

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Childrens Services Improvement Plan
Meeting date	3 May 2022
Status	[Public / Exempt] Report
Executive summary	BCP Childrens Services was inspected in December 2022 and the outcome was an overall Inadequate judgement. As a result, a Childrens Service Improvement Plan has been produced to ensure Improvement in Childrens Social Care functions in accordance with the statutory direction notice.
Recommendations	For information and scrutiny
Reason for recommendations	Childrens Overview and Scrutiny have statutory powers to scrutinise decisions and plans for the service. The Childrens Services Improvement Plan is being presented for scrutiny so the committee can offer constructive challenge, share any voices of concern and support the drive for improvement.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Mike White- Children and Young People.
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley – Interim Corporate Director – Childrens Services
Report Authors	Rachel Gravett, Director of Quality, Performance Improvement and Governance
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For information

1. Background

- a) BCP Childrens Services was subject to an Inspection of Local Authority Childrens Services (ILACs) from the 6th to 17th December 2021.
- b) The outcome of the inspection was that Childrens Services was judged as Inadequate overall

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Inadequate
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Inadequate
The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers	Requires improvement to be good
Overall effectiveness	Inadequate

- c) The Full Ofsted Report is attached in Appendix 1
- d) The Childrens Services Improvement Plan (Draft) (Appendix 2) sets out what we aim to achieve over the next 3-6 and 12+ months.
- e) In developing this plan, we have listened to the views of children and young people, our partners and workforce, looked at what our data tells us, listened to the views of Ofsted/DfE and identified where we need to drive forward change to rapidly improve the outcomes for our children and young people.
- f) Our planning is outcome focussed so that we can be clear about the difference we want to see for children and young people in BCP.

Summary of financial implications

2. The financial implications of the improvement work are currently being established through Business Case approach

Summary of legal implications

3. The Secretary of State has considered the outcome of the December ILACs inspection and is satisfied that the Council is failing to perform to an adequate standard, some or all of the functions to which section 497A of the Education Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") is applied by section 50 of the Children Act 2004 ("children's social care functions"), namely.
 - a. social services functions, as defined in the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, so far as those functions relate to children.
 - b. the functions conferred on the Council under sections 23C to 24D of the Children Act 1989 (so far as not falling within paragraph (a) above); and

- c. the functions conferred on the Council under sections 10, 12, 12C, 12D and 17A of the Children Act 2004.

As a result, the Secretary of State has appointed John Coughlan as the Improvement Adviser for Children's Services in the Council ("the Improvement Adviser")

Summary of sustainability impact

4. There are no current identified sustainability impact implications

Summary of public health implications

5. There are no current public health implications

Summary of equality implications

6. Draft being completed

Summary of risk assessment

7. Risks are identified in the Children Service Improvement Action Plans

Background papers

N/A

Appendices

Appendix 1 Inspection of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole local authority children's services -Full report

Appendix 2 Childrens Social Care Improvement Plan (Draft v3)