

## London Borough of Enfield

Children and Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee – 27<sup>th</sup>  
September 2022

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**Subject: Children Services Annual Self Evaluation Framework (SEF) report**

**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Abdul Abdullahi  
**Executive Director:** Tony Theodoulou

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### **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 Children and Family's Services year and outlines the scrutiny arrangements in place. For a fuller overview of Children and Family's 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*
  - During 2021/22 children's services in Enfield had to respond to the challenges faced by children and families due to the Covid-19 pandemic by focusing on recovery and ensuring our services continued to deliver to the highest possible standards.
  - National children's social worker shortages were also felt in Enfield.

- Challenges around staffing numbers in the year resulted in increased caseloads in some teams, senior leaders took effective action by investing in a range of workforce initiatives to stabilise staffing, reduce caseloads and build more capacity across services for example recruitment overseas, sabbaticals and retention payments.
- Leaders have worked constructively with partners to strengthen the response to exploitation, therapeutic support to unaccompanied minors and domestic abuse.
- This year we were one of 10 local authorities that took part in the Independent Review of Social Care helping to influence national reform.
- We rebooted our practice model Signs of Safety, developed a trauma informed parenting programme and transformed the Family Hub model in Enfield.
- Hearing the voice of those we work with, is a priority, leaders have ensured the voice of young people and staff has influenced the design of the future Children's Hub where all Children and Family's will be based late 2022.

We have also

- Made progress in catching up with health and dental checks for children in care that had been delayed due to the pandemic.
- Set up two adolescent safeguarding teams and a contextual safeguarding hub. Widened our contextual safeguarding approach to include bespoke work with parents. Created a youth panel to reduce re-offending and launched a social care and youth justice joint protocol.
- Increased participation of our young people with the relaunch of the care leavers hub and increased the number of care leavers on apprenticeship schemes.
- Redesigned key services such as Early Help which now sits with other preventions services such as youth and community, strengthening the delivery of our early intervention
- Undertaken more quality assurance exercises, including an internal review of the Leaving Care service, an audit peer review and a culture survey with staff to understand what it is like to work in the children and family's service.

## **Scrutiny**

- Enfield has an experienced and committed departmental, corporate, and political leadership team that puts children first. 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 included in the membership of, the Corporate Parenting Board, the Fostering Panel, Schools Forum, Enfield Youth Justice Service management board the Learning for Excellence Partnership and the Member/Governor forum. The Cabinet Member for Children Services is also a participant observer of the multi-agency Risk Management Panel.
- Senior leaders share regular updates with the Cabinet Member, the Leader of the Council and the Assurance Board chaired by the Chief Executive.
- The Children Services SEF is presented annually at the Children and Young People and Education 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 2021-22.

## **Background Papers**

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