

SCRUTINY REPORT

MEETING: Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 7th January 2026

SUBJECT: CYP ILACS Improvement Plan

REPORT FROM: Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

CONTACT OFFICER: Jeanette Richards, Executive Director for Children's Services

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Improvement Plan that was developed following the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) carried out by Ofsted between 2nd June and 20th June 2025, as reported to Scrutiny Committee on 16th September 2025.
- 1.2 Following the inspection, we submitted our Local Authority action plan to Ofsted on 5th November 2025.
On the 5th of December, the department received a letter from the NW Regional Director, Ofsted, stating that "It is helpful to see the actions planned to address the identified areas for improvement and the clearly identified governance arrangements for monitoring progress"

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 The Improvement Plan has retained the same priority areas as the previous plan, on the basis that the priority areas were co-produced with young people but also that Ofsted noted "a comprehensive and coherent improvement plan that is driving the necessary changes, and this is embraced by a whole council vision and by partner agencies. This incremental approach to delivering change across a number of services, supported by significant investment, has improved services for children".
- 2.2 The action plan addresses all areas for improvement identified during Ofsted's inspection, both the formal recommendations and comments within the inspection report as well as the feedback we received from inspectors during their time on-site. The plan also extends beyond the Ofsted findings, recognising the key enablers to transformation and also the need to implement national reforms including the Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP) and the Best Start Family Hubs agenda.
- 2.3 We will continue to use performance and quality assurance to measure the impact of our transformation and improvement activity.
- 2.4 The plan will be overseen by our new Strengthening Outcomes Board, which replaces our Improvement Board. Governance arrangements have been reviewed and new Terms of Reference agreed.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Members are asked to note the Improvement Plan.

List of Background Papers:-

Bury ILACS Improvement Plan (attached)

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Executive Director sign off Date:_____

JET Meeting Date:_____