

**TO: EXECUTIVE**  
**17 OCTOBER 2017**

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**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING POST OFSTED ACTION PLAN  
AND VISION**

**Director of Children, Young People & Learning**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, carried out in May 2017 and published on 14 July 2017, and the proposed Action Plan resulting from this, including the new departmental vision.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Executive are asked:**

- 2.1 **To NOTE the Ofsted report (Annex 1) which concludes that the overall effectiveness of Bracknell Forest services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers are good, with areas of outstanding practice.**
- 2.2 **To ENDORSE the action plan and departmental vision.**
- 2.3 **To formally record the Council's thanks to partners and staff on the successful outcome of the inspection.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Every Local Authority will have an inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. The Local Authority is required to prepare and publish a written statement of the action it intends to take in response to the report within 70 working days of receiving the final report

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 These inspections are carried out under section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 by Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI). They focus on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, the experiences and progress of children looked after, including adoption, fostering, the use of residential care, and children who return home. The framework also focuses on the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after and the experiences and progress of care leavers. The leadership, management and governance judgement addresses the effectiveness of leaders and managers and the impact they have on the lives of children and young people and the quality of professional practice locally.

- 5.2 All inspections are announced at short notice with the lead inspector and a small team of inspectors arriving on site the following day to begin the inspection. In total seven HMI took part in the inspection over a four week period.
- 5.3 During the inspection, inspectors carried out the following tasks:
- Evaluate and explore a sample of children's cases in order to judge the quality of front-line practice and management and the difference this makes to the lives of children, young people, their families and carers.
  - Test the decision-making at all stages of a child's journey.
  - Shadow staff in their day-to-day work
  - Observe practice in multi-agency meetings
  - These activities included discussions with social work staff, including their managers and other professionals working with the child or young person as well as meetings with children, young people, parents and carers.
- 5.4 Inspectors made the following judgements:  
The overall effectiveness of services and arrangements for children looked after, care leavers and children who need help and protection: GOOD.

- 5.5 The overall effectiveness judgement is a cumulative judgement derived from:

<b>Children's services in Bracknell Forest are good</b>		
<b>1. Children who need help and protection</b>		Good
<b>2. Children looked after and achieving permanence</b>		Outstanding
	2.1 Adoption performance	Outstanding
	2.2 Experiences and progress of care leavers	Outstanding
<b>3. Leadership, management and governance</b>		Good

- 5.6 The last inspection of the Local Authority's safeguarding arrangements and services for children look after was in December 2011, when Bracknell Forest was judged to be good.
- 5.7 The inspection included five areas for improvement which are addressed in the attached Action Plan (Annex 2). The action plan can be delivered within existing resources.
- 5.8 In addition to the above work, the department has worked on a vision and plan for the department which is attached in Annex 3. A visual representation of how this links with the Ofsted inspection report, Action Plan and other work across the department and the wider Council is attached in Annex 4.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are addressed within the report.

### Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that the implementation of the Action Plan can be met from within existing resources.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 The actions detailed in the plan (Annex 2) have no adverse implications for any particular groups or individuals within Bracknell Forest. The actions focus on positively improving outcomes for vulnerable young people.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The outcome of the inspection will also be reported to the LSCB and Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Children's Services who both maintain an overview of child protection.

### Background Papers

Annex 1: Ofsted report of the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers – 14 July 2017

Annex 2: Action Plan

Annex 3: Children, Young People & Learning Plan

Annex 4: Strategy linkages

### Contact for further information

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