

14th October 2019

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

OFSTED ANNUAL CONVERSATIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Children and Young People's Committee of the outcomes of the Ofsted annual conversations attached as **Appendices 1 & 2** and to ask the Committee to consider any actions it requires arising from the letters.

Information

2. Each year Ofsted holds two annual conversations, one on children's social care provision and one on education, with the Local Authority. This is a meeting between the regional Ofsted leaders and Directors from Children and Families department. Letters are then sent to the Local Authority with details of the outcome of the conversation.
3. Prior to the conversation taking place the Local Authority is required to undertake a self-assessment which Ofsted will then use to formulate themes for the conversation. In the East Midlands the self-assessments are also the subject of 'challenge conversations' with regional peers organised through the Association of Directors of Children's Services. This leads to a more robust self-assessment.
4. The two letters to the Local Authority following the annual conversations, both of which took place on 26th April 2019, are attached as **Appendices 1 & 2**. Ofsted has indicated that the next inspection activity the Authority experiences is likely to be a graded ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) and that this will happen within this financial year.
5. Following the annual conversations the annual Continuous Improvement Plan is completed. This is drawn from the annual conversation and also any inspection activity, internal quality judgement and peer reviews that have taken place and reflects the actions in the department's Service Plans. The plan is updated throughout the year as evidence on audit and inspection activity is received. As the Authority is imminently due for inspection under the ILACS framework, the self assessment and action plans are currently being updated. These will be revised and presented to Committee following the outcomes of that inspection. The views of the Committee on any action required will also be included in these action plans.

Other Options Considered

6. Given the subject of this report it has not been possible to consider other options.

Reason for Recommendations

7. The recommendations are made to ensure Elected Members are able to reflect on Ofsted's views and any actions required.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee considers whether there are any further actions it requires arising from the letters received following the Ofsted annual conversations.

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Constitutional Comments (LW 19/09/19)

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

Financial Comments (SAS 20/09/19)

11. 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.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1303