

# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

## COMMITTEE: AUDIT

DATE: 22 November 2017

## REVIEW OF EXTERNAL INSPECTION REPORTS – ADULTS & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Report of Andy Johnson, Interim Director of Children's Services and Vanessa Bainbridge, Director of Adults Services and Commissioning

Cabinet Members: Councillors Wayne Daley and Veronica Jones

### 1. Purpose of report

To inform Audit Committee members of the findings from external inspections that have taken place in the last 10 months (1st January 2017 to 31st October 2017) and to provide assurance that the resulting reports are receiving due scrutiny.

### 2. Recommendations

Members acknowledge the findings and assess the effectiveness of the scrutiny arrangements.

### 3. Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the priorities in the NCC Corporate Plan.

### 4. Key issues

There were several inspections made by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) for provision within Adults Services in the period, including one involving Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHFT). All inspected services remain compliant, and in the case of Northumbria, with its shared management arrangements, outstanding.

Residential homes for children and young people were inspected in the period by Ofsted. They all continue to be judged as good and some as outstanding. For all Council-run residential homes, where the inspections result in areas for improvement, action plans are in place, which are reviewed regularly, to secure improvements and prepare for the next inspection.

Progress on the Council's Improvement Plan following the Ofsted SIF inspection is being reported through the Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Advisory Group (S&CPAG) and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) - Members can access the most recent report to S&CPAG on 11th October, 2017.

The report gives an overview of the results of school inspections that took place in the period. It states that Ofsted judges 82% of primary schools as good or outstanding, below the regional average and national average (90%). The proportion in the secondary school sector is lower, 68% compared with 79% nationally. Members should note that once a school has been placed in special measures it will either close or become an academy, therefore statistically these figures are unlikely to change quickly. In addition to the content herein, a detailed annual report updating members about education in Northumberland will go to Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny committee later in the winter.

There were no inspections of Children's Centres, youth offending, special educational needs nor adult learning in the period.

## 5. Background

The report focuses on external inspection activity in Adults and Children's Services between January 2017 and October 2017. CQC inspects Adults' provision and Ofsted inspects Children's provision, apart from the YOS which is inspected by the HIMP (Probation inspectorate). The report identifies the judgements that the inspections arrived at and assurance that appropriate actions are being taken in the event of any recommendations. The full inspection reports are available on request.

### **Table 1. ADULT CARE CQC INSPECTION STATUS**

The table below lists the services inspected by CQC. NHFT manages adult social care services on behalf of the Council with several shared management posts in place. There were 4 inspections during the period and all services (see below) remain compliant.

Of our registered services, all are rated as good, 1 as outstanding and 2 are awaiting their draft report. Services are on an 18 month inspection programme which is due to restart imminently:

SERVICE	DATE OF INSPECTION	OUTCOME
Chibburn Court	20.10.15	Good
Hatfield Chase	1.3.16	Good
Shared Lives	5.1.16	Good
Sea Lodge	4.5.16	Good
Tynedale House	24.4.17	Good
STSS Alnwick	19.11.15	Good
STSS Berwick	27.6.17	Outstanding
STSS South East & Central	29.8.17	Report awaited
STSS West	4.7.17	Report awaited

A peer review of Adult social care services was carried out by the Local Government Association in September 2016. The review focused on the formal assessment process designed to meet the requirements of the Care Act. The final report was received in November 2016 which was extremely positive about our integrated services delivered to our community and the commitment of our staff.

The learning disability services of NHFT (Northumberland and North Tyneside) were also inspected over a 3 day period, week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Both services were rated as outstanding, with an overall rating of outstanding for the Trust.

All recommendations arising from these inspections are supported with an action plan and monitoring reports are scrutinised by senior managers and arm's length Governance staff.

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

This report features two types of inspections in Children's services: the Council's residential homes for children and young people and school inspections.

### **CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL OFSTED INSPECTION STATUS**

Ofsted's and the Council's aim is that all children and young people deserve to live in children's homes that are Outstanding or at least Good. At the 31st October 2017, all of the Council's residential homes for children and young people were judged to be Good or Outstanding, with all five having been inspected in the period. Encouragingly, Barndale and Thorndale were once again judged to be Outstanding and Phoenix, Coanwood and Kyloe Secure Unit were all judged to be Good. The interim inspection of all homes were judged as "Continued Effectiveness".

Overall, this is an excellent outcome.

For all children's homes, there are action plans in place to respond to any recommendations or areas for improvement identified from the inspections. These actions and the progress against them are updated by the Registered Managers and circulated to the Performance team. Where appropriate, there is internal challenge to assess if the areas for improvement are sufficiently addressed by the action plans. Where progress has not been sufficiently timely, a challenge and agreed changes have been made by the service to meet recommendations accordingly.

### **CHILDREN'S CENTRES**

There have been no further inspections of Northumberland's provision in this period. However, the Council as commissioner has tracked progress.

## SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

There have been 35 published primary school inspection reports between 01.01.17 – 31.10.17. Of those, 0 were judged to be Outstanding, 24 to be good, 10 to be Requires Improvement and 1 to be Inadequate. Schools judged to be less than Good receive monitoring visits from Ofsted and the outcomes of those are reported to the Senior Management Team every week. 2 primary schools received monitoring visits during the period and both were judged to be Taking Effective Action. Those schools judged as inadequate and placed in special measures (due to concerns over the ability of the current leadership to bring about improvement) either close or become an academy. Cumulatively, this means that at the end of the period, 82% of Primary schools were judged as Good or Outstanding at their most recent Ofsted inspection. This is below the North east average of 93% and the national average of 90%. Overall there are too many children (3737) who are in primary schools not yet judged to be Good or Outstanding. It is the prime responsibility of the governing bodies and head teachers of those schools to improve.

The Council commissions School Improvement Partners to monitor and challenge those schools to improve, one of the products being a termly SIP visit report which includes what judgement they conclude the school would receive if they were inspected at that point. Members should note that periods between inspections range from 18 months to 3 years therefore statistics of this nature are slow to change and short term trend patterns difficult to identify.

There have been 7 published inspection reports of secondary and middle schools between 01.01.17 – 31.10.17. Of those, 0 were judged to be Outstanding, 5 to be good, 2 to be Requires Improvement and 0 to be Inadequate. Cumulatively, this means that at the end of the period, 68% of secondary schools were judged as Good or Outstanding at their most recent Ofsted inspection.

Whilst an improvement on the lowest figure, this remains below the national average of 79% (March 2017) and the regional average of 71%. 2 secondary schools that had been judged to Require Improvement previously received a Section 8 monitoring visit during the period. One was deemed to be Taking Effective Action and the other was not. In real terms, there are 8881 children (or 37%) who are in secondary or middle schools not yet judged to be Good or Outstanding at the end of the period. Working with schools to improve this is a continuing priority for the Council.

However, the task of turning round this pattern of underachievement will take at least 3 years based upon Ofsted inspection schedules.

### 6. Implications

<b>Policy</b>	Raising standards in social care and education are Council priorities
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	None

<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	Regulatory inspections of residential homes assess compliance with HR policies.
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Audit Committee reviewing a schedule of incoming inspection reports mitigates the risk of the council not taking appropriate action in respect of such issues. It also improves the governance framework.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Ensuring that external inspections are properly followed up will provide assurance to customers that service weaknesses are being addressed.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	All

#### 7. **Background papers:**

Care Quality Commission inspection reports; Ofsted inspection reports; NCC Overview and Scrutiny reports

#### 8. **Report sign off**

Officers	
Finance Officer	N.A.
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N.A.
Human Resources	N.A.
Procurement	N.A.
I.T.	N.A.
Director of Children's Services	Andy Johnson
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wayne Daley / Veronica Jones

#### 9. **Author and Contact Details**

For more information, please contact: Alan Hartwell Senior Manager Education and Safeguarding Performance (01670) 623589, or email

[Alan.Hartwell@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Alan.Hartwell@northumberland.gov.uk).