

Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee



Report subject	BCP Children's Outcomes Self – Assessment January 2020
Meeting date	10 March 2020
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>In line with best practice expectations, BCP Council has produced a self-assessment of its current performance in delivering Children's Services, this self-assessment was shared with the regulator, Ofsted within the 'Annual conversation' in January 2020.</p> <p>The quarterly update enabled the service to take stock three months after the social care restructure and identify what was working well, what were we worried about and what actions needed to be taken to address the areas where improvement was needed.</p> <p>The stock take also enabled the service to identify priority areas for leadership attention and focus in 2020. The areas of focus and improvement in 2020 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The front door, the MASH and the early help pathway• The response in relation to adolescents at risk of exploitation• Children in care• The SEND agenda
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to receive and scrutinise the Self-Assessment of BCP Children's Services performance with the performance and improvement plan.2. The committee to consider how frequently to receive the services self-assessment either yearly, twice yearly or quarterly.

Reason for recommendations	In order for Committee to have early oversight and assurance of the performance of BCP Council Children's Services in meeting the needs of children, young people and their families.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sandra Moore, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
Corporate Director:	Judith Ramsden, Corporate Director, Children's Services
Contributors:	Neil Goddard, Service Director, Quality and Commissioning Elaine Redding, Service Director, Children's Services Julian Radcliffe, Service Director, Inclusion & Family Services Jane White, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Youth Offending Rachel Gravett, Children's Commissioner
Wards:	Authority wide
Classification for Decision	For information

Background

1. The Ofsted Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Framework requests each Local Authority (LA) to produce an annual self-evaluation of social work practice.
2. Best practice dictates that an up to date self-assessment underpins the improvement activity of a department. The self-assessment should answer three key questions:
 - a. What do you know about the quality and impact of social work practice in your local authority?
 - b. How do you know it?
 - c. What are your plans for the next 12 months to maintain or improve practice?
3. Our self-assessment takes a broad interpretation of these questions, to allow us to track performance and thus target improvement activity to demonstrate the impact of social work and Early Help practice has been prioritised across Children's Services. As a result, the self-assessment is reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis.
4. The self-assessment attached at **Appendix 1** is based on data and improvement activity in Quarter 3, October to December 2019.
5. In January 2020 the Self-Assessment was shared with Ofsted through the Annual Conversation with lead inspectors in the South West. The assessment supported

BCP Council in demonstrating a good understanding of our current services and the areas which require focus for improvement.

Self-Assessment Outcome

6. The detailed self-assessment includes data and analysis relating to current performance. This highlights areas of strong performance as well as those areas where targeted improvement is required.
7. Based on this analysis, a Learning and Improvement Plan has been developed, prioritising the following areas:
 - a. Children who need help and protection
 - b. Children in care and achieving permanence
 - c. Leadership, management and governance
8. The Learning and Improvement Plan has established clear priority actions for the next 6 months, including:
 - a. Developing an integrated single point of access for Early Help and Children's Social Care
 - b. Developing a Complex Safeguarding Team to lead our statutory response to adolescent risk
 - c. Enhancing mechanisms to track permanence planning for children
 - d. Embedding the Signs of Safety practice model
 - e. Harmonising our case management systems across Children's Services
9. Performance management will continue to underpin the ongoing work to improve the quality of Children's Services, to ensure delivery of the corporate priority that children in BCP have Brighter Futures.

Summary of financial implications

10. There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report

Summary of legal implications

11. There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report

Summary of human resources implications

12. There are no Human Resources implications.

Summary of environmental impact

13. There are no environmental impact implications.

Summary of public health implications

14. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

15. There are no specific equalities act implications.

Summary of risk assessment

16. There are no specific risk implications.

Background papers**Appendices**

Appendix 1 BCP Children's Services Self-Assessment January 2020