

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 8 July 2019	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Children's Social Care	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Children and Families	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee notes the self evaluation of social work practice in children's social care

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The self evaluation of social work practice in children's social care is prepared annually by the Children and Families Division following the close of the performance year. It follows the framework set out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate Ofsted in their Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) guidance
3. For more than eleven years Southwark has maintained a record of good rated services to children and their families, and this was reaffirmed in June 2018 and January 2019 with a positive SEND Inspection and the Focused Visit to our Care Service under the new ILACS framework. Facilitating and achieving the best outcomes possible for the children, young people and families that we work with, remains central to our goals for a fairer future for all vulnerable children and families in Southwark. .

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. The self evaluation follows a standard format, asking us to consider
 - what we know about the impact and quality of social work practice
 - how we know it
 - what are our plans for improvement
5. The Ofsted Focussed Visit in January involved inspectors looking at a range of evidence; our threshold information, performance management, quality assurance activity and children's case records. Meaningful case focussed dialogue with social workers and managers that also evaluated the effectiveness of supervision and the range of supports available to social workers, was fundamental to the process and enabled staff to engage fully with the visit. As a result feedback was broadly positive with recognition by Inspectors of the significant improvements made to the Care Service since the Inspection in March 2017.

6. This corresponded with the positive messages from the SEND Inspection undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in June 2018, which examined the effectiveness of delivery to children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs. Here, timely assessments, good accessibility to services and good partnership working were referenced which allied to the general findings in both the Focused Visit and the SIF.
7. The self evaluation set out in Appendix 1 is our second self-evaluation under the ILACS inspection framework and reviews the quality and impact of social work practice across our safeguarding and care responsibilities. It originates in the local self-evaluations completed by individual services, and along with related plans will serve as a key tool to inform service development and improvement across the Children's & Families Division throughout 2019/20.

Community impact statement

8. The decision to note this report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities.
9. The work of the children's social care is intended to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and as far as possible ensure that this is within their own families.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Self Evaluation of Social Work Practice June 2019

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	
Report Author	Tom Stevenson, Assistant Director Quality and Performance, Children's and Adults' Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	28 June 2019	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
	Officer Title	Comments Sought
	Director of Law and Democracy	No
	Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No
	Cabinet Member	No
	Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	28 June 2019