



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Wokingham Borough Council
Children's Services
Improvement Plan
April 2016

“A great place to live, an even better place to do business”

To achieve our vision for Wokingham Borough we aim to:

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well-designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas

Improve the customer experience when accessing services

In Children’s Services our mission is to work with our partners to:

Ensure that Wokingham children are able to live, learn and thrive free from fear and harm, with a network of safe people around them.

Enable families to use their own resources so children live, learn and thrive in safety.

Support staff to analyse and clarify the real issues with the family and to help effect change with families.

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1. Introduction
2. Plan to address Ofsted actions/recommendations (presented as separate document)

Frequently used acronyms

CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CPB	Corporate Parenting Board
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
CSLT	Children's Services Leadership Team
ICT	Information & Communication Technology
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Children
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children's Board
MTM	Munro, Turnell & Murphy Consultancy
QA	Quality Assurance

1. Introduction

1.1 Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Children’s Services was subject to Ofsted single inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers from 12th October to 5th November 2015. WBC self-assessment considered services to require improvement. Ofsted judgement validated the WBC self-assessment, grading the services to require improvement.

1.2 We are committed to providing the best possible support to children in the Borough, and in accordance with the requirements laid out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Inspection of Local Authorities) Regulations 2007, we are submitting our post-inspection action plan to the Secretary of State and Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector.

Our ambition for 2016 and beyond

1.3 This is an exciting time for Wokingham, at a pivotal stage of our development. Over the past 2 years we have invested in a developing model of change characterised by our Early Help and Innovation Programme, adopting the Signs of Safety Practice Framework supported by Professor Eileen Munro and Dr Andrew Turnell.

Inspection 2015

1.4 Ofsted undertook the single inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers between 12 October and 5 November 2015. The Local Authority Social Work and Early Help Services were judged as Requiring Improvement.

The overall judgement is that children’s services require improvement		
The authority is not yet delivering good protection and help and care for children, young people and families. It is Ofsted’s expectation that, as a minimum, all children and young people receive good help, care and protection.		
The judgements on areas of the service that contribute to overall effectiveness are:		
1. Children who need help and protection		Requires Improvement
2. Children in care and achieving permanence		Requires Improvement
	2.1 Adoption performance	Good
	2.2 Experiences and progress of care leavers	Requires Improvement
3. Leadership, management and governance		Requires Improvement

1.5 Ofsted identified 12 areas where improvement work needed to conclude or be focussed.

1.6 The 12 areas identified by Ofsted and within WBC self-assessment, are as follows:

- Supervision & Management
- Quality of Practice
- Emotional Health
- Transition Planning
- Quality of Assessments and Plans
- Pre-Birth Assessment and Protocol
- Missing from Home or Care
- Strategy Discussions
- Contact with Social Worker
- Permanence Planning
- Dissemination of Care Plans and Work with Partner Agencies
- Care Leavers

1.8 The improvement plan is set out in Appendix 1.

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