

Title	Children's Services Update
Date	3 May 2018
Report of:	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
Lead contacts:	Richard Nash – 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 Ofsted inspection, a significant amount of immediate remedial action has been taken to establish a firm base for improvement within the service. 75% (27 of 36) of immediate actions set out within this high level action plan have been progressed, with many ongoing as a continuous, integral part of the delivery of our services.
4. The next phase of our improvement journey will focus on testing the foundations now in place and adapting our improvement plans accordingly to ensure we are strengthening the service and respond with pace to emergent and legacy issues.
5. As reported previously, 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

6. Since his appointment, the DfE appointed Commissioner and his team have spent a number of days in Buckinghamshire. During their visits, they have spent time with front line staff, team managers and senior managers across the majority of our social care teams.

SEND inspection readiness

7. In addition to the specific inspection readiness work that has been completed, the ongoing improvement activity also supports our inspection readiness. This includes:
 - a) A clear focus on management oversight and stronger service and staff management.
 - b) Development and implementation of a Quality Assurance Framework that includes monthly Education, Health and Care Plan auditing, observation visits, case reviews and moderation. Emerging themes are addressed in training and supervision and monitored in the improvement plan. Quarterly Quality Assurance meetings, chaired by the Director for Education scrutinise themes emerging from this work.
 - c) A new approach to meeting complex needs through the establishment of a Panel, chaired by the Director for Education, to support a joined up approach to placements.

Conversions of Statements to Education Health & Care Plans

8. As a reminder, in August 2017 there were in excess of 1700 outstanding conversions that required completing before the 31st March 2018. As at the deadline, all conversions were triggered on time. However, 20 of them as a result of parental enquiries, which we are required to respond to, were not completed and we anticipate that they will all be finalised by the end of April/early May.