

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	20 June 2018
Executive Member Reporting Officer:	/ Councillor Oliver Ryan – Executive Member for Children and Families James Thomas – Director of Children’s Services
Subject:	OFSTED MONITORING VISIT REPORT
Report Summary:	<p>Ofsted’s fifth monitoring visit was carried out on 18 and 19 April 2018 and the full letter with their findings is attached.</p> <p>This is a positive report for Tameside MBC and builds upon <i>“the early signs of success” noted by Ofsted at their last monitoring visit in January. In summary Ofsted is reporting to the public and to the DfE that we have demonstrated evidence of improvement in the pace of change whilst there still remains a huge amount to do.</i></p> <p>The key specific findings in their overview summary are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There has been an accelerated pace of change. ✓ The outcomes for children and families are improving. ✓ The Council has made Early Help a priority. ✓ Strategic leadership is driving positive progress. ✓ Partners are showing increased engagement. ✓ Our self-assessment and quality auditing are accurate. ✓ Practitioners are clear about their work with children and families, but the quality of practice is inconsistent. <p>The next monitoring visit will be carried out on 22 and 23 August 2018 and will be focused upon our services to Looked After Children.</p>
Recommendations:	Members are asked to note the content of the report.
Links to the Corporate Plan:	The Corporate Plan outlines the priorities for improving the borough of Tameside including the quality of life for children and families, particularly those who are most vulnerable and in need of help. The Improvement Board provides specific governance over the effective delivery of the Improvement Plan by the DCS and the Children’s Social Care service.
Financial Implications:	There are no direct financial implications arising from Ofsted Monitoring Visit Report, however, it must be noted that the Council continues to face significant financial pressures within Children’s Services, with the number of children in care continuing to increase. The 2017/18 outturn showed a £8.6m overspend against available resources and the 2018/19 Children’s Services budget has been balanced by the application of £12.5m of one off reserves. The action plan and required improvements in quality will ensure that the right decisions are made at the right time and facilitate a reduction in spend to within the available resources, although, it is likely to take a significant period of time.

Legal Implications:

It is important that there is effective governance and oversight of service delivery in particular given the additional resources being provided to the service to ensure value for money being achieved.

All councillors and senior officers are corporate parents and the role brings with it significant responsibility.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 says that when a child or young person comes into the care of the local authority, or is under 25 and was looked-after by the authority for at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday, the authority becomes their corporate parent. This means that they should:

- ✓ act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
- ✓ encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them
- ✓ make sure they have access to services
- ✓ make sure that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work
- ✓ prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

As corporate parents, it's our responsibility to make sure that the council is meeting these duties towards children in care and care leavers. Children can be in care in a range of different settings, with the authority acting as corporate parent to all of them. This includes foster care, children's homes, secure children's homes and kinship care.

The LGIU have issued some useful guidance at

<https://www.local.gov.uk/corporate-parenting-resource-pack>

Risk Management:

A failure to have appropriate challenge and oversight of the improvement process creates a risk to the effectiveness and quality of safeguarding services provided to children in Tameside in need of help and protection.

Access to Information :

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer James Thomas:



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