



Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

14 June 2017

Report title	Children and Young People Service Plan and Priorities for 2017-2018		
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People		
Key decision	No		
In forward plan	Yes		
Wards affected	All		
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, Strategic Director, People		
Originating service	Children and Young People		
Accountable employee(s)	Emma Bennett	Service Director, Children and Young People	
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Report to be/has been considered by	People Leadership Team – 8 May 2017 Strategic Executive Board – 16 May 2017		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Celebrate the 'Good' overall judgement from the recent Ofsted Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection and note our excellent position in the West Midlands and the country.
2. Consider and challenge the Children and Young People Service Plan and priorities for 2017-2018.
3. Agree to receive six monthly updates to monitor progress against the improvement plan.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection and presents a summary of key priorities for 2017-2018 (Appendix One); the 2017-2018 Children and Young People service plan (Appendix Two); and the associated improvement plan (Appendix Three).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection commenced in Wolverhampton on 16 January 2017. The inspection lasted for a period of four weeks and finished on 9 February 2017.
- 2.2 Ofsted's Single Inspection Framework for inspecting services for children in need of help and protection and reviewing Local Safeguarding Children Boards was launched in November 2013. Wolverhampton's last inspection took place in June 2011 when the Local Authority was judged to be 'good' for looked after children and 'adequate' in relation to safeguarding. All 152 Local Authorities will be inspected under this framework by December 2017. Ofsted are in the process of piloting a new inspection framework for children's social care from 2018 onwards.
- 2.3 Preparation for Ofsted included the development of a self-assessment – 'Our Story' - which was updated quarterly. This provided the information required to support the inspection including information around local context and geography; organisational structures/performance information; assessment and threshold criteria; supervision policies; training and development strategy; local strategic needs analysis; and feedback from peer review activity. The revised inspection framework will take a more proportionate approach and it is anticipated that each area will be expected to provide an annual self-assessment. The Children and Young People Service Plan 2017-2018 will form the basis of the information that will be included in Wolverhampton's self-assessment.

3.0 Outcome of the Local Authority Inspection

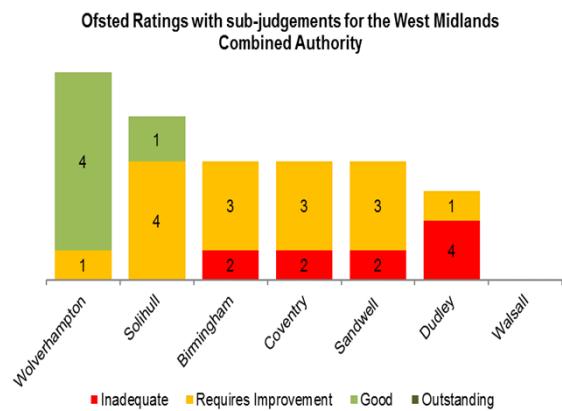
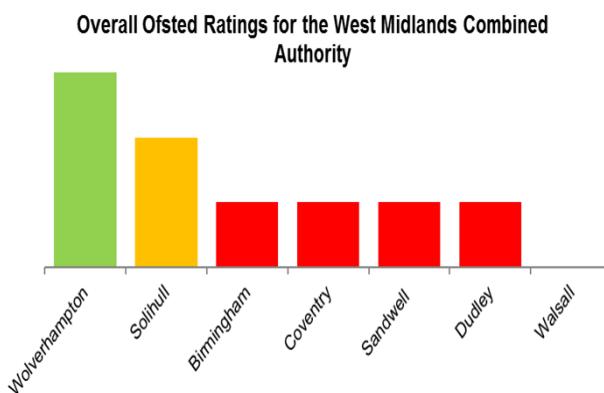
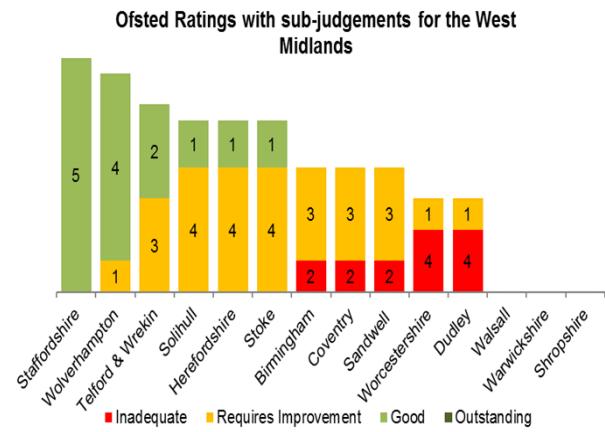
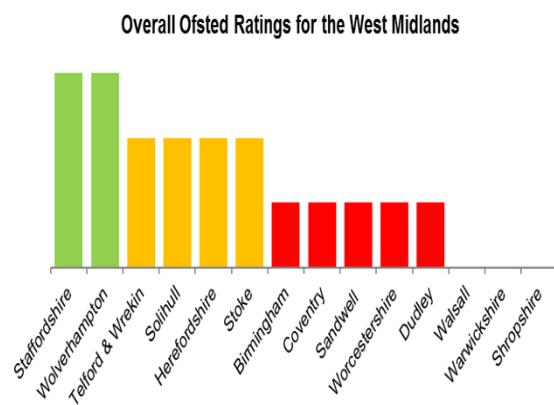
- 3.1 The Ofsted team were in Wolverhampton over a period of four weeks and during that time they met a range of professionals from the local authority and partner agencies. In addition, they met and spoke with a number of young people, parents and foster carers. They reviewed in detail 26 case files and met with the allocated social workers for these. In addition, the inspectors sampled a high number of case files – over 100, focusing on specific areas of work. A range of information was provided to support our self-assessment and to evidence the work we are doing in Wolverhampton. The following table sets out the outcome from the inspection:

Children's Services in Wolverhampton – overall judgement	Good
Children who need help and protection	Requires Improvement to be Good
Children looked after and achieving permanence	Good
Adoption Performance	Good
Experiences and Progress of Care Leavers	Good

Leadership, Management and Governance	Good
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- 3.2 Putting our ‘Good’ rating into context, we are the second highest performing council across the wider West Midlands and so far, the only one in the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) that has achieved ‘Good’. 11 of 14 councils in the wider West Midlands and six of the seven WMCA councils have now been inspected.

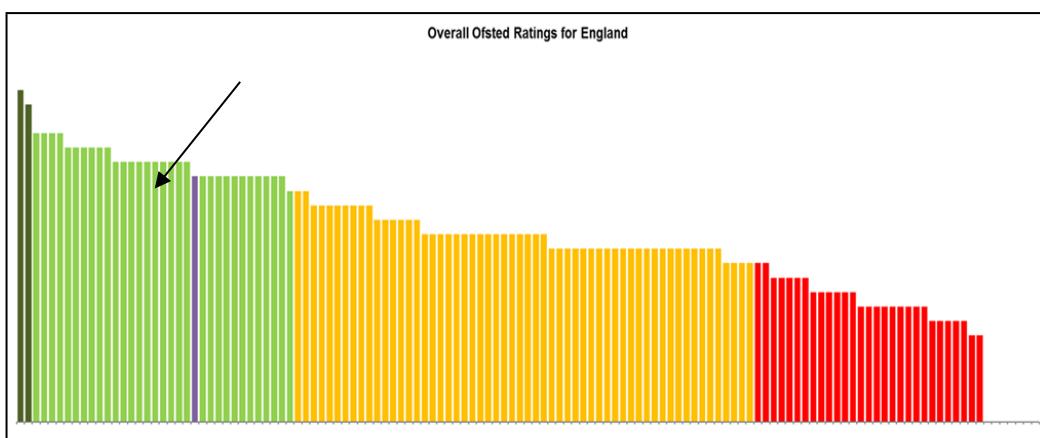
Full details of each of the sub judgements are below for the 14 West Midlands councils and the seven West Midlands Combined Authority councils. Please note that the final column has a different status and is the outcome of a review rather than being a core determinant of the single inspection framework methodology.



Wolverhampton is one of 129 out of 152 councils to have been inspected under the current framework in the West Midlands only Staffordshire is ranked higher.

The current position in terms of outcomes is:

Current Rating / Position	Number of Councils	% of those inspected	% of all councils
Outstanding	2	1.6%	1.3%
Good	33	25.8%	21.7%
Requires Improvement	58	45.3%	38.2%
Inadequate	29	22.7%	19.1%
Not Published	7	5.5%	4.6%
Not Inspected	23	N/A	15.1%



3.3 Key headline findings include:

- Senior Managers, leaders and elected members are systematically driving improvements in services for children and families
- Corporate leadership is strong and effective
- There is a clear sense of vision and purpose
- The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub provides a robust and effective service at the first point of contact
- Good and sustained improvements have been made across the whole range of services for children looked after
- The number of looked after children has been significantly reduced without compromising children's safety
- There is a strong and effective virtual school, delivering positive outcomes for looked after children
- The local authority takes its responsibilities as a corporate parent very seriously
- Care leavers receive a good, individualised service which prepares them well for independence

3.4 There were 11 **recommendations** for Children's Services arising from the inspection. An Ofsted action plan has been developed in response to the recommendations and was

formally agreed by Cabinet on 26 April 2017. Actions contained in the plan are embedded in the broader Children and Young People Service Action Plan. Progress against delivery of the Ofsted action plan is monitored monthly through the People Leadership Team and quarterly through the Strategic Executive Board.

3.5 Officers are focusing on ensuring that areas for improvement identified throughout the Ofsted inspection are prioritised and are aiming to progress from a 'good' authority to 'outstanding' over the next twelve months.

3.6 For access to the full report please access the following link:
[Wolverhampton Ofsted Report](#)

4.0 Outcome of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board Review

4.1 The judgement for the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board was 'requires improvement to be good'.

4.2 Headline findings from the inspection include:

- The Board is well chaired and well led
- Governance arrangements are robust
- Partner agencies are well represented on the Board at a suitably senior level
- Attendance at Board meetings is good and a well-developed sub-group structure ensures that the work programme is delivered
- The website is attractive and easy to navigate, providing a wealth of useful information
- The Serious Care Review Sub-Group and the Child Death Overview Panel are well developed and effective.
- Robust strategic and operational arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect children and young people who go missing and/or are at risk of sexual exploitation

4.3 The Safeguarding Children Board inspection resulted in five recommendations. Action to respond to the recommendations will be incorporated into the Board's Strategic Plan and progress against this will be overseen by the Board.

5.0 Children and Young People Service Plan and Priorities 2017-2018

5.1 In order to ensure that there is a continued focus on consolidating the significant progress that has been made over the last two years and to ensure that services continue to improve outcomes for children, young people and families, a Children and Young People service plan 2017-2018 and improvement plan has been produced. The plan outlines the priority areas of activity that will be driven forward over the next 12 months and includes actions arising from the Ofsted inspection. The Children and Young People Management Team and the Transforming Children's Services Board are responsible for monitoring and challenging the delivery of activity and progress against the priorities. The overall ambition is to progress from a 'good' authority to 'outstanding' in the next 12 months.

5.2 The service plan will be key in contributing to the delivery of outcomes in the corporate plan including:

- Promoting independence for people with disabilities
- Strengthening families where children are at risk
- Challenging and supporting schools to provide the best education
- Keeping the City Safe

5.3 The plan will also contribute to the delivery of the Wolverhampton Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2025 which sets out what the Children's Trust Partners will do so that children, young people and families can live healthy happy lives. It includes four clear priority areas: ***child poverty; education, training and employment; family strength; and health.*** The City of Wolverhampton Council is a key member of the Children's Trust which is responsible for ensuring that the aims of the plan are delivered. The Service Director for Children and Young People is the lead officer for the priority 'family strength' and co-ordinates work to deliver this through the Strengthening Families Board.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
- 6.2 Any costs associated with the improvement plan will be contained within existing budgets within the overall approved budget for Children and Young People.
[NM/05062017/C]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.
TC/05062017/J

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 There are no equality implications associated with this report. The Single Inspection Framework includes equality and diversity issues as part of the inspection process.

9.0 Risk Implications

- 9.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

10.0 Environmental implications

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

11.0 Human resources implications

- 11.1 There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

12.0 Corporate landlord implications

12.1 There are no corporate landlord implications associated with this report.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

13.1 [Wolverhampton Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-25](#)

