

TITLE	Post Ofsted Action Plan
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2023
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Adherence to the attached action plan and its timescales will support the Directorate in improving the delivery of children’s social care services, which will in turn improve outcomes for children and young people across the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached action is plan is read and acknowledged by the Committee, and that any comments or feedback are presented to the lead officer as needed.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

In March 2023, Ofsted inspected Wokingham Borough Council under the *Inspecting Local Authority Children’s Services* inspection framework, which is more commonly known as ILACS. These inspections focus on:

- the local authority’s arrangements to help and protect children;
- the experiences and progress of children in care;
- the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption;
- the experiences and progress of care leavers
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers; and
- the quality of professional practice.

More detail on the ILACS framework can be found [here](#).

Wokingham’s inspection report (which can be found in full [here](#)) resulted in five core areas for improvement being identified. These were as follows:

- The timeliness of assessments of children’s needs.
- The quality, clarity and timeliness of child-in-need, child protection and pathway plans.
- The quality and impact of frontline supervision and management oversight at all levels.
- The timeliness, accuracy and accessibility of children’s records.
- The response to children who are vulnerable to exploitation.

The Improvement Plan appended to this cover note sets out the primary actions that the Directorate will take in response to these findings. Progress across the five areas is scrutinised via a monthly Improvement Board.

All authorities are required to submit their action plan to Ofsted within 70 working days of receiving their final inspection report. Wokingham’s plan was submitted to Ofsted on the 16th of August 2023. The Lead

Inspector will be meeting with the Director of Children’s Services and other officers to discuss the plan and the progress being made.

This document is being presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the interests of transparency, and to assure members that targeted action is being taken to deliver sustained improvement in the delivery of children’s social care in Wokingham.

Background

See *Summary of Report* section.

Analysis of Issues

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

N/A

Public Sector Equality Duty

Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.

Climate Emergency – *This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030*

Please state clearly what the impact of the decision being made would be on the Council’s carbon neutral objective.

List of Background Papers



Wokingham Borough
Council - Children's Se

Contact Marc Gammon	Service Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Standards
Telephone No +44 118 237 9193	Email marc.gammon@wokingham.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank