

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 FEBRUARY 2019

CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Report of Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Adults Social Care and Children's Services

Cabinet Member: Councillor Wayne Daley, Executive Member for Children's Services

Children's Social Care Annual Self-Assessment

1. Purpose of report

To consider the self assessment prepared by Children's Social Care.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee notes the current self assessment and identifies any areas for further scrutiny.

3. Link to Corporate Plan

The Council's self assessment arrangements are particularly relevant to the 'Developing the Organisation' theme.

4. Key issues

This report is for discussion.

5. Background

Children's social care produce an annual self assessment in order to evaluate the progress and future areas for development for the forthcoming year. The self assessment is based on evidence and information gathered from a number of areas including audit, quality assurance processes, feedback from customers and external reviews. An action plan is currently being developed to promote the areas for development identified for this year.

The self assessment is subject to a regional challenge session involving Directors of Children's Services from two other Local Authorities. This took place in December where the following issues were discussed

- challenges of equitable access to services in view of the unique geography within Northumberland
- Leadership challenges/culture
- Voice of the child
- Workforce issues

The document was updated following this session.

The self assessment has to be submitted to Ofsted each year and is used as the basis for the annual conversation which this year is taking place on the 6th February 2019.

There is no set format provided by Ofsted and the template used has been determined by Children's Social Care, using a similar format to last year, but with the addition of innovative practice examples. It is structured using the different elements of the ILACS inspection framework (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services). Members will be advised of the headlines from the Annual Conversation once Ofsted's annual letter has been received.

6. Appendices - Children's Social Care self assessment

7. Implications

Policy	The self assessment has implications for the Council's policy in the Corporate Plan for developing the organisation
Finance and value for money	The self assessment refers to efficiency savings.
Legal	The report refers to the Council's childcare legal work.
Procurement	n/a
Human Resources	Having enough experienced social workers is essential for a high performing Children's Social Care service.
Property	n/a
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No x N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Diminishing the difference in outcomes for vulnerable children and young people such as those in care.
Risk Assessment	The self assessment has been subject to peer challenge by Directors in other local authorities.
Crime & Disorder	n/a
Customer Consideration	The self assessment considers how service users experience service provision.
Carbon reduction	n/a
Wards	All

8. Background papers:

Children's Social Care self assessment December 2018

9. Report sign off.

Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Liam Henry
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Executive Director	Cath McEvoy-Carr
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Wayne Daley

10. Author and Contact Details

This report has been prepared on behalf of Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Adults Social Care and Children's Services. For further information, contact Alan Hartwell on 01670 623589 or at Alan.Hartwell@northumberland.gov.uk