

By: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director for Social Care, Health & Wellbeing

To: Children's Social Care & Health Cabinet Committee

Date: 9 July 2014

Subject: **Ofsted Inspection Action Plans - Update**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The report reviews progress since the previous update report to the Corporate Parenting Panel on 19 June 2014 in responding to the recommendations made by Ofsted in their inspections of Kent County Council's child protection and children in need, children in care / care leavers and fostering and adoption services.

Recommendations Cabinet Committee is asked to NOTE the progress in delivering the Ofsted Action Plans

1. Introduction

- (1) Over the past 2 years Kent County Council, Specialist Children's Services have undergone 4 Ofsted inspections:
 - Children in Care / Care Leavers – published report 23rd August 2013 (adequate)
 - Adoption support services – published report 18th June 2013 (adequate)
 - Children in need of help and Protection – published report 15th January 2013 (adequate)
 - Fostering Services – published report 31st July 2012 (adequate)
- (2) The local authority's performance under each of these inspections represents a significant improvement by the local authority and its partners since Ofsted's joint-inspection of Kent's safeguarding and children in care services in November 2010, which resulted in an inadequate grading.
- (3) Action plans are in place, which respond to each of the priorities for action recommended by Ofsted under each inspection. These have been reviewed and updated to reflect current progress and are presented at appendices 1 to 4. Work is taking place to consolidate these 4 action plans into one overarching plan.

2. Reporting to Members on the delivery of the Action Plans

- (1) The Ofsted Action Plans have been reported regularly to the Corporate Parenting Panel, most recently on the 14 June 2014. However the Panel felt that although the plans for Adoption and for Foster are clearly with their Corporate Parenting arena the overview of the plans should be considered by the Cabinet Committee with their wider remit.
- (2) The four separate Actions Plans have now been amalgamated into a single plan which is attached as Appendix 1.

3. Recommendations

- (1) Cabinet Committee is asked to NOTE the progress in delivering the Ofsted Action Plans

Paul Brightwell
Head of Quality Assurance
Children's Safeguarding Unit, Specialist Children's Services
Families and Social Care Directorate
Kent County Council

Tel: 01622 694308 email: Paul.Brightwell@kent.gov.uk

Background documents:

Appendix 1: Ofsted Inspection of Specialist Children's Services: Action Plan