
West Berkshire's Children's Services are "Good"

Committee considering report:	Council on 14 September 2017
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Lynne Doherty
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	31 August 2017
Report Author:	Dr Mac Heath, Head of Children & Family Services
Forward Plan Ref:	C3383

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report serves to inform Council of the outcome of the Children's Services Ofsted Inspection of May 2017, responds to Ofsted's recommendations arising from that inspection and sets out our ambition to build on the successful 'Good' Ofsted grading to achieve excellent and sustainable Children's Services.
- 1.2 The report notes that future consideration will be given to going beyond the action plan in response Ofsted's seven recommendations, to further develop and improve the service.

2. Recommendations

- Note the progress made by West Berkshire Children Services since its Ofsted inspection in March 2015 to achieve a 'good' judgement in the inspection undertaken in May in 2017.
- Endorse the service's Action Plan in response to the seven recommendations in Ofsted's inspection report published in July 2017
- Note that further consideration will be given to the next steps for the development of West Berkshire Children Services to further embed good practice and consider what more needs to be achieved to progress beyond "good" to great services.

3. Policy

- 3.1 There are no major policy implications rising from this report.

4. Financial

- 4.1 No additional resources are sought with this report.

5. Personnel

- 5.1 No staff changes are proposed in this report.

6. Legal/Procurement

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7. Property

7.1 There are no property implications arising from this report.

8. Risk Management

8.1 Children's Safeguarding is one of the areas of highest risk for the Council including statutory, reputational, legal and financial risks. As a result of the successful achievement of a "good" grading from Ofsted, the Council's children's services are no longer subject to central government intervention. This paper shows how the service continues to mitigate these risks.

Key background documentation

- Annex A - Ofsted Inspection Report
- Annex B - Ofsted Improvement Plan