

<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Strong Families, Children, and Young People Scrutiny Panel</b> 13 July 2022
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<b>Report title</b>	Inspection of City of Wolverhampton Local Authority Children's Services - Areas for Improvement Action Plan	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Emma Bennett, Executive Director for Families	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children's Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Alison Hinds Tel Email	Deputy Director Social Care 01902 553035 Alison.hinds@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Childrens and Education Leadership Team	30 June 2022

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**Recommendation(s) for decision:**

The Strong Families, Children, and Young People Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Note the action plan and proposed process for monitoring.

## 1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the findings from the recent Ofsted Inspection undertaken in Children's Services, the recommendations identified and how these will be actioned and monitored.

## 2.0 Background

2.1 Between 21 March and 1 April 2022, Ofsted undertook a short inspection (five-day visit) within Children's Services. This inspection covered the following services:

- Services for children and families needing help and protection
- Children and young people in care, and care leavers

2.2 The Inspection was undertaken in accordance with Ofsted's Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Framework.

2.3 Prior to arrival in Wolverhampton during the second week, the inspectors viewed a variety of evidence including our annual Self Evaluation, Policies and Performance Information.

## 3.0 Findings from the visit

3.1 Services for children and families in the City of Wolverhampton needing help and protection have improved and are now rated good. There is some outstanding practice in relation to care leavers and overall services for children in care have been sustained as good. The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families is now rated as outstanding.

The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Good
The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers	Good
Overall effectiveness	Good

3.2 The following areas were identified as areas for improvement:

- The arrangements for tracking and monitoring children who are missing from education.
- The recording of return home interviews to identify wider patterns and trends.
- The virtual school should improve the quality of PEP's and address the persistent absence for some children in care.

- The virtual school needs to ensure that children in care receive career advice earlier so they can make better informed decisions about their futures.
- The quality of information provided to 16- and 17-year-old homeless children about their rights and entitlements including to become looked after.

3.3 The full report is attached as appendix1

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 An action plan has been developed to cover the five areas for improvement identified (appendix 2). This includes a timeframe, rag rating and lead officer.

4.2 The action plan will be overseen via the Children's Social Care and Education Leadership Team on a monthly basis and will be shared with Ofsted in August 2022 as required.

#### **5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 Funding for the recruitment to a CME officer as per the action plan (appendix 2) has been identified and funded from current budgets within Education services.

[JG/05072022/M]

#### **6.0 Legal implications**

6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

[SB/05072022/S]

#### **7.0 Equalities implications**

7.1 The Children and Young People Service provides support to the whole community where assessed needs are identified. The Ofsted Action Plan highlights how the City of Wolverhampton Council will ensure we meet our statutory requirements in relation to keeping children and young people safe.

#### **8.0 All other Implications**

8.1 There are no other implications arising from the report.

#### **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

9.1 There are no background papers

#### **10.0 Appendices**

10.1 Appendix 1: Inspection of Wolverhampton Children's Services Report, May 2022

10.2 Appendix 2: Ofsted action plan