



Derby City Council

## **COUNCIL CABINET** **6 September 2017**

# **ITEM 9**

Report of the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding  
and Children and Young People

### **Responding to Ofsted's inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers**

#### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 In March 2017, Derby City's services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers were judged to be 'good' by Ofsted for overall effectiveness. The sub judgements findings were:
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – 'requires improvement'
  - The experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence – 'good'
    - Adoption performance - 'good'
    - The experiences and progress of care leavers – 'good'
  - Leadership, management and governance – 'good'
  - Derby Safeguarding Children Board – 'outstanding', Derby is only one of four Local Authorities with this grading
- 1.2 Ofsted commenced inspections against this inspection framework of local authority services for children in need of help and protection; children looked after and care leavers (the 'SIF' inspection) in November 2013.
- 1.3 The framework assesses authorities against three key judgements areas with two sub-judgements under one element of the framework, all of which contribute to an 'overall effectiveness judgement'\*\*. ...
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection.
  - The experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence.
    - Adoption performance.
    - The experiences and progress of care leavers.
  - Leadership, management and governance.

There is also an independent review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) simultaneous to the inspection.

1.4 To date there have been 146 authorities inspected under the framework and as at the 14 August 2017 (last publication date) there had been 142 reports published with most authorities being judged as 'requires improvement'...

- Outstanding authorities – 2 (1%).
- Good authorities – 42 (30%).
- Requires improvement authorities – 64 (45%).
- Inadequate authorities – 34 (24%).

*It should be noted that there have been five re-inspections of inadequate authorities.*

1.5 Derby City's final report was published on the [Ofsted website](#) on Tuesday 13 June 2017 and is presented in **Appendix 2**.

1.6 Attached at **Appendix 3** is a proposed action plan to address the eleven recommendations made by inspectors (Appendix 2, Page 7); alongside wider areas for improvement the inspection highlighted, which must be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted by Wednesday 20 September 2017.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the current position with regards to the SIF inspection programme, as set out in paragraph 1.4.
- 2.2 To note the key highlights from the Ofsted report presented in paragraph 4.3; with the full report presented in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 To review and approve the proposed action plan, which will address the recommendations, presented at Appendix 3.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 All authorities are inspected by Ofsted under the framework of services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers. The findings of the inspection are a critical test of a Local Authority's strengths and areas for improvement and should be communicated with both internal and external stakeholders to ensure appropriate ownership and commitment to on-going improvement work; delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people.
- 3.2 A key requirement of the Inspection Handbook is that the '*The local authority submits their improvement plan within 70 working days of the report being published*', which is required under regulation 3 of The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Inspection of Local Authorities) Regulations 2007.

<b>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</b>
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### **The inspection**

4.1 Derby City's inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers took place from Tuesday 7 March 2017 to Thursday 30 March 2017. To inform the inspection findings Ofsted undertook a large and varied amount of activity...

- Sampled / tracked 267 children and young people and received further information on 48 individual cases from senior officers.
- Held 90 meetings speaking to over 220 staff and partners.
- Conducted 14 site visits (sometimes visiting the same locations more than once).
- Hosted four workshops with our customers, speaking to over 30 carers and children and young people.
- Observed a Child Protection Review Conference.
- Considered 152 different pieces of evidence as part of Annex A and an additional 418 individual documents that were submitted as part of subsequent information requests made throughout the inspection; a further 97 documents were reviewed as part of LSCB review.
- Reviewed 233 individual case documents, including casefile audits, as part of the 20 tracked cases at the start of week three – the team also spoke to workers, children and young people and parents carers for these cases.
- Visited and spoke to two looked after children and young people placed at distance.
- Reviewed four Adopters files and four Foster Carers files.

### **Ofsted's findings**

4.2 Derby City's services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers were judged to be 'good' by Ofsted for overall effectiveness. The sub judgements findings were:

- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – ‘requires improvement’
- The experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence – ‘good’
  - Adoption performance - ‘good’
  - The experiences and progress of care leavers – ‘good’
- Leadership, management and governance – ‘good’
- Derby Safeguarding Children Board – ‘outstanding’

#### 4.3 Key messages from the inspection include:

- Children and young people in the city are kept safe and when risks are identified workers act quickly to protect them, including for those children and young people who go missing, children missing education and / or those at risk of child sexual exploitation.
- Derby has a well-established early help service meaning that children and families are accessing the right support at the right time.
- Our social workers develop meaningful relationships with children and young people by spending time with them and are good at listening to them, which means that we are making the best decisions for them.
- Derby’s children and young people only become looked after when they need to, with looked after children benefiting from consistency in their workers, and senior leaders are strong corporate parents to both looked after children and care leavers – we are aspirational for them.
- Our adoption service is good, with increasing numbers of children and young people being adopted, enabled by thorough family finding and matching. We also offer strong post-adoption support services to children, families and birth families.
- Care leavers services are good; we are in touch with our care leavers and are supporting them to live independently in suitable accommodation and to participate appropriately in employment, education and training.
- Children’s services have been prioritised corporately and there is a strong, collaborative leadership group (political and officer) with a proven ability to improve services for children and families.
- The Council has a long history of strong and effective partnership working, both at a strategic and operational level; with our Local Safeguarding Children Board being judged as ‘outstanding’ (only four other areas have been judged outstanding in the reports published as at the end of April 2017).
- The findings were in line with Derby’s self-assessment showing that we know ourselves well and that we are focusing our improvement work in the right areas. The areas for improvement identified under ‘the experiences

and progress of children who need help and protection' were known to senior officers and elected members and plans are in place to improve services in these key areas.

4.4 Full details of Ofsted's findings, across all of the judgement areas, are presented in **Appendix 2**, p7.

### **Supporting Improvement**

4.5 In line with Derby's commitment to continuous improvement senior leaders have been working with professionals throughout People Services and in key partner agencies to support the development of a shared and owned improvement plan. The key principles for the development of the plan have been:

- targeted, new actions only; that clearly state what will be delivered and by when
- a full analysis of the implications of proposed objectives and proposed actions to be taken against these implications
- a continued focus on the concept of 'what difference will these actions make' and 'how will we know this', which are at the heart of all improvement activity in Derby City.

4.6 Presented at **Appendix 3** are the proposed actions to be taken in response to Ofsted's recommendations and any wider areas for improvement; alongside how the 'loop will be closed' on measuring the impact of the actions taken (**Appendix 4**).

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b>	Andy Smith – Strategic Director People Services
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<b>Other(s)</b>	Hazel Lymbery – Service Director Early Help and Children's Safeguarding Suanne Lim – Service Director Integrated Services (Children's) Heather Greenan – Head of Performance and Intelligence
<b>For more information contact:</b>  <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Sarah Walker – Policy and Improvement Manager 01332 643466 sarah.walker@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Derby Ofsted Report Appendix 3 – Draft Improvement Plan – Derby City Council Appendix 4 – Closing the Loop - Derby City Council

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 Any financial implications pertaining to the actions required in response to the inspection recommendations are presented within the plan presented at Appendix 3.

**Legal**

- 2.1 Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) carry out the inspections under section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Ofsted conduct inspections under sections 20–23 of the Children Act 2004.

Local Authorities are required to submit an action plan following the inspection, under regulation 3 of The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Inspection of Local Authorities) Regulations 2007.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 Workforce development issues were picked up through the evaluation framework for the inspection and any implications for staff and workforce development are presented within Appendix 3.

**IT**

- 4.1 System and recording issues are presented in Appendix 3 as part of the proposed improvement activity.

**Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 Equality issues are picked up through the evaluation framework for the inspection and any actions required to support wider vulnerabilities identified through the report are presented at part of the improvement plan (Appendix 3). Further to this, any substantive service change will have an equality impact assessment completed.

**Health and Safety**

- 6.1 None.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 7.1 None.

## **Property and Asset Management**

- 8.1 None.

## **Risk Management and Safeguarding**

- 9.1 Risks associated to inspections are managed as part of the self-assessment process and on-going preparations. Safeguarding was at the centre of the framework with the outcome being an overall external judgement on the effectiveness of Derby City's safeguarding arrangements for Children and Young People in the city. Clear implications / actions are presented as part of the improvement plan (Appendix 3)

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 10.1 The content of this report and supporting presentation underpins the Council pledge of 'safe'.