

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 29th October 2019

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Children's Services - Improvement Plan and Monitoring Visit

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? As soon as possible

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cllr Cordelia Law, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cordelia.Law@torbay.gov.uk

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Alison Botham, Director Children's Services, Alison.botham@torbay.gov.uk & Nancy Meehan, Deputy Director Children's Services, nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk

1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 Following the Ofsted Inspection undertaken in August 2018 Torbay Council Children's Services is currently rated as 'Inadequate'. As a result Children's Services are subject to regular Ofsted 'monitoring visits', the most recent of which was undertaken on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd October 2019. It is important that Members consider the feedback provided following this visit.
- 1.2 In light of the feedback received from Ofsted, a period of management change with new appointees in post at senior and middle management levels and the appointment of a new chair of the Improvement Board it was recognised that a revised Improvement Plan was required.
- 1.3 As such a revised improvement plan has been created ensuring a considered shift to ensure that all that we do is focused unequivocally on the needs of our children and that in doing so we will meet fully, or exceed the expectations of the Ofsted inspectors. The Improvement Plan will remain an iterative document that will be updated regularly to reflect progress and to respond to changing demands and priorities.
- 1.4 The revised Improvement Plan was submitted for consideration at the Improvement Board meeting held on the 21st October 2019.
- 1.5 This report is before Overview and Scrutiny to provide an opportunity to consider the feedback received at the most recent Ofsted monitoring visit, and the revised Improvement Plan and make any recommendations to the Cabinet/Children's Improvement Board.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 Young people and their families living in Torbay rightly expect high quality children's services, particularly in times of need. It is acknowledged and accepted that progress has not been good enough and has at times stalled.
- 2.2 As such the Council are taking measures to address our challenges and have reviewed our Ofsted improvement plan at a time of management change with a new Deputy Director in post and the appointment of a new chair of the Improvement Board.
- 2.3 We will use this revised plan as a platform for accelerated and successful improvement endeavour and to assure ourselves that the impact on children can be evidenced.
-

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Board considers the submitted Ofsted monitoring visit feedback letter and the revised Improvement Plan and makes any identified recommendations to the Cabinet/Children's Improvement Board.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Ofsted Monitoring Visit Letter
Appendix 2: Revised Improvement Plan