

Scrutiny Report

DECISION OF:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	28 August 2012
SUBJECT:	Ofsted Inspection (SLAC) Action Plan
REPORT FROM:	Councillor N Parnell - Cabinet Member for Children & Families
CONTACT OFFICER:	Saul Ainsworth (Acting Assistant Director – Children’s Services – Social Care & Safeguarding)
TYPE OF DECISION:	CABINET (NON KEY DECISION)
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	Within public domain
SUMMARY:	The report attaches the recent report from Ofsted on Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services, which was published on 13 June 2012, and a draft action plan to respond to the issues raised.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note and comment on the Action Plan with particular regard to the issues relating to the scrutiny of the work around safeguarding.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes – the Children and Young People’s Plan forms part of the Policy Framework and the actions in the action plan are not in conflict with it.
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	Compliance with the proposed Action Plan is welcomed in order to manage the risks the Council faces in respect of Looked after Children.
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	There are no wider resource implications arising from this report.
Equality/Diversity implications:	No

Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes JH
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In April 2012 Ofsted undertook a ten day inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services within Bury. The overall judgement concluded that the effectiveness of both services was adequate overall with some good and some outstanding features. Capacity to improve was judged to be adequate for safeguarding and good for looked after children.
- 1.2 A further inspection will be undertaken under Ofsted’s new framework within three years although it is considered likely that this will take place within the next twelve to eighteen months. Services will be judged to some extent upon the progress achieved in the areas for improvement identified in the most recent inspection. The attached Action Plan addresses each area identified for improvement.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 In terms of risk management the Action Plan will address issues raised by Ofsted, which will lead to better safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in the Borough and will also mitigate potential reputational risk to the Authority. Implementation will be regularly monitored by the Children’s Management Team and, subject to their agreement, Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 No specific issues concerning Equality and Diversity have been identified.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Inspection has provided a very useful expert evaluation of our services to some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the Borough. The Action plan provides a comprehensive approach to addressing the identified areas for improvement.

List of Background Papers:-

Action Plan

Contact Details:-

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