

**For general release**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b> <b>23 June 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Ofsted Inspection of Croydon's Early Help and Children's Social Care Services and draft Improvement Plan</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Rob Henderson, Executive Director, Children, Families &amp; Education</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Cllr Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning</b>
<b>PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:</b>	<b>Rob Henderson, Executive Director, Children, Families &amp; Education</b>

<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON</b> To offer a clear commitment to children in care and our young adults leaving care is fully aligned to our Corporate Plan for Croydon (2018-2022) in the following areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our children and young people thrive and reach their full potential</li><li>• Everyone feels safer in their street, neighbourhood and home</li><li>• Everyone has the opportunity to work and build their career.</li></ul> <a href="#">Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-2022</a>
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<b>ORIGIN OF ITEM:</b>	This item is contained in the Sub-Committee's work programme.
<b>BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:</b>	To report on the outcomes of the Ofsted standard ILACS inspection and provide committee with the opportunity to scrutinise the Children's continuous improvement plan 2020-21.

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report advises committee of the outcome of Ofsted's re-inspection of Croydon's Early Help and Children's Social Care Services and invites scrutiny of the draft Children's Continuous Improvement Plan 2020-22 that includes actions to address the recommendations.

## 2. Ofsted ILACS inspection, March 2020

- 2.1 The re-inspection of children's services took place between 4<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 with the final inspection report published on the Ofsted website on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The report is included at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Ofsted grading's for Early Help and Children's Social Care Services were as follows;
- Children in need of help and protection – **'Good'**
  - Children looked after and care leavers – **'Requires improvement to be good'**
  - Impact of leaders on SW practice – **'Good'**
  - Overall effectiveness – **'Good'**
- 2.3 Ofsted recognised that services for children and families had been "transformed" through strong corporate and political support, and leaders were creating "the right conditions for effective social work".
- 2.4 However, there is still work to do to ensure that change is sustained in our services for children in need of help and protection and we to continue to improve our services and support for children in care and care leavers.

## 3. Children's continuous improvement plan 2020-22

- 3.1 Inspectors described the children's improvement programme as ambitious, and the department is determined to build upon the momentum and pace gained in the last twelve months to push on with improvements to services to children, young people and families. It will be important to sustain the methodology of an outcome-focused project approach coupled with intelligence that draws on strong performance management to achieve this.
- 3.2 At a high level, our priorities across the partnership for children young people in Croydon are set out in the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-24.
- 3.3 A refresh of the 2019-20 children's improvement plan has been completed and a draft children's continuous improvement plan 2020/22 developed with three strands that focus on Practice, Partnership and Platforms. The plan includes actions to respond to Ofsted's recommendations alongside new priorities for further service innovation and improvement.
- 3.4 Committee members are invited to review and comment on the draft plan before it is submitted to Ofsted on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

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Contact Officer: Robert Henderson  
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Children Families and Education

Background Documents: None

Appendices: Appendix 1: Inspection of Children's Social Care Services, London Borough of Croydon, Ofsted, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.  
Appendix 2: Children's Continuous Plan for Improvement 2020-22, draft