

<b>Committee:</b> Safeguarding Sub Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 02/07/2024
<b>Subject:</b> Children and Families Service self-evaluation six-month review	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	Providing Excellent Services Diverse. Engaged Communities.
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Hannah Dobbin, Strategy and Projects Officer, Department of Community and Children's Services	

### Summary

This report provides an update for Members on the City of London Corporation (City Corporation) Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) Children and Families Service self-evaluation (SEF) 2022–23.

The six-month review of the 2022–23 SEF was completed in March 2024 and considers progress against the areas for development identified in the SEF that was completed in September 2023.

Progress is being made across a range of priority areas. There will be an ongoing review of impact across these, as well as new and emerging areas in the next three to six months as we move to a new SEF.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The children and family services SEF is completed annually. The most recent version is for 2022–23, and was completed in September 2023. The SEF sets out achievements across Children’s Social Care and Early Help services, linking to Special Educational Needs, the Virtual School and Adult Social Care. It also identifies areas for development over the coming year.
2. The six-month review of the 2022–23 SEF was completed in March 2024. It considers progress against the areas for development identified in the September 2023 SEF.

### **Current Position**

3. Teams across DCCS are working together to make positive progress against the areas for development.
4. Successes include developing direct work with children, launching the Children in Care Council (CiCC) pledge and Care Leavers Compact, approving ring-fenced apprenticeships for care leavers, and agreeing experience of care as a protected characteristic. Care leavers have also been guaranteed free bus travel.
5. Significant progress has been made around strengthening the offer for care leavers and the early identification of needs that global majority children and young people have. As well as the Virtual School restructure, Virtual School Advisory Partnership, and influencing national policy around educational outcomes for care leavers and kinship care.
6. Work continues around reviewing the short breaks offer and piloting the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Neglect Tool to help identify and respond to children’s individual needs.
7. There will be an ongoing focus on the impact of new or revised offers and activities over the next six months.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

8. Strategic implications – The Children and Families Service SEF aligns with the Corporate Plan 2024–2029 outcomes of providing excellent services and ensuring that there are diverse, engaged communities. Aims of the DCCS Delivery Plan include: people of all ages and all backgrounds are prepared to flourish; people of all ages and all backgrounds can live independently, play a role in their communities and exercise choice over their services; people of all ages enjoy good mental and physical wellbeing; people of all ages and all backgrounds feel part of, engaged with and able to shape their community.
9. Financial implications – none.

10. Resource implications – none.

11. Legal implications – none.

12. Risk implications – none.

13. Equalities implications – an equality impact assessment has not been completed as there are no fundamental changes.

14. Climate implications – none.

15. Security implications – none.

## **Conclusion**

16. DCCS is committed to delivering excellence for City of London children and their families. The SEF enables teams to reflect, monitor and assess progress against this aim. The six-month review demonstrates that good progress is being made against identified development areas. This will continue to be reviewed as we move towards the completion of 2023–24 SEF.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A – Self-evaluation Children and Families Service 2022–23 six-month review. March 2024.

## **Hannah Dobbin**

Strategy and Projects Officer

Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 3834 7622

E: [hannah.dobbin@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.dobbin@cityoflondon.gov.uk)