

# Scrutiny Report

<b>DECISION OF:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> June 2013</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Ofsted Inspection (SLAC) Action Plan</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Councillor G. Campbell - Cabinet Member for Children &amp; Families</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Jackie Gower (Assistant Director – Children’s Services – Social Care &amp; Safeguarding)</b>
<b>TYPE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>CABINET (NON KEY DECISION)</b>
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:</b>	Within public domain
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	The report attaches the report from Ofsted on Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services, published 13 June 2012 and the Action Plan developed to respond to the issues raised.
<b>OPTIONS &amp; RECOMMENDED OPTION</b>	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note and comment on the progress against the Action Plan with particular regard to the issues relating to Safeguarding; and to note the review of the action plan consequent on Working Together 2013 and the revised Ofsted Inspection Framework.
<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>	
<b>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</b>	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes – the Children and Young People’s Plan forms part of the Policy Framework and the action plan is consistent with the Children and Young People’s Plan.
<b>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</b>	
<b>Statement by Executive Director of Resources:</b>	
<b>Equality/Diversity implications:</b>	No

<b>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Scrutiny Interest:</b>	

## **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 (SLAC) services within Bury. The overall judgement concluded that the effectiveness of both services was adequate with some good and some outstanding features. Capacity to improve was judged to be 'adequate' for safeguarding services and 'good' for looked after children services.
- 1.2 The attached Action Plan was constructed to address each of the eighteen areas identified for improvement. A further inspection of services to 'looked after children' will be undertaken within three years of May 2012, although it is considered likely that this re-inspection will take place within the next twelve months. Ofsted judgements will be informed by the progress made against the areas for improvement identified in the May 2012 inspection.

### **2.0 ISSUES**

- 2.1 At the time of writing Bury is one of a small number of local authorities in the North West yet to be inspected in the current 'round' of Ofsted child protection inspections (completion due June – September 2013). Similarly adoption services in Bury (not inspected since 2009) are due for re-inspection before implementation of the proposed revised inspection framework in September 2013.
- 2.2 Although the attached Action Plan was developed and implemented to address the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted during the SLAC inspection, it will be of relevance to Ofsted when forming their judgements in respect of both child protection and adoption services.

- 2.3 Progress against the attached Action Plan has been monitored regularly since May 2012 by the Children's Services Senior Management Team and the majority of actions have been completed.
- 2.4 However, the implications of 'Working Together 2013' (April 2013) and the revised 'Multi-Agency Inspection Framework' (implementation September 2013) requires that the Action Plan be subject of significant review. Some of the work completed against it requires major revision consequent on Working Together 2013; and the revised emphasis of Ofsted inspections requires the plan be evaluated for impact on social work practice and 'outcomes' for children.
- 2.5 The reviewed action plan will sit within a Children's Services Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Framework - due for completion in August 2013. The development of the plan is being monitored by the Children's Services Senior Management Team and on completion will be available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 No specific issues concerning Equality and Diversity have been identified.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Inspection provided a useful expert evaluation of our services to some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the Borough. The Action plan provided a comprehensive approach to addressing the identified areas for improvement, but in the context of Working Together 2013 and the revised Ofsted Framework (September 2013) it is no longer 'fit for purpose.' The action plan will be reviewed and refreshed in order to ensure that Children's Services continue to develop safe and 'outcome' focused services for children.

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#### **List of Background Papers:-**

Ofsted Inspection report.

Action Plan

#### **Contact Details:-**

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