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

Focus on prevention, early intervention and keeping children, young people and adults protected.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

No implications at this stage

Financial Risks

This plan for improvement is mitigating against longer term risks.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No known implications

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

DfE Improvement Notice: "Should the council be unwilling or unable to comply with this improvement notice, or should ministers not be satisfied with the Council's progress at any stage, ministers may choose to invoke their statutory powers of intervention (s497A Education Act 1996) to direct the council to enter into an appropriate arrangement to secure the improvements required in children's services."

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Α	Plymouth CYPF Improvement Plan								
В	DfE Plymouth Improvement Notice								

Background papers:

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)								
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule I2A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
	ı	2	3	4	5	6	7		

^{*}Add rows as required to box below

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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