

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 12th November

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

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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 and approved at the Improvement Board meeting held on the 21 October 2019 and was subsequently submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny board at their meeting on the 29 October.
- 1.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the feedback received following the recent Ofsted monitoring visit, and the revised Improvement Plan and made the following recommendations:

- That the Director of Children’s Services provide the Overview and Scrutiny Board, quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the Improvement Plan;
- That the Deputy Director of Children’s Services consider the use of elected members to support the ongoing Improvement Plan; and
- That the Deputy Director of Children’s Services arrange for the Overview Scrutiny Lead for Children’s Services and other Members to visit a ‘good’ Ofsted rated local authority to learn from them and provide feedback to the 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.
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3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Ofsted monitoring visit feedback and revised Improvement Plan set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to the submitted report be noted.

Appendices

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