

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee - 22 June 2017

Subject: **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Classification: Unrestricted

Previous Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: Kent County Council's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers were inspected between 6 and 30 March 2017. The inspection report was published on 13 June 2017, confirming that Ofsted found the Services' overall effectiveness to be 'Good'. A copy of the inspection report is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendation(s): The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the content of the inspection report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Ofsted has a statutory duty under Section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to regularly inspect each of the 152 English Local Authorities' Children's Services. Although Kent County Council received a Child Sexual Exploitation thematic inspection in late 2014, the Council's Children's Services had not been holistically evaluated with a published judgement, since 2013, when services were found to be 'Adequate'. Since November 2013, Ofsted has been assessing Local Authorities under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF).
- 1.2 In accordance with the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework Evaluation Schedule, every Local Authority must produce an 'action plan' of how it intends to respond to recommendations. This applies regardless of the judgement that Authorities receive. The Local Authority must send a copy of their plans for development, in line with recommendations, within 70 working days of receiving their final report. For the Council, this plan must be with the Inspectorate by mid-September 2017.

- 1.3 An Ofsted Practice Development Plan is accordingly being compiled to address the actions arising from the ten recommendations made in the Ofsted report, together with other issues identified over the course of the inspection. The Practice Development Plan will be presented to a future meeting of the Children's Young People and Education Cabinet Committee with details of arrangements for monitoring of progress against the agreed actions.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Recommendations: The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the content of the inspection report.

3. Background Documents

None

4. Contact details

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