

**To the Chair and Members of the  
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS  
WITHIN CHILDRENS SERVICES**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report provides an update on the report presented to the Audit Committee at its last meeting in November 2013, about progress made in implementing inspection recommendations in Children’s Services. That report provided a position statement on outstanding recommendations which members requested a further update be provided on including a clear indication of completion dates.
2. The Director of Children and Young People’s Service will be in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions.

**UPDATE AT JANUARY 2014**

3. The previous report to the Audit Committee showed there had been 88 recommendations made in inspection reports relating to Children’s Services since 2008. Of these:
  - 55 recommendations had been fully implemented (63%).
  - 33 were outstanding and beyond their implementation date (37%).
4. A further report relating to a 2008 private fostering care inspection that was excluded from the previous analysis has now been identified, adding a further 13 recommendations to the schedule. An update on the position on the recommendations shows an improved position, with the number of late actions being reduced to 18 (being 18% of the 101 recommendations now being tracked).

<b>Inspection and Date</b>	<b>Number of rec’ns</b>	<b>Fully Implemented</b>	<b>In progress but late – Jan 14</b>	<b>Comparison: In progress but late – Nov 13</b>
<b>Children &amp; Young Peoples Service</b>				
Adoption Service Inspection (Sept 2011)	9	5	4	5
Fostering Inspection (2010)	11	10	1	1
Lord Carlisle (2013)	19	16	3	10
Protection of Children (2012)	18	15	3	4
Safeguarding & Looked After Children (2011)	25	20	5	10
Unannounced Contacts, Referrals & Assessments (2012)	6	5	1	3
Private Fostering Inspection (2008) **	13	12	1	1
<b>Total Recommendations</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>34</b>

\*\* Not previously reported upon

5. Actions regarded as completed since the previous update are as follows:

**Adoption Service (2011)**

- Recruitment processes include appropriate checks and specific job descriptions

**Safeguarding & Looked After Children (2011)**

- The 'Looked After Children' health nurses provide young people leaving care with a comprehensive summary of their healthcare.
- Effective care pathways are available for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to ensure coordinated and timely assessment, diagnosis and treatment.
- Sex and relationship education for all children and young people is being provided through a service led by schools with RDaSH support. (note - secondary schools are now, on the whole, academies and determine their own curriculums).
- Performance management arrangements across the partnership are improved.

**Inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children (2012)**

- Stakeholder events have taken place with further events planned, with a view to improving communication and information sharing between the strategic boards, including the Children's Trust, Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Improvement Board.

**Lord Carlile (2013)**

- Doncaster Scrutiny Panel Members receive enhanced training and briefings, increasing their knowledge and awareness of Children Services.
- Scrutiny Panel Members are also given briefings prior to the panel meetings and receive reports in advance of the meetings to review and use for questions / information requirements..
- Corporate performance reports relating to Children's Services are presented to Exec Board, Cabinet, OSMC and Scrutiny Panels.
- There is also Member involvement and training in Corporate Parenting and in visiting Children's' Homes.
- Existing mentoring arrangements for Social Workers are being augmented by the creation and development of Advanced Practitioner posts.
- A Joint Commissioning Group for Maternity, Children and Young People's service is in place and has considered the way interventions are assessed and dealt with.
- The DMBC Stronger Families agenda has led to improved actions for the individual families.

**Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral & Assessments (2012)**

- Procedures have been put in place to improve written outcomes of Contact enquiries, and checks are showing improvements are being achieved
- Arrangements have been put in place to improve checks regarding data protection / posting letters, and checks are showing these are being applied.

6. Details of outstanding recommendations can be found in **Appendix 1**. All outstanding actions have been fully mapped (to ensure they can be effectively scrutinised) to either:
  - the CYPS Improvement Plan approved by Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 which identifies all improvement activity for Children's Services, or
  - Service Plans, where ensuring compliance with existing and appropriate procedures is the issue requiring improvement.
7. The Children's Services Strategic Partnership Board chaired by the Chief executive, and with senior representation from partner agencies, is meeting monthly to oversee improvements set out in the Improvement Plan. There is also now monthly performance monitoring of actions within Service Plans.
8. **We are encouraged by the attention now being given to the completion of outstanding recommendations and by the actions now being taken.**
9. Previous reports have stated that the analysis excludes Schools, which are subject to a separate monitoring regime at this time. In addition, the Council has 21 Children's Centres which have all been routinely inspected by OFSTED over a 5 year cycle. For information, the current ratings following Children's Centre inspections are as follows:
  - 8 received a satisfactory judgment
  - 11 received a good Judgment
  - 2 received an Outstanding

Children's Centres are supported in implementing any recommendations by the CYPS Early Years, Families and School Organisation Service. **We have no significant concerns with the processes in place for tracking and implementing recommendations relating to Children's Centres**, and we are not aware of any significant audit issues associated with any outstanding recommendations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

10. **The Audit Committee is asked to:**
  - **note the updated position in respect of progress on Children's Service inspection recommendations**
  - **note that any outstanding actions are now either embedded in the new Improvement Plan or within service plans as set out in paragraph 6 above.**

## BACKGROUND

11. This report provides the Audit Committee with information on the outcomes from Children Service Inspection work and allows the Committee to discharge its responsibility for monitoring inspection activity.

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED & RECOMMENDED OPTION**

12. This is not applicable to this report.

## **IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES**

13. Effective implementation of inspection recommendations provides evidence that the Council is able to respond to external challenge in a timely manner and is committed to continuous improvement.

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

14. The implementation of inspection recommendations is a response to identified risks and hence is an effective risk management action.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

15. There are no legal implications from this report although some of the recommendations may carry their own legal implications detailed within the originating report

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

16. There are no specific costs arising from this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

17. There is consultation with managers at the outset, throughout and at the conclusion of individual audits in order to ensure that the work undertaken and findings are relevant to the risks identified and are accurate.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

18. Relevant Inspection Reports.

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1: Outstanding Inspection Recommendations**

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