

Report of:	Director of Children’s Services
Submitted to:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD – 21 May 2020
Subject:	Children’s Services Update – OFSTED Inspection

Summary

Proposed decision(s)
It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board considers the progress made to date on improving services for Middlesbrough’s children,

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Information	No	NA	NA

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.

Ward(s) affected
All Wards affected equally

What is the purpose of this report?

To make OSB aware of the progress made in response to the OFSTED inspection findings.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

One of the main duties of OSB is to monitor Council performance and drive improvement.

As Members are aware the Council, including the scrutiny function, is having to adapt to a different way of working during the Covid-19 pandemic. In March 2020 it was agreed that all non-urgent/non decision making meetings would be cancelled for the interim period and that thought would be given as to how Members could be briefed in relation to Children’s Services and progress on the Ofsted Improvement Plan until formal meetings were resumed.

As such, on 8 April 2020 Councillor High, Deputy Mayor, Thematic Lead for Drugs and Lead Member for Children’s Social Care requested that the documents, attached at

appendices A and B be sent to all Members of the Council to provide everyone with an overview of the progress made to date on improving services for Middlesbrough's children, with particular reference to progress against the Immediate Assurance Plan put in place immediately following the Ofsted inspection.

In terms of facilitating scrutiny / Member challenge in respect of that update, following discussions with Councillor Garvey, Chair of Children & Young People's Social Care & Services Scrutiny Panel and Councillor Hellaoui, Chair of Corporate Parenting Board as an interim measure it was proposed that should Members have any queries or questions in relation to the information provided then these would be forwarded to the Director of Children's Services.

A copy of the questions raised by Members and responses subsequently provided by the Director of Children's Services, on 30 April, is attached at Appendix C. A couple of those responses refer to a monthly update for Members regarding OFSTED progress and the Chair of Children & Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel has subsequently requested that a further written update for Members be provided. Also attached at Appendix D is an updated version of the Immediate Assurance Plan, as requested by Members. The original Immediate Assurance Plan was presented to the Children & Young People's Social Care Services Scrutiny Panel on 10 February 2020.

The Director of Children's Services has confirmed that a monthly update will be provided to all Members as soon as possible. The Council is, however, currently awaiting a significant decision from the Department of Education and once that decision has been made the update report will be finalised, as the report could otherwise be out of date very quickly.

The Director of Children's Services is hopeful that this information will be received within the next week and can then be provided to the Board at its meeting on 21 May 2020.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the information presented and determine how the Board / elected Members can assist in continuing to support the Department's Improvement Journey.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

Not Applicable

Financial

Not Applicable

Policy Framework

The report does not impact on the overall budget and policy framework.

Equality and Diversity

Not Applicable

Risk

Not Applicable

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

Implement any decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with regard to the OFSTED Inspection.

Appendices

Information provided to all Members in respect of the Council's response to the OFSTED Inspection for the Board's information.

Background papers

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