

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

27 March 2019

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny
Venue Committee Room 3 - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership

Chair Cllr Peter O'Neill (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Udey Singh

Labour

Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Asha Mattu
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Clare Simm

Conservative

Cllr Simon Bennett

Quorum for this meeting is four Voting Members.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Earl Piggott-Smith
Tel/Email Tel: 01902 551251 or earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Democratic Services, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/>
Email democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Tel 01902 555046

Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

If you are reading these papers on an electronic device you have saved the Council £11.33 and helped reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
6	Children's Social Care Self Evaluation (Pages 5 - 8) [Louise Haughton, Principal Social Worker, to present report.]

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

27 March 2019

Report title	Children and Young people's Social Work Self-Evaluation	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People's Service	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Quality and Improvement	
Accountable employee(s)	Louise Haughton	Principal Social Worker
	Tel	01902 555534
	Email	Louise.Haughton@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children and Young People's Management Team	18 March 2019

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Support the development priorities for 2019-2020 as outlined within the Self-Evaluation of social work practice.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft Annual Self-Evaluation of Children's Social Care.

2.0 Background

2.1 Inspecting Local Authorities Children Services is a system of inspection. Under this system, Ofsted use the intelligence and information they have to inform decisions about how best to inspect each local authority. This system includes:

- local authorities sharing an annual self-evaluation of the quality and impact of social work practice
- an annual engagement meeting between our regional representatives and the local authority to review the self-evaluation and to reflect on what is happening in the local authority and inform how they would engage with each other in future
- our local authority intelligence system (LAIS) (which brings data and information into a single record)
- focused visits that look at a specific area of service or cohort of children
- standard and short inspections where we make judgements using our four-point scale
- joint targeted area inspection (JTAI)

2.2 This report relates to the annual self-evaluation which will be shared with Ofsted in June 2019 and will include data for the financial year. Local authorities are asked to share a self-evaluation of social work practice. The self-evaluation should draw on information and documentation that already exists within local authorities and is used to monitor the quality of services provided to children, young people and their families.

2.3 The Self-Evaluation should answer three questions;

- What do you know about the quality and impact of social work practice in your local authority?
- How do you know it?
- What are your improvement plans for the next 12 months?

3.0 Progress

3.1 The Self-Evaluation of social work practice presents an improving picture of practice across both the Child in Need/Child Protection Service and the Children and Young People in Care Service.

3.2 It identifies a significantly improved audit system. Practice Weeks have been introduced since September 2018. The new process provides workers with immediate feedback, allows managers to understand how interventions are experienced by children and families first hand and increases the visibility of senior managers.

- 3.3 All senior managers including the Director of Children's Services now spend four days over two weeks;
- Undertaking audits alongside practitioners.
 - observing practice in the form of visits to children and families and formal meetings.
 - spending time with teams.
- 3.4 The restructure of the Children and Young People's services has begun to deliver greater stability across the system. There are just two agency team managers in post in social work teams, both have been with the local authority for more than six months and both positions have now been permanently filled. There continues to be social work vacancies across CiN/CP. Eight of these vacancies will be filled by the current cohort of Frontline practitioners. Caseloads have also begun to stabilise and now range between 18 and 25 within the CiN/CP service area.
- 3.5 The number of children in care in Wolverhampton has been considerably higher than comparator authorities. The report highlights a range of activity which has enabled the Council to safely reduce the number of children and young people in care.
- 3.6 A number of areas for continued focus and development have also been highlighted at the beginning of the report, these include;
- Increasing fostering opportunities and placement stability for the range of children who need to be placed with foster families within the City.
 - Improving the step up and step-down process between children's social care and early intervention to ensure families have access to the right support at the right time.
 - Establishing a multi-disciplinary vulnerable children and young person team to work with teenagers at risk of a range of factors including offending and becoming cared for by the local authority.
 - Continuing to improve the retention of social workers through the implementation of a recruitment and retention plan that includes good opportunities for professional development.

4.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider

- 4.1 Comment on whether Scrutiny Board feels the self-evaluation answers the three questions asked by Ofsted as outlined in the main body of the report.
- 4.2 Comment on whether Scrutiny Board is assured that the Children and Young people's Service knows itself well.
- 4.3 Comment on whether Scrutiny Board feels there are any important issues that are not addressed within the Self-Evaluation.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
[AJ/21032019/U]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 There are no legal implications
[TC/21032019/A]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 Social workers provide support to the whole community including the full range of diverse groups. Excellent quality social work practice will be more attuned to the equality issues experienced by individuals, families and communities. High quality social work will more competently deploy required skill in the practice situation. This annual Self-Evaluation demonstrates the quality of practice being provided to all groups that are supported by statutory services.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resources implications

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications