

11 December, 2018

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Social Care Year-end Performance and Benchmarking

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr T Wilson – Children's and health and well-being

Executive Summary:

This report outlines Walsall's final 2017-18 performance for children's social care for key indicators compared with the previous two-years from the two key statutory returns that are submitted to the Department for Education each year (the CLA 903 which details information about Looked after Children and the CiN Census which details information about children in need and child protection)

The report also includes the benchmarking data released by the Department for Education, which shows Walsall's performance against statistical neighbours (those local authorities that are most like Walsall in key demographic and economic indicators), the 14 local authorities in the West Midlands region and the national, England average.

The report out-lines a significant increase in demand in 2017-18 for social care services and increases in the number of children who are subject of a child protection plan. Despite the increase in demand, performance in respect of timeliness of assessments and initial child protection conferences remains good.

Also, despite increasing demand, the number of looked after children continues to fall and placement stability and distance looked after children are placed from home is improving. Outcomes for looked after children and mixed, with improvements in some areas and decline in others.

Outcomes for Care Leavers have improved significantly and performance for this cohort is good across the board.

Reason for scrutiny:

This report is being presented to scrutiny to confirm the council's 2017-18 out-turn performance and highlight Walsall's performance compared with the 2016-17 out-turn and comparators.

Recommendations:**That:**

1. To note Walsall's 2017-18 out-turn performance and position against statistical neighbours

Background papers:

There are no background papers for this report.

Resource and legal considerations:

There are no resource and legal considerations for this report

Council Corporate Plan Priorities:

This report supports the Children corporate plan priority. Specifically:

- Right children looked after, for the right length of time in the right placement
- Care leavers are economically active citizens of their community

Citizen impact:

This report outlines the level of service and outcomes for those families, children and young people that need to receive statutory services from children's social care.

Environmental impact:

There are no environmental impacts for this report

Performance management:

This reports will ensure that Scrutiny are better informed of performance within children's social care, are aware of the areas where performance is improving and where performance has not improved and Walsall's performance compared to other local authorities. The will better enable Scrutiny to provide informed challenge to the service area to help improve outcomes for children in Walsall.

Reducing inequalities:

This report has no direct impact on equalities; however, it outlines the outcomes that are achieved for children and young people who have accessed children's social care services in the year.


Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out? - No

Consultation:

No consultation has been needed as part of this report

Contact Officer:

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1. Report

Please see attached for the full benchmarking report.