

**ANNOUNCED INSPECTION ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS MONITORING REPORT**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CHILDREN’S SAFEGUARDING, PEOPLE DIRECTORATE**

**1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with a further progress update on the implementation of the action plan arising from the announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services which took place in February / March 2012.
- 1.2. The report also provides Scrutiny Committee with information on the new Inspection Process introduced by Ofsted in November 2013.

**2. Introduction and background**

- 2.1 The announced inspection report published on the Ofsted website on 10 April 2012 graded Sunderland as being ‘good’ against each of the four headline inspection judgements (i.e. the ‘overall effectiveness’ and ‘capacity for improvement’ of both safeguarding and looked after children services). 17 of the 18 supporting judgements were ‘good’, with the remaining judgement being ‘adequate’.

**Table 1: Ofsted Judgements**

JUDGEMENT	SCORE
<b>Safeguarding services</b>	
Overall effectiveness	Good
Capacity for improvement	Good
<b>Safeguarding outcomes for children and young people</b>	
Children and young people are safe and feel safe	Good
Quality of provision	Adequate
The contribution of health agencies to keeping children and young people safe	Good
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Good
Partnership working	Good
Equality and diversity	Good
<b>Services for looked after children</b>	
Overall effectiveness	Good
Capacity for improvement	Good
<b>How good are outcomes for looked after children and care leavers?</b>	
Being healthy	Good
Staying safe	Good
Enjoying and achieving	Good
Making a positive contribution, including user engagement	Good
Economic well-being	Good
Quality of provision	Good
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Good

Equality and diversity	Good
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- 2.1 An action plan was developed by the council and its partners to address the 13 'formal' areas for improvement specifically identified within the Ofsted report. Additional actions were added to address the 'softer' areas for improvement which were referenced throughout the main body of the Ofsted report and the subsequent CQC report
- 2.2 The original action plan contained multi-agency and single agency improvements including items for immediate attention and those to be addressed within three months and six months respectively.
- 2.3 It was agreed that regular monitoring reports would be provided to the Council's Scrutiny Committee, the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board and the Children's Trust. This is the first update for 2014.

### 3. Progress to date

- 3.1 All areas of the formal action plan have been implemented or are in progress, with all actions RAG rated as either Amber or Green. Of the 13 formal areas for improvement, eight are Green and five are Amber. A summary of the progress is provided within the table below.

**Table 2: Formal areas for improvement**

Formal area for improvement	RAG rating	Plan ref no	Progress summary
<b>Safeguarding services</b>			
<b>Immediately</b>			
Ensure that all assessments clearly identify risk and protective factors and include contributions from partner agencies who are involved with the family	Amber	A1 & A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis workshops held.</li> <li>Forms amended and managers / staff reminded of their responsibilities.</li> <li>New Case file audit process piloted</li> </ul>
Ensure that all assessments take into full account the views of children and families and that children are seen alone, when appropriate	Amber	A14 & A15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views of children and families added as a drop down flag on CCM.</li> <li>Managers have reminded staff of their responsibilities.</li> <li>Case file audits will monitor translation into practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Within 3 months</b>			
Ensure that all child protection plans are specific and measurable including clear timescales for action and that all core group discussions are effectively minuted so that progress can be monitored more effectively	Amber	A4 & A5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Format for Child Protection Plan revised and updated</li> <li>Monitoring of practice through audit process.</li> <li>Administrative support to Reviewing Unit reviewed and improved</li> <li>Format for Core Group meeting record being further reviewed</li> </ul>
Review the chairing of conferences to ensure that they are chaired by professionals who have the requisite experience and expertise to undertake this role	Green	D2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review took place in 2012 and SSCB agreed not to pursue the use of partner agency chairs.</li> </ul>
NTWNHSFT to ensure that revised pathways of care are effectively	Amber	C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathways have been developed and are being monitored.</li> </ul>

Formal area for improvement	RAG rating	Plan ref no	Progress summary
implemented for children and families who need specialist services from CAMHS			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting times have reduced but are still longer than service specification requires</li> </ul>
Ensure, as far as is practically possible, that the ethnicity of all staff is known so that the local authority can evaluate accurately whether the workforce reflects the diversity of the local population	Green	G1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An on-line questionnaire was issued to all council staff in October 2012 to gather this information (as part of the wider council response to the new Public Sector Equality Duty).</li> <li>Remaining individuals approached individually in 2014</li> </ul>
<b>Within 6 months</b>			
The LADO annual report should include more detailed analysis of activity to ensure senior managers and partner agencies have a good understanding of the effectiveness of the service	Green	D3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An outcome based report was presented to SSCB in October 2012.</li> <li>Regular 6 monthly reports from the LADO presented to SSCB</li> </ul>
Reporting of private fostering arrangements should be more robust to ensure that senior managers are able to assure themselves that requirements are met	Green	D4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Private Fostering report presented to be SSCB in May 2013.</li> <li>Private fostering data now included in weekly performance monitoring reports.</li> </ul>
Ensure that learning from complaints is identified more clearly and used to improve practice across safeguarding and looked after children's services	Green	B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints Manager attends Safeguarding Managers Meeting quarterly</li> <li>Framework in place to demonstrate learning from complaints</li> </ul>
<b>Services for looked after children</b>			
<b>Immediately</b>			
Ensure that all looked after children, according to their age and understanding, are seen alone when visited by their social worker	Green	A16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See A14 and A15 above.</li> </ul>
<b>Within 3 months</b>			
STPCT to identify a designated doctor for children and young people to ensure that a health practitioner is in a position to have a strategic influence and overview on the health of looked after children	Green	C20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service Specification agreed</li> <li>LAC Designated Doctor appointed.</li> <li>Designated Nurse's role outlined in service specification which accords with Statutory Guidance.</li> </ul>
NTWNHSFT to monitor the effectiveness of the new pathways of care for looked after children and young people who need services from CAMHS	Amber	C21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathways developed and are being monitored.</li> <li>LAC Team understand how to get support for children and young people.</li> <li>Working Group on Care Pathways has been developed – led by Project Manager</li> </ul>
Ensure that robust and transparent reporting arrangements about the outcomes of Regulation 33 visits are in place	Green	D9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New reporting format and governance arrangements agreed.</li> <li>Regulation 33 report presented to Corporate Parenting Board and MALAP 6 monthly</li> <li>Most recent reports submitted January 2014</li> </ul>

**4. The New Inspection Process; the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.**

4.1 The new inspection framework was published in October 2013. As Sunderland has not had a Safeguarding inspection since February 2012, it is likely that there will be an inspection under the new framework within the next 12 months.

4.2 When the inspection arrives, Ofsted will judge the Council on:-

- how it helps and protects children
- the experiences and progress of children who are looked after, including fostering, adoption, the use of residential care and children who return home
- the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after
- the experiences and progress of care leavers
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers and the impact they have on the lives of children and young people and the quality of professional practice locally.

4.3 The central focus of the inspection will be the experiences of the children and young people with whom the service works, and the difference that services make to their lives and those of their families. The inspectors will accompany social workers undertaking direct work with families, and will observe a range of meetings held with family members and professionals.

4.4 There is an Inspection preparation group meeting weekly to co-ordinate plans to prepare for the inspection, which could take place at any time. A detailed self assessment is being completed so that the service can evaluate itself against the grade descriptors Ofsted describe in the Inspection handbook.

**5. Recommendations**

5.1 Scrutiny Committee is requested to receive this report on the progress made on implementing the recommendations of the last Ofsted inspection and the preparation for the next inspection.

5.2 Scrutiny Committee is requested to advise on the frequency with which these reports are required in future.