

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	CABINET
DATE:	8 JUNE 2016
SUBJECT:	OFSTED INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS AND REVIEW OF LOCAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD
REPORT FROM:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CONTACT OFFICER:	Jackie Gower, Assistant Director (Children's Social Care)
TYPE OF DECISION:	EXECUTIVE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>Ofsted inspected Children's Services over a four week period in February and March 2016 and found that children and young people in Bury are safe.</p> <p>The report highlights that services to Children and young people are predominantly good and includes recommendations which will assist the Council in ensuring all services to children and young people are good or outstanding.</p>
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	Cabinet are asked to note the report and instruct the Executive Director of Children, Young People & Culture to prepare an action plan in response to the report for consideration at a future meeting.
IMPLICATIONS:	

Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	The action plan will be developed taking account of current and potential future resource levels. The Plan will be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet for approval.
Statement by Executive Director of Resources (including Health and Safety Implications)	There are no wider resource implications
Equality/Diversity implications:	Yes No (see paragraph below)
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes Comments
Wards Affected:	ALL
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	
7 June 2016			

1.0 BACKGROUND

Ofsted carried out an inspection of Services for children in need of help and protection; children looked after and care leavers and a review of the Local Safeguarding Board from 22 February 2016 to 17 March 2016. The report detailing their findings was published on Ofsted's website on 16 May 2016.

Each Local Authority receives a grading for "Overall Effectiveness" which is based on the following sub judgments:

- Experiences and progress of children who need help and protection
- The experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving

- permanence
 - Adoption performance
 - The experiences and progress of care leavers
- Leadership, management and governance
- LSCB effectiveness

1.1 Context of the inspection

In order to assist members to understand the judgments given by Ofsted:

- 84 Inspection reports had been published as at 17 March 2016;
- As at 17 March 2016, no outstanding judgements had been made nationally;
- The breakdown of the "Overall Effectiveness" judgement on LA's inspected so far is as follows:
 - 20 (24%) have been judged to be "good"
 - 42(50%) have been judged "Requires improvement to be good"
 - 22 (26%) have been judged to be "Inadequate"

1.2 The Outcome of the Inspection

The inspection found that there are no widespread or serious failings that create or leave children being harmed or at risk of harm, and found that the welfare of looked after children is safeguarding and promoted.

The outcome in terms of grades for Bury is as follows:

- Overall Effectiveness – Requires improvement to be good
- Children who need help and protection – good
- Children Looked after and achieving permanence – require improvement
 - Adoption - good
 - Experiences and progress of care leavers – requires improvement
- Leadership, Management and Governance – good
- Effectiveness of the LSCB - good

It should be noted that the judgements are broadly in line, but probably better than we would have expected at the start of the Inspection.

Inspectors noted that services to vulnerable children and young people in Bury have measurably improved over the last two years and staff should be commended for their ongoing commitment

1.3 The Focus of the Inspection

12 inspectors carried out their inspection over a four week period. The focus of their scrutiny surrounded:

- Frontline case practice
- Children and Young People's own experiences
- A greater emphasis on the outcomes and needs of the child
- Early identification and help for children, young people and their families;
- A greater emphasis than in previous inspections about how effectively partner agencies work together to protect children and young people;
- Services for LAC (including Fostering, Adoption and Care Leavers)
- A review of the LSCB

1.4 Strengths

Inspectors have reported on a number of strengths within Bury Council:

- Our staff and managers are our biggest asset;
- Our managers know the service well and were already aware of the areas for development;

- The outcomes for Children and Young People are good;
- Inspectors did not see any children at risk of harm;
- There is appropriate challenge from the Early Help Panel;
- There is a high level of advice and support provided by CAF Co-Ordinators;
- The communication between EDT and MASH is good;
- The Victoria Family Centre and work done in supporting families for reunification is excellent
- The range of pre and post adoption support is good;
- Permanence is supported from an early stage with siblings being kept together;
- Placement moves are managed well;
- Life story and letter box training is making a real difference to the lives of children;
- Children out of borough are supported well;
- Social workers and Personal Assistants know the children they are working with very well;
- The CAMHS service is a strength;
- Our PLO monitoring and tracking is good;
- EHCP Plans have child centred outcomes;
- There is good corporate support with appropriate levels of scrutiny;
- Senior managers are visible;
- The Council is outward looking and has a realistic self assessment;
- Trust Board arrangements are good;
- There is effective workforce development and a strong and stable workforce of social workers and Team Managers.

1.5 Conclusion

The report provides the Council with 11 recommendations which will form part of an action plan; in addition the LSCB received 5 recommendations which will form part of a Safeguarding Board action plan. The recommendations can be found on Page 8 and 38 of the Ofsted Report

Ofsted offer all Local Authority Children's Services judged to require improvement an opportunity to host an improvement seminar; this provides Local Authorities and Partners a comprehensive understanding of the inspection judgements in order that we can develop a "written statement of action" (Action Plan), which we are required to submit to the Secretary of State and HMCI within 70days of the publication of the inspection report.

In addition, Ofsted offer four "Getting to good" seminars annually.

The Action Plan is being developed and will be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet for approval. This will be monitored by the Social Care Management Team, and Corporate Parenting Board. In addition reports will be submitted to the Children's Management Team and to Ofsted and updates will be brought to Cabinet and/ or Scrutiny.

Delivery of safeguarding and child protection services does not lie solely with the Council; Key partners (Health, Police, Schools) share in this work and must remain committed to the task. With the continued support of Cabinet, our staff and partners we wish to ensure ongoing commitment, and where necessary, the identification and allocation of sufficient resources to make this task deliverable and maintain the same level of progress to become good.

Contact Details:

Jackie Gower
Assistant Director (Social Care & Safeguarding)
Tel no: 0161 740 5715
Email j.gower@bury.gov.uk

Link to Ofsted Report:

http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/bury/051_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB.pdf