

<b>Title</b>	Children's Services Update
<b>Date</b>	29 March 2018
<b>Report of:</b>	Tolis Vouyioukas - Executive Director Children's Services Cllr Warren Whyte - Cabinet Lead for Children's Services Cllr Mike Appleyard – Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
<b>Lead contacts:</b>	Gail Hancock – Service Director, Children's Social Care Sarah Callaghan – Service Director, Education

**Purpose of this report:**

1. To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on current issues within Children's Services.

**Recommendation for the Health and Wellbeing Board:**

2. To note the report and the specific issues identified in relation to children's health and wellbeing.

**Ofsted Action Plan Update**

3. Following the inspection of Children's Safeguarding Services in November 2017, a high level Action Plan has been submitted to Ofsted and Department for Education (DfE). The action plan is split into priority areas based on the finding and recommendations in the Ofsted report.
4. The high level action plan is supported by detailed operational plans which focus on the 3 areas of the inspection framework: leadership, management & governance, children who need help & protection and children looked after and achieving permanence.

**Children's Commissioner**

5. The DfE has announced the Children's Services Commissioner for Buckinghamshire, John Coughlan CBE. You can access the revised direction from the Secretary of State [here](#).
6. Mr Coughlan is the current Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council, a former Director of Children's Services and a past President of The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS). He will work closely with the council over the next few months and will report to the Department for Education with a recommendation about the future of Children's Services in Buckinghamshire.

**SEND Improvement and Inspection**

7. Work has been ongoing to ensure the local area is prepared for the inspection of its SEND services by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted. This will be a 5 day inspection that covers Education, Health and Social Care.
8. Areas of strength identified in the self-evaluation of our SEND services include:
  - Integrated leadership that is driving change
  - Effective identification of need in early years
  - Engagement at a strategic level with parents, carers and young people to inform service development

- Strong and effective support for children looked after who have SEND
9. Areas for development include:
- Preparation for adulthood and transition arrangements
  - Co-production with families to ensure needs are met in a collaborative and timely way
  - Inclusion of children and young people with SEND in education settings
  - Timeliness and person-centred approach to EHC planning
10. The Improvement Plan continues to be updated weekly, focusing on the development areas identified. We have been working differently with settings and families to identify needs earlier and intervene in a timely manner. It is too early to assess the impact of this pilot.

**Conversions of Statements to Education Health & Care Plans**

11. Conversions of Statements of Educational Needs to Education Health & Care Plans (EHC Plans) will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.