

This report format is for scrutiny reports

London Borough of Enfield

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2021

Subject: Overview of Children Social Care activities and scrutiny arrangements

Cabinet Member: Cllr Uddin
Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou

Purpose of Report

1. For Information

Relevance to the Council Plan

2. **Safe, healthy and Confident communities** – Children and Family Services meets the Councils' priority of "Safe, healthy and Confident communities"

Background

3. This briefing provides a summary of activities across Children and Families and outlines the scrutiny arrangements in place. For a fuller overview of Children and Families this can be found in this year's Self Evaluation Framework (SEF) report.
4. Children Services in Enfield are regularly inspected by a range of regulatory bodies, this includes The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED), Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons (HMIP) and The Care Quality Commission CQC, over the last 15 years Children Services have been judged as Good.

Main Considerations for the Panel

5. Summary of Activities

- Throughout 2020/21, leaders responded to the emergence of covid-19 ensuring services continued balancing the duty to safeguard children and the welfare of staff.

- Comprehensive leadership and management programmes were commissioned for middle managers as an integral part of our succession planning.
- Audit moderation processes were reviewed, and adjustments were made to more effectively evidence the quality of practice and to ensure a keener focus on the voice of children and families and to track the progress of audit actions.
- Work to embed a Trauma Informed practice (TIP) approach to working with families, began with the commissioning of TIP training, delivered across children services, in partnership with the police.
- The Assessed and Supported year in employment (ASYE) moderation panel was reviewed and a new cohort system was piloted, streamlining the processes and developing a clearer accountability framework for newly qualified social workers.
- The social work apprenticeship and 'Firstline' management programme commenced in 2020 as part of a wider workforce development plan.
- A new early help strategy was launched.
- The local contextual safeguarding response was strengthened, with a redesign of services and development of a new adolescent service and the integration of multi-agency panels. This will enable Children Services to respond effectively to extra-familial harm.
- The increase in domestic abuse during the lockdowns, led to the setting up of a multi-agency domestic abuse hub and free- phone helpline in May 2020, there were 195 calls received by the end of the year (March 2021).
- The edge of care service was launched and has been integrated into the wider response of supporting adolescents.
- Services promoted education attainment and attendance at school to minimise any lost learning, with regular check in calls with families, schools and foster carers.
- There was a focus on ensuring all children and young people in long term care understood their life histories and support was provided where required.
- Care leavers emotional wellbeing was supported with increased contact from their allocated workers and a new 24 hour/7 day a week helpline

Scrutiny

- Enfield has an experienced and committed departmental, corporate and political leadership team that prioritises services that support children,

young people and families for investment at every opportunity. The leadership structure includes Full Council, Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny committee and several standing panels including, the Children, Young People and Education scrutiny committee.

- Councillors are also included in the membership of, the Corporate Parenting Board, the Fostering Panel, Schools Forum, Enfield Targeted Youth Engagement Board (ETYEB) the Learning for Excellence Partnership and the Member/Governor forum. The Cabinet Member for Children Services is also a participant observer of the Risk Management Panel.
- There are regular children's services briefings shared with Members including the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion and the Leader of the Council. There is strong cross-party commitment to fulfilling corporate parenting duties and supporting vulnerable children and families.
- The Children Services SEF is presented annually at the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Conclusions

6. Children and Family services are delivered to fulfil the Council's statutory responsibilities towards children in the Borough who are in need of help and protection or are in care or are leaving care. Services are regulated by legislation and by statutory guidance.

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Appendices

The annual Self Evaluation Framework report 2020-21.

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: