

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 16 April 2019



Subject: **BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019/20 INCORPORATING ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE OFSTED INSPECTION OF BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES DECEMBER 2018**

Report of: **Corporate Director for Education & Skills and Chief Executive, Birmingham Children's Trust**

Relevant Cabinet Member: **Cllr Kate Booth, Children's Wellbeing**

Relevant O & S Chair(s): **Cllr Mohammed Aikhlaq, Children's Social Care**

Report author: **Sarah Sinclair**
Assistant Director Commissioning,
Tel: 0121 303 8327
Sarah.Sinclair@birmingham.gov.uk

Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 006187/2019		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 In February 2019, Cabinet received the findings of the December 2018 Ofsted inspection of children's social care services.
- 1.2 A written action plan must be submitted to Ofsted by 25 April 2019. The Trust's Development Plan (incorporating the Ofsted actions) is attached at **Appendix 1**.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to endorse the attached Development Plan, which has been drawn up in line with Ofsted requirements and must be submitted to Ofsted by 25 April 2019.

3 Background

- 3.1 Ofsted undertook a full inspection of Birmingham Children's Social Care Services in December 2018. The findings were published on 17 January 2019 (attached as **Appendix 2**) and the services were judged as "requiring improvement to be good".
- 3.2 After a full inspection, the local authority is required to write an action plan that responds to the recommendations in the report and submit this to Ofsted within 70 working days of receiving the final inspection report (by 25 April 2019).
- 3.3 The attached Development Plan (which incorporates the Council and Trust response to Ofsted's findings) has been drawn up by Birmingham Children's Trust and the Council, discussed by the joint Council/Trust Operational Commissioning Group (which regularly reviews the Trust's performance against the contractual agreement) on 28 February, and subsequently discussed at Birmingham Children's Trust Board and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 and 13 March respectively.
- 3.4 Ofsted findings highlighted that the following need to improve:
 - the quality, effectiveness and pace of partnership working with external agencies, including partner-led early help services.
 - trust and confidence between the courts and Birmingham Children's Trust.
 - effectiveness of the fostering service.
 - robust and timely focus on all permanence options for children.
 - alignment of the approach to contextual safeguarding.
 - the impact of the virtual school in improving provision for children in care.
- 3.5 The Development Plan is framed around the above, each area being a strategic priority with sponsors, outcomes, actions, leads and timeframes. In addition to the above six priority areas, the plan sets out two other strategic priorities: practice improvement and workforce.
- 3.6 More detailed delivery plans will underpin the priorities. Progress will be reported to the joint Operational Commissioning Group.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 The local authority is required to write an action plan that responds to the recommendations in the report and submit this to Ofsted within 70 working days of receiving the final inspection report (by 25 April 2019).

5 Consultation

- 5.1 The Development Plan has been drawn up by Birmingham Children's Trust in consultation with the Council.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 The plan will be regularly reviewed and progress monitored by the joint Operational Commissioning Group.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

- 7.1.1 The Plan supports the Council Plan 2018–2022 and particularly outcome 2 'Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in' and its related priorities.

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 The inspection was carried out under section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in relation to children's social care functions conferred on the local authority.

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 Planned activities will be funded from existing budgets and any new activities will be underpinned by business cases.

7.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.4.1 The work of the Trust is focused on the city's most vulnerable families, children and young people.

8 Appendices

1. Trust Development Plan 2019/20 (incorporating Ofsted actions).
2. December 2018 Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care Services Report.

9 Background Documents