

19 March 2018

Agenda Item: 5

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

### **OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT ON THE EXPERIENCES AND PROGRESS OF CARE LEAVERS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Committee on the outcome of the Ofsted focused visit on the experiences and progress of care leavers in Nottinghamshire, which took place in January 2018.

#### **Information**

2. From 1 January 2018, a new universal inspection framework has been introduced by Ofsted, which focuses on local authority services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers. The 'inspection of local authority children's services' (ILACS) Framework seeks to implement a risk-based and proportionate inspection 'system' across the country.
3. Local authorities are inspected differently based upon the intelligence and information that Ofsted has, including the authority's previous inspection judgement. As Nottinghamshire's Children's Services were graded 'good' under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) in May 2015, Nottinghamshire falls into "Pathway One" for all local authorities graded 'good' or 'outstanding' in their last inspection. This involves:
  - a. **A short inspection** – short inspections are contained within one working week and are undertaken by four social care inspectors. This inspection will result in a graded judgment.
  - b. **Focused visits** – focused visits last for two working days and are undertaken by two social care inspectors. Focused visits will look at one or more themes or cohorts of children, giving the local authority and Ofsted the opportunity to identify what is going well and what needs to improve before the next judgement inspection. Focused visits do not result in graded judgments, but rather a published letter identifying strengths and areas for improvement.
4. On 23 January 2018, Ofsted notified Nottinghamshire County Council of an upcoming focused visit, looking at the Local Authority's arrangements for its care leavers, including the preparation of relevant children in care for the transition to adulthood. The visit took place on 30 and 31 January 2018 and was undertaken by two social care inspectors.
5. This placed Nottinghamshire as one of first local authorities to receive a focused visit under the new ILACS Framework. Inspectors considered a range of evidence, including

discussions with social workers, senior managers and care leavers. They also looked at Local Authority performance management and quality assurance information, as well as children's case records.

6. Inspectors highlighted a number of strengths across Nottinghamshire's services for care leavers, as well as a number of areas for improvement. As a result of the visit, Nottinghamshire has remained in 'Pathway One' of the ILACS Framework. The narrative letter, which was published on 22 February 2018, is attached as **Appendix 1**.
7. In response to the findings of the focused visit, the Authority is developing a self-evaluation and action plan across all areas of social care and early help services, for discussion with Ofsted at Nottinghamshire's annual conversation in May 2018.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. Ofsted inspections of children's services are the key measure of the effectiveness of service provision.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

12. The focused visit demonstrates that children and young people in Nottinghamshire continue to be effectively safeguarded.

### **Implications for Service Users**

13. The focused visit demonstrates that looked after children and care leavers in Nottinghamshire receive an effective service.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Members consider whether there are any actions or information they require in relation to the outcome of the Ofsted focused visit on the experiences and progress of care leavers in Nottinghamshire.

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**Corporate Director, Children and Families**

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#### **Constitutional Comments (LM 21/02/18)**

14. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

#### **Financial Comments (SAS 21/02/18)**

15. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services from 2018 - report to Children & Young People's Committee on 15 January 2018

#### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1091