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| 6 July 2016 | | ITEM: 6 |
| Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee | | |
| Ofsted Inspection Report and Action Plan | | |
| Wards and communities affected: All | Key Decision: To monitor Action Plan | |
| Report of: Andrew Carter, Head of Children's Social Care | | |
| Accountable Head of Service: Andrew Carter, Children's Social Care (CATO) | | |
| Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Director of Children's Services | | |
| This report is Public | | |

Executive Summary

This covering report provides members with an opportunity to scrutinize the outcomes of the recent Ofsted Inspection, the recommendations from the inspection and draft Action Plan to address the recommendations.

1 Recommendation(s)

1.1 Children's Overview and Scrutiny to monitor the progress of the council in implementing the recommendations of the Ofsted Inspection Report

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers took place between 22.2.16 – 17.3.16. The full report of the inspection is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

2.2 In response to the recommendations of the Ofsted Report the department has drafted a detailed action plan. The action plan is attached to this report as Appendix 2.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Services to children, young people and families in Thurrock were judged to 'Require Improvement' by Ofsted.

3.2 Ofsted stated in their report that 'children and young people were found to be safe in Thurrock during this inspection, with none identified who were at immediate risk of significant harm without plans and services being in place to reduce these risks and to meet their needs'.

- 3.3 Ofsted has made 16 recommendations in relation to practice improvements that are required in Thurrock. The 16 recommendations can be found at page 7 & 8 of the Ofsted Report.
- 3.4 A one page summary of the report for children and young people can be found at page 9 of the Ofsted Report.
- 3.5 A detailed draft action plan has been completed by the department. Having read the Ofsted Report in full, members are invited to comment on the action plan before it is finalised.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be satisfied that the recommendations from the Ofsted Inspection Report are being fully and effectively implemented.

5. Consultation

Corporate Parenting Committee

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

The completed action plan will allow the council to meet and improve upon its core statutory functions in the delivery of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager

There are no immediate financial implications for the authority arising out of the action plan, however as plans are implemented there may be a need to realign budgets for service changes

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsay Marks**
Principal Solicitor Children's Safeguarding

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide services to children in need of help and protection, failure to effectively do so could lead to legal challenges and reputational damage. The Local Authority is required to provide clear evidence of how it is implementing the inspection recommendations.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development and Equalities
Manager

The local authority and its partners must ensure that a range of services and provision is in place to protect children from all backgrounds. In implementing the action plan the authority must ensure that improvements are made for children and young people from all backgrounds and that none are directly or in-directly discriminated against. Once developed, an equality impact assessment will be carried out against the action plan to ensure we are fully meeting the need of children and young people with protected characteristics as we implement our improvement plan

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

N/A

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

Ofsted Single Framework Inspection Report dated 24.5.16

9. **Appendices to the report**

Ofsted Single Inspection Report & Local Authority Draft Action Plan

Report Author:

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