

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 18 January 2017

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Improvement Board Update (Appendix A refers)

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Executive Summary

This report is to update the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the actions that have been taken following the 2015 Ofsted inspection. Attached at Appendix A is a copy of the County Council's self-assessment report as part of the DfE Review

Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to receive and comment on the report and the actions taken following the inspection. The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is also asked to consider where it can add value to the work of the Improvement Board.

Background and Advice

Ofsted carried out an unannounced inspection of Children's Services which commenced on 14 September 2015 and which lasted for four weeks.

The inspection focused on the experiences and progress of children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. It also included looking at the effectiveness of our services and arrangements to help these children, including adoption and fostering. Ofsted also carried out a review of the effectiveness of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LCSB) at the same time.

Ofsted published its report on Friday 27 November 2015 rating the overall effectiveness of the Children's Services as inadequate. The judgement for the LCSB was good.

Following this outcome a Children's Services Improvement Board was established with an independent chair. The Improvement Board agreed and monitors the progress being made in delivering an Improvement Plan. Appendix A provides a comprehensive summary of the progress being made to deliver the Improvement Plan.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Improvements need to be made to services for children in Lancashire to ensure that they are safe and protected. If the progress in making these improvements is not assessed by the DfE and Ofsted to be satisfactory, the DfE has the power to make formal interventions into the way the County Council manages services for children.

Risk management

The overarching risk is that children are not safe and protected if progress is not made to improve services.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Lancashire Ofsted Inspection Report	November 2015	Lancashire Ofsted Inspection Report