
To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 16 March 2023

Subject: Children's Services Ofsted Areas for Development Action Plan Progress

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) of the progress against the four recommendations in the Children's Services Areas for Development Action Plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
- 1) Consider the progress against the Ofsted recommendations highlighted in the Ofsted Areas for Development Action Plan
 - 2) Identify any items to look at in more detail on the work programme 2023-24
 - 3) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member.

3 Ofsted re-inspection of Children's Services

- 3.1 Children's Services were re-inspected by Ofsted 13 June – 1 July 2022.
- 3.2 The Ofsted re-inspection of services report was published on **12th August 2022**, judged all areas and the overall judgement for Children's Services in Coventry to be "**Good**", recognising the significant hard work and dedication of so many employees in children's services as well as the many other services that work across the Council to provide good outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 3.3 The Ofsted judgements received are as follows:
- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families **Good**
 - The experience and progress of children who need help and protection **Good**
 - The experience and progress of children in care and care leavers **Good**
 - Overall effectiveness **Good**

The full inspection report is available via the link below:
www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80456

4 Areas for Development Action Plan

4.1 The Ofsted inspection report identified four areas for further development:

- The focus on children's views and carers capacity to meet children's needs in private fostering arrangements
- The response to children aged 16 and 17 who are homeless
- The mental and emotional wellbeing provision for care leavers
- The quality of team managers supervision provided to social workers

4.2 A Children's Services Areas for Development Action Plan was developed in response to the Ofsted recommendations and areas for development and submitted to Ofsted on 18 November 2022. **See Appendix 1 – Action Plan**

4.3 The Development Plan was shared with staff and partners.

4.4 Progress on the plan is reported on a regular basis through the Extended Leadership Team

5 Progress against the Children's Services Areas for Development Action Plan

5.1 Recommendation 1

The focus on children's views and carers capacity to meet children's needs in private fostering arrangements

5.2 A Private Fostering Action Plan was developed in June 2022 and provided to Ofsted. Progress against actions is monitored monthly.

5.3 Two Lead IRO roles have been identified for children who are privately fostered to provide quality assurance around their care arrangements and ensure that their voices and wishes are heard and considered. The Lead IRO's for Private Fostering undertake preparation activity with all privately fostered children in readiness to facilitate the independent review. As the Private Fostered children are now allocated to an IRO, a system is in place to raise any significant concerns in advance.

5.4 Recommendation 2

The response to children aged 16 and 17 who are homeless

5.5 A quality assurance process which includes dip samples are undertaken to review and improve the response and practice for 16/17 year olds who present as homeless receive. The process has been incorporated into the Children's Services Quality Assurance Framework to monitor on a regular basis.

5.6 A Youth Hub in the city (one stop shop) for young people who are homeless has been developed to access services, provide a welcoming safe accessible environment to access practical support, information and guidance. The project will go live in April 2023.

5.7 **Recommendation 3**

The mental and emotional wellbeing provision for care leavers

- 5.8 An initial review of LAC CAMHS service has been undertaken to identify what works, and to identify any gaps in service. The service has been redesigned and will be recommissioned by April 2023.
- 5.9 The funding pathway CAMHS service development for 18-25 years has been identified.
- 5.10 The Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support service for up to 25-year-old care leavers tender for Tier 2 has been awarded and went live in December 2022.
- 5.11 The service is undertaking a pilot 'Ask Jan' (a 24/7 telephone counselling and support service for care leavers) with a cohort of care leavers to assess impact and effectiveness this is currently progressing forward and will be evaluated.

5.12 **Recommendation 4**

The quality of team managers supervision provided to social workers

- 5.13 Managers across Children's Services including Early Help and Social Work teams have completed a dip sampling exercise of supervision records as part of the Quality Assurance framework in December 2022. The information is being collated and analysed with findings to report tracking distance travelled and will be completed in February 2023 with recommendations to share with managers and staff.
- 5.14 A range of leadership programmes are offered to Managers. Frontline Pathways Programme continues to roll out, with six managers accessing this to date. A bespoke Black Asian Leadership programme (BALI) is planned for spring 2023 for Coventry Managers and a tailored support offer via Research in Practice will be delivered in April 2023.
- 5.15 The recording guidance relating to supervision and management oversight which enables managers to capture reflective supervision in recording and drive progress in children's plans through supervision is being embedded within the service in line with Coventry Family Valued.
- 5.16 A range of, focus groups were held in February facilitated by the Principal Social Worker and colleagues from Leeds City Council to help managers to see how they can support sustainability and embedding of the 'method and mindset model'.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 Good progress continues to be embedded within the service. The progress against the Areas for Development Action Plan will continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis.

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