

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Executive to be held on 9 July 2019

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Subject:

OFSTED MONITORING VISIT – 11TH AND 12TH JUNE 2019

Summary statement:

Following Ofsted's Inspection of Children's Social Care Services from the 17th to 28th September 2018, the second of a series of Monitoring Visits took place on the 11th and 12th June 2019.

The focus of the Monitoring Visit was around Children in Need and Child Protection.

The findings will be published by Ofsted in due course (Ofsted Letter to Follow)

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Portfolio:

Children and Families

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following Ofsted's Inspection of Children's Social Care Services from the 17th to 28th September 2018, the second of a series of Monitoring Visits took place on the 11th and 12th June 2019.
- 1.2 The focus of the Monitoring Visit was around Children in Need and Child Protection.
- 1.3 The findings will be published by Ofsted in due course.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Areas Covered in the Visit

Details to be published in due course.

2.2 Summary of Findings

Details to be published in due course

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Interim Strategic Director of Children's Services and members of his leadership team supported by the Children's Improvement Programme Office will continue to work on the improvement journey and implement the actions in the Improvement Plan.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 There are no financial issues beyond the additional social work resources that have already been secured to assist in the improvement journey.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 The Children's Services Improvement Board continues to monitor progress and will ensure that effective responses are made to all Ofsted's recommendations and DfE required improvements. The Children's Services Improvement Board focuses on outcomes for children and provides the drive and focus to ensure that necessary improvements are achieved and evidenced.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The inspection in September 2018 was undertaken under the new Framework,

Evaluation Criteria and Inspector Guidance for the Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). This contains provisions regarding actions to be taken after an inadequate inspection report. These include monitoring by Ofsted including an action planning visit, quarterly monitoring visits and a re-inspection, and also an action plan prepared by the local authority within 70 days of receiving the report.

On 4 December 2018, following the Secretary of State's decision to take a non-statutory approach in Bradford's case, the DFE issued an Improvement notice to the council, requiring the council to take a number of actions to address all areas of improvement identified in the Ofsted report. The notice also provides for DFE reviews of progress against the improvement agenda.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

None.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Not applicable.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Not applicable.

7.6 TRADE UNION

Following earlier consultation with the trade unions around social work grade uplift, amendments have now been agreed and uplifts implemented. Case loads continue to be monitored by management.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The Improvement Notice and Improvement Plan affect all Wards, due to the Inadequate Judgement.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

In addition to the above improvements around the front door, further areas of

improvement are also necessary, including services to children in care, subject to permanency plans, our fostering and residential services and children leaving care all of which sits under Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None; both the Notice to Improve and Ofsted report have been published on their respective websites and are therefore in the public domain.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 Not applicable.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 Not applicable.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – Ofsted Report of Monitoring Visit – 11th and 12th June 2019.
(TO FOLLOW)

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 None.