



**Update on Actions Arising from the Ofsted report
issued in March 2015 and discussion on the Children,
Young People and Families Risk Register**

Audit and Risk Committee

Date : 1 July 2015

Lead Director: Frances Craven

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected:
- Report author: Clair Pyper
- Author contact details: 0116 454 0125
- Report version number plus Code No from Report Tracking Database:

Suggested content

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with information about the work carried out to address the recommendations of the Ofsted report issued in March 2015; and the updated Strategic and Divisional Risk Registers and mitigating actions.

2. Summary

- This report is written specifically to update the Committee on the Ofsted Action Plan and the work of the Improvement Board.
- The Committee will receive updates on the Strategic and Divisional Risk Registers for the Children, Young People and Families Service through the regular reporting arrangements for the Corporate Risk Management Reporting process.
- The Children, Young People and Families Service can provide updates on specific areas requested by the Audit and Risk Committee.
- The Scrutiny Commission will be regularly updated on the progress of the Ofsted Action Plan and service performance relating to early help, children in need and child protection. The Corporate Parenting Forum will be regularly updated on the progress of the Ofsted Action Plan and service performance relating to looked after children.

3. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 3.1 Receive the report on the Ofsted Action Plan and note its contents.
- 3.2 Make any recommendations or comments on the Strategic and Divisional Risk Registers.

4. Report/Supporting information including options considered:

- 4.1 The Ofsted 'Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers' published on March 20th 2015, graded Leicester's children's services as 'inadequate'.
- 4.2 The Audit and Risk Committee considered the risk register relating to the service on 31st March 2015 and requested a report on the Ofsted findings and the actions taken to address them at the first Audit and Risk Committee in the new Council year.
- 4.3 Following any local authority being graded as 'inadequate' there are national requirements from the Department for Education (DfE) to establish an Improvement Board chaired by an experienced person approved by the DfE; and to submit an Improvement Plan to Ofsted by June 22nd 2015.
- 4.4 Leicester took pre-emptive action in seeking a Chair for the Improvement Board, and appointed Tony Crane, the ex-Director of Children's Services for East Cheshire, and an Adviser to the DfE on improvement work. Members of the Improvement Board include Cllr Russell as Lead Member for Children's Services, and Andy Keeling, Chief Operating Officer, and senior representatives of partner agencies, including health, schools, and police.
- 4.5 Three Improvement Board meetings have already taken place, starting in April. Some of the agenda items have been:
- The role of the Board and expectations of members to represent their agencies and assist in finding solutions.
 - Development of a performance and quality framework.
 - Examination of key performance areas and actions taken to improve them.
 - The workforce strategy and staffing.
 - Case file audits.
 - Contacts and referrals to the Duty and Advice Service.
- 4.6 In addition, Tony Crane is meeting key members of staff in LCC (Leicester City Council) and partner agencies, from front line staff to the Lead Member.
- 4.7 The Ofsted Action Plan, submitted to the DfE on 22.6.15 contains the Ofsted recommendations and the proposed actions against them; these will form the basis for the Improvement Board's progress monitoring.
- 4.8 There are also a number of internal controls in place to ensure that work on the Ofsted recommendations is progressing:
- The Operational Improvement Group which meets fortnightly, chaired by the Divisional Director, monitoring detailed service improvement plans for Early Help, Children in Need, Children Looked After and Workforce
 - The Performance Board which meets monthly, examining the monthly report on key performance indicators and any other significant areas of Performance and Quality including progress against the Workforce

- Strategy
- Service Performance Meetings in Early Help, CIN (Children in Need) and Children Looked After
 - Quality Assurance work being carried out to audit case files by external auditors
- 4.9 Work is also being carried out to improve the role and function of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, including a new Performance and Quality Framework which incorporates information from all partner agencies about their role in safeguarding children and young people in the City.
- 4.10 Work has been carried out to revise the Strategic and Divisional Risk registers; and develop a risk register as part of the Ofsted Action Plan. These can be made available to members of the Audit and Risk Committee as part of the report presented by Tony, is this you, and is this the best way to phrase it?

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

- 5.1 The full financial implications of post Ofsted improvement work, both in terms of one off and long term investment will be brought to the Executive when finalised. Funding for one off investment is available from the Departmental Reserve. Long term investment will require funding to be identified from within the Department's revenue budget.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance
Ext: 37 4101

5.2 Legal implications

- 5.2 There are no direct legal implications arising.

Pretty Patel
Principal Lawyer (Social Care & Safeguarding)
Ext: 37 1457

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

- 5.3 There are no significant climate change implications arising.

Louise Buckley, Senior Environmental Consultant (Climate Change),
Ext: 37 2293.

5.4 Equalities Implications

None

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting Information
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Climate Change	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	
Risk Management	Yes	All of the paper.

6. Background information and other papers:

Nil

7. Summary of appendices:

Nil

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision please explain reason