

**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 meeting in January 2014 about progress made in implementing inspection recommendations in Children's Services.
2. This update is based on information provided by Senior CYPS management. Internal Audit is scheduled to carry out a full follow up of progress in implementing inspection recommendations for the Children's Trust when that is established.

UPDATE AT JULY 2014

3. The previous report to the Audit Committee showed there had been 101 recommendations made in inspection reports relating to Children's Services since 2008. Of these:
 - 83 recommendations had been fully implemented (82%).
 - 18 were outstanding and beyond their implementation date (18%).
4. At January 2014 all outstanding actions had been fully mapped (to ensure they could be effectively scrutinised) to either:
 - the CYPS Improvement Plan approved by Cabinet on 2nd 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.
5. An update on the position on the recommendations shows the Children's Services Improvement Plan is now being monitored at a monthly meeting chaired by the Chief Executive and attended by the lead cabinet member for Children's Services. There are now just 5 recommendations where the current position is noteworthy. The table below shows the current position:

Inspection and Date	Number of rec'ns	Implemented / tracked by CSPPB	Actions to note: July 2014	Comparison: In progress January 2014
Children & Young Peoples Service				
Adoption Service Inspection (Sept 2011)	9	9	0	4
Fostering Inspection (2010)	11	11	0	1
Lord Carlisle (2013)	19	19	0	3
Protection of Children (2012)	18	16	2	3
Safeguarding & Looked After Children (2011)	25	22	3	5
Unannounced Contacts, Referrals & Assessments (2012)	6	6	0	1
Private Fostering Inspection (2008)	13	13	0	1
Total Recommendations	101	96	5	18

6. Actions reported by CYPS Senior Management as substantially addressed since the previous update are as follows:

Adoption Service (2011)

- Three sets of guides (for different age groups) produced
- Adoption performance scrutinised at monthly Performance Challenge Sessions and reported to Programme Board. Reporting also due to go to next Corporate Parenting Board.
- Service undertaken a 'Hear by Rights' audit and a range of documents and activities sent out for consultation – assessment training packs, post adoption support and inter agency consultation.
- there are social workers with a lead responsibility for life story work. A template has been produced and procedures re-written setting out expectations. Adoption Panel offers some oversight and scrutiny.

Inspection - Fostering Service (2010)

- PWP completion routinely audited in care planning audits and action taken as necessary.

Safeguarding & Looked After Children (2011)

- Performance now significantly improved – annual health checks up to 83%, immunisations up to 92%, 96% registered with a GP, 92% registered with an optician and 88% with a dentist..
- Sheffield University to provide a learning and development course for all first line managers, which will then be built on with more advanced training provided by the Institute of Family Therapy. Heads of Service have all been through management assessments and are all on coaching programmes.

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

- Early Help Strategy is now complete and will be presented to Cabinet in July.

Lord Carlile (2013)

- The Trust is developing a career structure designed to build on the work already underway to increase stability.
- Multi agency work is underway to develop a 'MASH' – Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. This will build on the currently co-located triage service ran by the Police and social care. MASH will be operational in 2015 and will be part of the Trust.
- Caseload levels now at acceptable levels across the service and are measured and reported upon every month.

Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral & Assessments (2012)

- There is a substantial recruitment and retention plan in place which is delivering reductions in agency staff – this is a slow and attritional process. Agency usage has dropped from 24% of the establishment to 18% over last year. This will remain a key focus of operational responsibility now and in the Trust and is reported regularly to the Programme Board

Private Fostering Inspection (2008)

- Private fostering work is monitored and managed in the same way as all other operational work through supervision and management attention and where necessary through performance challenge.

7. Details of the position on the 5 highlighted recommendations can be found in **Appendix 1**.
8. In addition to the monthly monitoring meeting of the Improvement Plan chaired by the Chief Executive, there is also now monthly performance monitoring of actions within Service Plans.
9. We remain encouraged by the attention being given to the completion of recommendations and by the actions now being taken.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. **The Audit Committee is asked to note the updated position in respect of progress on Children's Service inspection recommendations**

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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