Consultations undertaken

4.1. N/A

5. Implications

5.1. There are no specific implications as a result of this report. Improvement work within CSC, aligned to the Council's transformation programme, is ongoing and is monitored via SMT and operational management meetings.

6. Background papers

6.1. Ofsted Inspection 2017

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author