

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	<p>Childrens Services Improvement Monitoring Visit 5 and 6 Feedback</p> <p>Feedback on the two monitoring visits by Ofsted of Children's Services since November 2023.</p> <p>MV5 Care Experienced Young People</p> <p>Took place on 29 and 30 November 2023. The focus was care experienced young people and 'What is better for young people now and are they getting a consistent service?'</p> <p>MV6 Front Door Focus Feedback</p> <p>Took place on 21 and 22 February 2024. The focus of the visit was the Front Door which includes those teams responsible for the initial response to referrals about children who may be in need or at risk of significant harm, and those that assess those needs in more depth.</p>
Meeting date	19 March 2024
Status	Public
Executive summary	<p>BCP Childrens Services was inspected, under the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACs) framework in December 2021. The outcome was an overall inadequate judgement.</p> <p>As a result the Secretary of State of Education issued a Statutory Direction and appointed a DfE Improvement Adviser to support the Council in their improvement of Childrens Social Care Services.</p> <p>The Childrens Services Improvement Plan is in place to ensure progress is made at pace in Childrens Social Care in line with the recommendations of the December ILACs Inspection and in accordance with the statutory direction notice received by the Council in March 2022.</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny require regular updates on themes regarding improvement in order to scrutinise. In November 2023 and February 2024, Children's Services had their fifth and sixth Monitoring Visits, the findings from the fifth inspections are presented for scrutiny. The findings from the sixth visit will be published on March 27 by Ofsted.</p>
Recommendations	For information and scrutiny

Reason for recommendations	Childrens Overview and Scrutiny have statutory powers to scrutinise decisions and plans for the service. The outcome of the Monitoring Visits are presented for scrutiny so the committee can offer constructive challenge, share any voices of concern and support in order to contribute to the improvement journey.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Richard Burton Portfolio Holder Children's Services
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Director of Childrens Services
Report Authors	Rachel Gravett, Director for Quality, Performance Improvement and Governance
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Update

Background

- Ofsted have visited and carried out 2 monitoring visits (MV)
 - MV5 Care Experienced Young People** - Took place on 29 and 30 November 2023. The focus was care experienced young people and 'What is better for young people now and are they getting a consistent service?'
 - MV6 Front Door** - Took place on 21 and 22 February 2024. The focus of the visit was the Front Door which covers MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) Assessment Service and Out of Hours.
- Monitoring visits are part of the regular improvement journey inspections. Ofsted will carry out 2 or 3 per year and usually up to 6 before re inspecting under the Inspection of Local Authority Childrens Services (ILACS)
- Two inspectors visited, for each inspection, for MV5 they were new inspectors to the LA. For MV6 the Lead Inspector had inspected on 4 other monitoring visits and the second Inspector had inspected on MV1
- Monitoring visits have focussed on the journey of the child:
 - MV1** Front Door – June 2022 (Appendix 1)
 - MV2** Children in need of protection and those subject to a Child Protection Plan - October 2022 (Appendix 2)
 - MV3** Children in Care - children who have recently come into care, including the significant number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) wrongly placed in hotels as adults in Bournemouth - March 2023 (Appendix 3)

- **MV4** Children in Care - Long Term - August 2023 (Appendix 4)
 - **MV5** Care Experienced Young People – November 2023 (Appendix 5)
 - **MV6** Front Door, Assessment and Out of Hours - February 2024
5. Ofsted publish their report on the local authority's progress following the inspection. MV5 letter is attached in Appendix 5 and was published 12 January 2024. MV6 letter will be published on 27 March 2024. A discussion of the MV6 findings is subject to Ofsted timescales and if available would require the Committee to go into exempt session as any details cannot be publicly shared until Ofsted formally publicise.
 6. Details of the outcome of monitoring visits MV1, MV2, MV3, MV4 and MV5 are included in the appendices including a presentation of MV5 findings (Appendix 6).
 7. All areas highlighted in the findings as recommendations or areas for improvement have been added to the Children's Services Improvement Plan 2024.

Options Appraisal

8. Not applicable

Summary of financial implications

9. Not applicable

Summary of legal implications

10. Not applicable

Summary of human resources implications

11. Not applicable

Summary of sustainability impact

12. Not applicable

Summary of public health implications

13. Not applicable

Summary of equality implications

14. Not applicable

Summary of risk assessment

15. Not applicable

Appendices

Appendix 1 – MV1 Ofsted letter – June 2022

Appendix 2 – MV2 Ofsted letter – October 2022

Appendix 3 – MV3 Ofsted letter – March 2023

Appendix 4 – MV4 Ofsted letter – August 2023

Appendix 5 – MV5 Ofsted letter – November 2023

Appendix 6 – MV5 Feedback presentation - Care Experienced Young People

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