

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 6 November 2017	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Ofsted Inspection of 'Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers' - Post Inspection Action Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director, Children and Families	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee (CPC) notes the Southwark post inspection action plan as endorsed by cabinet on 19 September 2017 at Appendix 1, and the early progress made to date.
2. That the corporate parenting committee considers whether a further progress report should come to the committee on 28 February 2018 and whether there are specific action plan areas that they would like to discuss in detail at future meetings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Ofsted single inspection framework (SIF) is the national framework for inspecting services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers.
4. Southwark's inspection took place between 6 March and 30 March 2017 and the report was published on 13 June 2017.
5. Southwark Council's services for children and families are good. The full report of Her Majesty's Inspectorate, Ofsted, of its inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers was noted by CPC at the meeting held on 10 July 2017.
6. The report to corporate parenting committee of 10 July 2017 set out key findings from the inspection and the committee noted that a post inspection action plan would be presented to cabinet in September prior to its submission to Ofsted.
7. A briefing meeting for members of the corporate parenting committee was held on 7 September 2017 where the draft post inspection action plan was discussed prior to it being presented to cabinet. On 19 September 2017 the cabinet endorsed the post inspection action plan.
8. In regard to recommendation 6, CPC members were clear that the sufficiency strategy must be of sufficient ambition to deliver the quality and quantity of placements needed for children looked after. This will no doubt be further reviewed by the CPC during the forthcoming year.
9. In regard to recommendation 9, the CPC felt that the strength and success of the council's outstanding adoption best practice should allow for good progress to be

made prior to the December 2018 deadline. Again, the CPC has scope to review this during the forthcoming year.

10. CPC requested that an early progress report on the action plan come to the CPC meeting on 6 November 2017.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

11. The action plan is set out in appendix 1 and builds on the council's comprehensive understanding of the complex needs of the community that the inspection recognized, and the plans already in place to address areas of practice not consistently strong.
12. Early progress achieved to date include:
 - New MASH and early help referral forms now in operation and review points are scheduled (recommendation 2).
 - Brokerage officers have moved from the Commissioning division to the newly formed Access to Resources Team (ART) and review of current resources has commenced (recommendation 8).
 - New Public Law Outline (PLO) workflow and performance management framework is now in place. Monthly Care Service Permanence Tracking Panel established in June underpinned by a permanence tracking strategy; a pilot of two cases of children under 10 for co-working is underway (recommendation 9).
13. The progress against the local improvement plan will be overseen by the children's and adults board chaired by the strategic director of children's and adults' services and where relevant the corporate parenting committee.

Policy implications

14. The action plan to address recommendations sit within the context of the current strategic priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan and are actively being aligned to current priorities within the department, these include:
 - Budget saving and efficiency programme within children and adult services
 - Transformation and service development work in relation to areas such as early help, including the troubled families programme and local approaches safeguarding such as adolescents at risk
 - Revised sufficiency strategy and improvements to placements both in house and external providers and DFE innovation funding including for residential care and post 16 accommodation strategy
 - Local preparations for the local Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Area Review
 - Local recruitment and retention strategies
 - CATCH 22 innovation programme for a Careleavers Partnership.

Community impact statement

15. There are no equalities implications from this report, other than it being noted that community safeguarding activities, such as those relating to FGM and honour based violence were highly commended in the Ofsted inspection.

Resource implications

16. There are at present no additional resource implications arising for this report.

Legal implications

17. Services to children and families are provided within the statutory framework of support and protection to local children and young people, as set out in legislation such as the Children Act 1989, Children Leaving Care Acts, and Children Act 2004. SIF inspections are carried out under the s136 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006.

Consultation

18. None.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
London Borough of Southwark Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board	Ofsted, London	0300 123 1231
Link (please copy and paste into your browser): https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/southwark/052_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf		
Ofsted Inspection report to Cabinet 19 September 2017	Tooley Street, SE1	Southwark Council Offices, Tel 020 7525 5000
Link (please copy and paste into your browser): http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s71032/Report%20Ofsted%20Inspection%20-%20Post%20Inspection%20Plan.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Post Ofsted Single Inspection Framework Action Plan October 2017

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Director, Children and Family Services	
Report Author	Elaine Allegretti, Assistant Director Quality and Performance Improvement, Children and Family Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	25 October 2017	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	25 October 2017	