

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	18 July 2023
Title of Report:	Plymouth Children's Services Improvement Plan
Lead Member:	Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader/ Children's Social Care, Culture, Events and Communications)
Lead Strategic Director:	Sharon Muldoon (Director of Children's Services)
Author:	Jane Anstis (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families)
Contact Email:	Jane.anstis@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report presents an improvement plan for Plymouth Children's Services. Following an Ofsted Focused Visit to Plymouth's Front Door to Children's Services on 13/14 December 2022, an Improvement Plan was devised in response to Ofsted's report of the visit (dated 30 January). The Improvement Board was established in March 2023 in advance of an Improvement Notice issued by the Department for Education (DfE) on 19 May 2023.

The Improvement Board is chaired by Theresa Leavy, Director of Children's Services, Dorset and is attended by The Leader of the Council, The Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Director of Children's Services and colleagues from across the Council as well as key partnership leads from the Police, Health and Schools.

The Board's work is augmented by regular engagement with Dorset Council Children's Services as our DfE approved Sector Led Improvement Partners. Plymouth benefits from trusted colleagues from the Region who hold Plymouth leaders and partners to account; to challenge thinking and decision making and to undertake a series of quality assurance deep dives into our practice.

Recommendations and Reasons

Scrutiny is asked to note the Improvement Plan

Alternative options considered and rejected

The DfE Improvement Notice mandates that Plymouth establishes an Improvement Board and an Improvement Plan.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Jane Anstis (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 26/05/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader/ Children's Social Care, Culture, Events and Communications) Date approved: 30/05/2023											