



Social Care Services Board
4 March 2016

CHILDREN'S IMPROVEMENT PLAN – UPDATE

Purpose of the report: Scrutiny of Services

Julie Fisher (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services) will provide an update at the meeting on the Children's Improvement Plan.

Introduction:

1. The Council published an Improvement Plan in September 2015 as part of its response to an Ofsted multi-agency inspection of safeguarding. It described the urgent work already completed and the action the Council would take next to improve practice and outcomes for children, young people and families. In January 2016 a review and stock take of progress was completed in order to determine the priority actions for further improvement.
2. The [Children's Improvement Plan](#) published in September 2015 set out the stages of improvement required to embed a culture of practice where we, and all partner agencies, are consistently and confidently doing the right things for children and young people, in the right way.
3. Key actions in the plan have been delivered over the last six months with progress continuing to be overseen by the Children's Improvement Board. The membership of the [Improvement Board](#) was expanded in September 2015 to include representatives from key partner agencies and the external advisor from the Department for Education (DfE) who is working with the Council (Rose Durban). Ofsted have also continued to provide support and challenge through monthly monitoring visits.
4. Through January and February we completed a stock-take and review of our progress to date. Through this we have identified six specific areas that we will give a particular focus to over the coming months:
 - Recruitment and retention ("Right numbers of skilled people")
 - Capacity and demand ("In the right place")
 - Clear expectations, including the practice manual ("Doing the right things")
 - First line management ("Supported in the right way")
 - Leadership ("Led effectively")

- Partnership and engagement ("Working productively with all our partners")
5. These are not new areas of work but are the six specific elements of our overall Improvement Plan which we have prioritised for additional and urgent attention over the coming months. Further detail on these areas of work will be published on our website shortly.
 6. We plan to complete a further review and stock take of progress in the summer and following that will publish an updated version of our Improvement Plan. Meanwhile the Improvement Board will continue to oversee progress, in addition to the arrangements in place within the Council and across our partnerships to ensure robust oversight and scrutiny of progress. These arrangements include further updates to the Social Care Services Board (12 May), an update report to full Council (17 May) and Member seminars (25 April, 12 September).

Recommendations:

7. That the Social Care Services Board continues to receive updates on the progress of the Children's Improvement Plan.

Report contact: Julie Fisher (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services)

Contact details: julie.fisher@surreycc.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8541 7216

Sources/background papers:

- [Children's Improvement Plan](#)
- [Improvement Board updates](#)