

Committee(s)	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	26.01.2017
Subject: City of London Ofsted Improvement Plan	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

Following the Ofsted inspection of the City of London's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers in July 2016, the City of London Corporation submitted a post-inspection action plan to the Secretary of State for Education and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector under the Education and Inspection Act 2006 (Inspection of Local Authorities) Regulations 2007.

This action plan outlines how the City of London intends to address the recommendations made in the report, as well as areas for improvement identified during consultation with Early Help and Children's Social Care services and multi-agency partners. The actions from this improvement plan are embedded in the wider Children and Families Service Improvement Plan, which supports the Children and Young People's Plan 2015–2018 and the Department of Community and Children's Services Business Plan 2015–2017.

Its progress will be monitored by the Children's Service Improvement Board and updates will be provided to the Safeguarding Sub Committee to ensure timeliness in addressing the recommendations, as well as providing appropriate scrutiny and challenge.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers were inspected under the Ofsted single inspection framework in July 2016.

2. The effectiveness of children's services in the City of London was judged overall to be 'Good' with a number of 'Outstanding' features. The individual judgements were as follows:
 - The experience and progress of children who need help and protection is 'Good'.
 - The experience and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence is 'Good'.
 - The experience and progress of care leavers is 'Good'.
 - Leadership, management and governance in the City of London is 'Outstanding'.
3. A report was submitted to the Safeguarding Sub Committee in November 2016 outlining the headline recommendations in the Ofsted report and the Department for Community and Children's Services' (DCCS's) plans to address these recommendations.

Current Position

4. The City of London Ofsted Improvement Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Education and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector in December 2016 under the Education and Inspection Act 2006 (Inspection of Local Authorities) Regulations 2007.
5. The improvement plan was developed in consultation with the Early Help and Children's Social Care service and multi-agency partners. In addition to the headline recommendations, this Improvement Plan also includes actions drawn from the narrative body of the report, lessons learnt during the inspection and areas for improvement identified during the consultation process that took place from September to November 2016. Each recommendation in the action plan has expected outcomes, relevant actions and measures to determine success.
6. The actions from the improvement plan are embedded in the wider Children and Families Service Improvement Plan, which supports the Children and Young People's Plan 2015–2018 and the DCCS Business Plan 2015–2017.
7. The progress of the Ofsted improvement plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Children's Service Improvement Board. Updates will be provided to the Safeguarding Sub Committee and to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) to ensure timeliness in addressing the recommendations, as well as providing appropriate scrutiny and challenge.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. The City of London is committed to providing effective Early Help and Children's Social Care services, as demonstrated in the Corporation's strategic aims of:
 - providing modern, efficient and high-quality local services, including policing, within the City for workers, residents and visitors; and

- providing valued services, such as education, employment, culture and leisure, to London and the nation.
9. Early Help and Safeguarding are key priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan 2015–2018, the DCCS Business Plan 2015–2017 and the City of London Corporation Safeguarding Policy.

Conclusion

10. The DCCS leadership team is committed to working with the CHSCB and multi-agency partners to ensure that the actions in the Ofsted Improvement Plan are completed in a timely manner and support exceptional outcomes for children and young people accessing services in the City of London.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City of London Ofsted Improvement Plan

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