

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

23 November 2017

NEXT STEPS 6 MONTHLY UPATE – STORYBOARD

Report of the Director for People

Strategic Aim:	Reaching our Full Potential	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr R Foster, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People (Safeguarding)	
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Ward Councillors	N/A	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Notes the content of the report
2. Comment and feedback on progress made

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report (Story Boards) is to demonstrate what we have done since our Ofsted inspection
- 1.2. The report is intended to give a one page profile for each of the 17 recommendations within the Ofsted report
- 1.3. Storyboards have been used which is in line with our Signs of Safety Methodology used within Children's Services
- 1.4. Each story board cover 1) where we were, 2) what we have done, 3) what difference have we made and 4) what else we need to do
- 1.5. Six months on from Ofsted (publishing date), we want to demonstrate the work undertaken

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Children Services, had their Ofsted Inspection in November 16, the findings and the report were published on 13 February 2017
- 2.2 The story boards evidence what has been done with regards to each of the 17 recommendations made by Ofsted
- 2.3 Each story board shows what we have done, the difference it has made and what else we need to do
- 2.4 The Ofsted Action Plan is almost complete and majority of the area met, we just need to continue to embed and monitor to ensure changes are sustained.
- 2.5 The 17 recommendations were:
 - 2.5.1 Ensure that senior leaders have access to comprehensive, high-quality performance management information in order to understand frontline practice and fully hold senior managers to account.
 - 2.5.2 Ensure that all staff receive regular good-quality supervision, with an appropriate balance of critical challenge, case direction and opportunities for reflection.
 - 2.5.3 Ensure that assessments and plans actively consider all risks to children, including emerging and new risks as circumstances for children change. Improve social workers' understanding of neglect and the impact on children.
 - 2.5.4 Improve the quality of assessments and plans across the service by ensuring that they are informed by children's wishes and feelings, involve the views of men and fathers, consider diversity and historical factors, which are specific to individual children's needs, and have explicit outcome-based actions.
 - 2.5.5 Ensure that personal education plans are completed for all children looked after, and that they include a thorough assessment of needs and set targets for improvement.
 - 2.5.6 Review and strengthen management and panel oversight of the fostering service to ensure that there is effective challenge of the quality of practice. In particular, ensure that foster carer assessments and investigations of allegations and concerns are thorough and robust, contain all relevant information and are completed in a timely way.
 - 2.5.7 Ensure that the corporate parenting board is effective in driving improvements and monitoring outcomes for children looked after and care leavers. Increase opportunities for children looked after and care leavers to participate in decision-making and service development and for their achievements to be celebrated.
 - 2.5.8 Improve social work practice by ensuring that social workers visit children regularly, in line with the children's plans or statutory guidance, and take

account of their feelings and wishes when making plans for the children. The frequency and quality of visits should be monitored by managers.

- 2.5.9 Increase the effectiveness of management oversight across the service, ensuring that the rationale for decisions and actions set is clear. Managers, child protection chairs and IROs in core groups, reviews and key meetings should actively challenge drift and delay, and support the progress of plans and the reduction of risk.
- 2.5.10 When children go missing, ensure that social workers and managers fully understand the risks and vulnerabilities of the young people and take appropriate action. Ensure that the information gathered during return-home interviews is used to reduce risk and inform individual planning and broader service needs.
- 2.5.11 Develop and implement a robust sufficiency strategy, which informs the provision of services and, in particular, the recruitment of foster carers, for children looked after now and in the future.
- 2.5.12 Review the service level agreement with the neighbouring local authority, which delivers adoption services on behalf of Rutland County Council. Ensure that services are sufficient and of good quality to meet all needs of children, families and adopters prior to and beyond the making of an adoption order.
- 2.5.13 Ensure that birth parents have access to support from someone independent of their child's social worker when adoption is being considered.
- 2.5.14 Ensure that all options for achieving permanence for children are given proper consideration, including, when appropriate, parallel planning and foster to adopt.
- 2.5.15 Improve the quality of information which children have access to, both now and in the future, such as child permanence reports and later-life letters. Ensure that all children in permanent placements receive life-story work.
- 2.5.16 Ensure that children have timely access to health services, including specialist provision.
- 2.5.17 Increase the extent to which workers consider the long-term arrangements when placing children looked after with foster carers, so that more are able to stay put when they become 18 years old.

3 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Post Ofsted we have worked hard to ensure all areas identified and all recommendations have been fully explored and improved upon
- 3.2. We have worked hard to progress the service and we are proud of the achievements so far

- 3.3. All recommendations made by Ofsted have been completed and we are ensuring they are all embedded to ensure changes are sustained
- 3.4. We still have a number of areas to further develop and improve and all of these areas continue to be our focus
- 3.5. As Ofsted found, we continue to be confident that no children are being left at risk and we are confident that we are building a service which is based on practice being good

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 No Background Papers

5 APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix 1 - Six Monthly Update – Story Boards

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.