

# REPORT FOR DECISION



<b>DECISION OF:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2016</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN FOLLOWING THE RECOMENDATIONS OF THE OFSTED INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS AND REVIEW OF LOCAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR SHARON BRIGGS CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>JACKIE GOWER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SOCIAL CARE AND SAFEGUARDING)</b>
<b>TYPE OF DECISION:</b>	KEY
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:</b>	This paper is in the public domain
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	<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. The proposed action plan incorporates the recommendations from Ofsted which will assist the Council in ensuring all services to children and young people are good or outstanding.</p>
<b>OPTIONS &amp; RECOMMENDED OPTION</b>	<p>Cabinet are asked to approve the action plan which has been written in response to the Ofsted report and agree an allocation of £195K from reserves to fund the work in 2016/17.</p> <p>The alternative option would be to reject the action plan in whole or in part, but the Council would then be unable to</p>

	comply with Ofsted requirements.
<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>	
<b>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</b>	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
<b>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</b>	The proposed action plan seeks "one-off" funding from reserves in 2016/17 totalling £195,000.  There is an ongoing resource requirement of £190,000 for 2017/18 and beyond.  If agreed, this will be sourced when 2017/18 budget proposals are developed by the Children, Young People & Culture Directorate.
<b>Statement by Executive Director of Resources (including Health and Safety Implications)</b>	There are no wider resource implications
<b>Equality/Diversity implications:</b>	No specific implications
<b>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</b>	Yes JH
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	ALL
<b>Scrutiny Interest:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## TRACKING/PROCESS

## DIRECTOR:

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
	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. The Report was brought to Cabinet on 8 June 2016. The Local Authority is required to submit an action plan to Ofsted within 70 working days of the publication of the report – the deadline for the response is 23 August 2016.
<b>1.1</b>	<b>The Outcome of the Inspection</b>
	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall Effectiveness – Requires improvement to be good</li> <li>• Children who need help and protection – good</li> <li>• Children Looked after and achieving permanence – require improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adoption - good</li> <li>○ Experiences and progress of care leavers – requires improvement</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Leadership, Management and Governance – good</li> <li>• Effectiveness of the LSCB - good</li> </ul>
	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. The proposed Action Plan seeks to continue to improve the services to Children and Young People.
	The Inspection report provides the Council with 11 recommendations; these form the basis of an action plan which following the agreement of Cabinet will be sent to Ofsted and the Department for Education.
	The plan identifies some areas where there is a need for additional staff resources either on a short term basis or recurrently. The "One off" cost relates to a number of additional short term posts and is £100K. The recurrent cost is £190K in a full year. Additional savings will be built into the 2017/18 budget to cover the recurrent costs from April 2017, but 6 months worth of funding is requested from reserves in 2016/17 to cover the costs of these posts. The total request of resources from reserves for the action plan is therefore £195K in 2016/17. Cabinet are asked to agree this allocation.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Monitoring the Action Plan</b>
	Once agreed, the Action Plan will be monitored by the Departmental Management Team and the Corporate Parenting Board. In addition reports will be brought to Cabinet and Scrutiny.
	Ofsted are currently proposing to meet with senior members of Children's Social Care early in 2017 to review the progress of the Action Plan
	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.

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