

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Ofsted Inspection Action Plan Update and Quality Improvement Plan</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2016
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR</b>	Judith Ramsden, Strategic Director of Children's Services

### **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Robust action planning based on regular self-assessment improves performance and quality of work resulting in better outcomes for vulnerable children and families.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) That progress on actions in the plan resulting from recommendations laid out in the report of the Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, published in January 2016, is noted, and the action plan signed-off.
- 2) That the current priority areas, actions and timescales presented in the Children's Services Quality Improvement Plan (August 2016), which supersedes the Ofsted Action Plan, are noted.

### **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

**Ofsted Action Plan Update (August 2016) and Sign-Off, and Quality Improvement Plan (August 2016)**

### **Background**

An Ofsted Action Plan was produced following the publication of recommendations for improvement of services and practice as part of the inspection by Ofsted in October 2015. All actions are either now complete or ongoing aspects of "business as usual" as part of a programme of continuous improvement (updated action plan attached).

In addition, the first half of 16/17 has been a period of consolidation of practice whilst at the same time a period of senior management transitions.

This period has allowed approaches to be embedded as well as platforms for further development work to be created.

Key consolidations/embedding:

- Consolidation of approach to quarterly Quality Assurance activity.

- Embedded approach to supervision demonstrated by improvements in the frequency of supervision of front line staff (average social work team performance for % workers receiving supervision in August 2016 was 85% with three teams achieving 100%).

#### Platforms Created

- Changes in ICT in the second half of 16/17 and early 17/18 to support improved practice recording and provision of management information.
- Work to underpin the launch of the second stage of the innovative Shutters Cafe Project completed, which will support Care Leavers and vulnerable children and adults to gain skills in catering and business management whilst running a real business.
- Early Help approach and teams streamlined.
- Enhanced management oversight of performance.

#### New Approaches Created by the New Head of Service, Social Work and Intervention

- A Practice Recording, Regulation and Governance (PRRG) Group has been set up to ensure that there is clarity on practice quality, performance, and recording expectations across the service.
- A monthly Performance Surgery has been established which will review areas of performance concern in depth and be responsible for driving performance improvement in these areas.

Alongside the programme of continuous improvement and consolidation activity, a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) has been developed which supersedes the Ofsted Action Plan and lays out actions which build on the progress made to date this year and represents a new level of improvement activity with ambitious targets and timescales (attached).

The QIP areas for priority activity will be subject to regular review informed by performance information and internal and external quality audit.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current	Not		

Financial Year (Year 1)	applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not applicable		

**Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

None

**Cross-Council Implications**

n/a

**List of Background Papers**

None

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