

Chairman's Report – Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

July 2016

At our recent Committee we had an update from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). They are now ensconced in our offices, and the partnerships are working well together, although it will be at our September meeting that we have a report of the impact they are having - at the moment it is still early days. But all 6 UAs in Berkshire are working together, and information is shared nationally as well when families or individuals move. We were given the MASH number to contact if we have concerns about any child - 0118 908 002.

Most of the Ofsted reports we looked at were short inspections, of schools already doing well. All were categorised as Good except for the Forest School and Gorse Ride Junior School, both of which require improvement; however it will be helpful to recognise that the Ofsted inspection is much more rigorous than it was at these schools' last inspections. Southfield School is inadequate but this is being addressed by the department and cannot be discussed in public because of investigations being undertaken.

Performance indicators were examined. O and S Management Committee members have already received information that they requested on the areas they were asking about at their last meeting, and the Chairman of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked that all members of her Committee be circulated with these as well.

A progress report was received on the Children's Services Ofsted action plan, and all indicators show as completed or on track; another progress report was requested for our September meeting.

Under part two, we established a task and finish group to look at the Coombs School recent Ofsted inspection and why it has been graded as it has, and whether there was more the department could have done, the impact of what it did, and whether there are any lessons the department could learn. Members of this group are Pauline Helliars-Symons, Shahid Younis, Richard Dolinski, Lindsay Ferris and the two local Members, John Kaiser and Gary Cowan.

Pauline Helliars-Symons

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