



Report of the Executive Director Finance and Resources, Bradford Children and Families Trust to the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee to be held on Thursday, 25th January 2024.

AG

Subject:

Bradford Children and Families Trust Governance Structures

Summary statement:

This report sets out the governance and assurance structures of BCFT, approved at the Trust's Audit and Risk Committee held 10th January 2024.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Not applicable for this report.

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**Portfolio:
Children's**

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Governance and Audit**

SUMMARY

- The report sets out an overview of the governance arrangements for Bradford Children & Families Trust, outlining the Board and Executive Leadership Team, reporting arrangements to the Council and DfE as well as the risk, audit and assurance arrangements. The report also provides an overview of the Trust's Business Plan, strategic planning framework and Values.

2. BACKGROUND

- Establishment of Bradford Children & Families Trust was announced by then Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi on 25th January 2022, following a review by the Children's Commissioner which took place between September 2021 and January 2022.
- This decision was based on work of the Commissioner and the Improvement Adviser who chaired the Improvement Board to oversee progress in children's social care since services were rated as inadequate in 2018. The Commissioner's report and recommendations also brought through recognition from the Ofsted monitoring and focused visits, DfE reviews and the Improvement Board that the pace of progress was not sufficient and that there was a lack of impact on improved outcomes for children.
- The Trust went live on 1st April 2023 to provide children's social care and early help services for the council. Following this, service level agreements have been negotiated with the council, new governance and reporting arrangements have been embedded, auditors have been commissioned and an enhanced risk management approach has been adopted and is being embedded. These are all part of the Trust's operating approach and in line with the Articles of Association establishing the Trust and the Service Delivery Contract between the Council and the Trust.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Identify any other directly or indirectly related matters.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- There are no financial issues arising from this report.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- There are no significant risks arising from this report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- There are no legal issues arising from this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- There are no sustainability considerations arising from this report.

7.2 TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS

- There are no climate emergency implications arising from this report.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

7.5 TRADE UNION

- There are no trade union implications arising from this report.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- There are no ward or area implications arising from this report.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE LOCALITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- There are no area committee implications arising from this report.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- There are no direct implications for children and young people arising from this report since the report only sets out governance and assurance arrangements rather than changes to the Business Plan, priorities or practice model.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

- There are no privacy implications arising from this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

- None.

9. OPTIONS

- There are no options presented as this paper is for information, setting out the Trust's governance arrangements, which are matters for the Trust's Board to

approve.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Members are asked to note the governance and assurance arrangements that have been established within the Trust and acknowledge the multiple reporting requirements as presented which include the Council, Department for Education and company reporting requirements.

Recommended -

That the governance arrangements for the Trust be noted and consideration be given to timescales for future updates when further risk management and audit activity will have been progressed.

11. APPENDICES

- Bradford Children & Families Trust Governance Structures: BCFT Audit & Risk Committee Report.