

Report to Cabinet
Children's Scrutiny
Cllr Adam Lowe

As Chairman, I would like to thank the Cabinet for the opportunity to comment on the Improvement Plan.

The Plan has not been to Scrutiny formally, so I can only comment and pass on the feedback from the other members of the Children's Scrutiny, informally,

I cannot endorse the report formally as the whole of the Scrutiny Committee have not met.

Can Cabinet clarify if the document has been shared further than just Officers and RCC Councillors.

The following responses are the views and observations of RCC Children's Scrutiny Councillors.

All members of the Councillors of Scrutiny that were present, would like to extend our thanks to Cllr David Wilby, who attended an informal ZOOM meeting to help answer questions on the Improvement Plan.

We found this frank exchange positive and as always Cllr Wilby is very direct, which helped resolve several points I have not felt the need to raise again in this report.

Observation and Points for Cabinet:

- Cabinet Report (2.2) makes reference to a thorough review of the services in the past year, can that report be made available for the Scrutiny Committee Councillors.
- Some of the issues identified were not new, as already mentioned, the formation of the Children's Services Improvement Board is welcomed as it clear that the purpose is to address the Ofsted issues identified.
- The key objective is that the Ofsted actions are implemented and monitored with Scrutiny taking an active part, the intention is to add this to our Scrutiny work plan.
- The Children's Commissioning Group could formally invite Scrutiny to have a Children's Scrutiny Councillor representative, who could then report back to Scrutiny.
- I acknowledge that Cllr Wilby informal offer is greatly appreciated and both myself and Cllr Ainsley found the meeting we attended very useful, with an opportunity to formally attend and address the group should be the next step.
- It is important that the actions in the Plan are easily identified when being reported on and directly align with the Ofsted findings.

- The use of a Red, Amber, Green reporting matrix may make this easier in identifying gaps early on so we can, as a Council, re-focus our limited resource
- The introduction of a time line that can be monitored to track improvements to ensure the Council are on track with milestones and benchmarks to confirm we are heading in the correct direction may also ensure we remain ahead of the game, certainly before the next Ofsted
- We feel there is a RISK with Mark Andrews stepping into the CO role, this will leave a gap. What actions are Cabinet putting in place to mitigate the RISK.
- A meeting of Children's Scrutiny should now be a priority so that the whole of Scrutiny can review the Improvement Plan formally.
When can Children's Scrutiny hold that meeting, or is there still an issue with meetings and resource.

Councillor Adam Lowe
9th June 2020

END