

Walsall Council Overview & Scrutiny Working Group Initiation Document

Work Group Name:	Ofsted Working Group
Committee:	Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Municipal Year:	2018/19
Lead Member:	
Lead Officer:	Ms Debbie Carter, Assistant Director (Children's Social Care)
Support Officer:	Nikki Gough, Democratic Services Officer
Membership:	Councillor A. Nawaz Councillor T. Jukes Councillor J. Fitzpatrick Councillor D. Barker Councillor V. Waters
Co-opted Members:	N/A

1.	Context
	<p>The Ofsted inspection of the Council's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers was held between 20 June and 13 July 2017. The inspection report was published on 4 September 2017 and it made twelve recommendations that have been addressed by the Children's Services post-Ofsted action plan dated 1 December 2017.</p> <p>At its meeting on 26th June 2018 the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed that a working group should be established to carry out a more in-depth examination of recommendations 7 and 9, as contained within the inspection report. In due course, the recommendations of the working group will be presented for consideration by the Committee.</p>

2. Objectives	
	<p>The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has identified two of the twelve recommendations from the Ofsted inspection report that they would wish the working group to review:</p> <p>Recommendation 7: Ensure that managers and social workers have clear guidance and legal advice when placing children in arrangements with friends and family, to ensure that their needs are fully understood and met.</p> <p>Recommendation 9: Take steps to ensure that care plans for all children who have a plan for permanence progress within the child's timescale to avoid children experiencing delays, including the identification and support of children who could be placed in foster to adopt arrangements.</p> <p>With reference to the post-Ofsted action plan, the working group propose to review the actions, measures and timescales for tackling the Ofsted recommendations and to submit a report and recommendations to the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 25th April 2019.</p>
3. Scope	
	<p>The working group have adopted the following approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who do you want to see? • When do you want to see them? • What will you ask them? • What other data will you want to see? <p>It is anticipated that the group will recommendation 7 alongside recommendation 9.</p>
4. Equalities Implications	
	<p>The working group will ensure that its recommendations will take into account the different strands of equality and ensure that no group is disadvantaged.</p>
5. Who else will you want to take part?	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management – group manager and team manager 2. Practitioners – friends and family assessors 3. IRO's – fostering panel chair, and panel advisers

6. Timescales & Reporting Schedule			
	Date	Action	Who
	1 st Meeting	Prepare terms of reference.	Working group
	15 th January 2019	Information session	Working group
	29 th January 2019	Focus Group	Working group
	19 th February 2019	Focus Group	Working group
	5 th March 2019	Focus Group	Working group
	25 th March 2019	Conclusions and recommendations	Working group
	25 th April 2019	Present final report/ recommendations	CS O&S Committee
7. Risk factors			
	Risk	Likelihood	Measure to Resolve
	Being unable to cover all identified themes within the available time	Low	Organise a schedule of meetings to plan ahead where possible
	Officer time available to support the working group may limit its ability to deliver the outcomes desired	Low	Select two of the twelve recommendations, with one meeting of the working group to review each recommendation
	Interviewees may feel intimidated by a formal committee-style setting	Medium.	Minimise by: 1. Splitting working group into two sub-groups 2. Interview some participants in groups, rather than individually

Date Agreed:		Date Updated:	
--------------	--	---------------	--