

## **Cabinet – 20 June 2018**

### **Children’s Services Ofsted Working Group - Report of the Education and Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 On 9 January 2018, the Education and Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee created a Working Group to consider the report of Ofsted’s inspection of Children’s Services and the Council’s post-Ofsted action plan.
- 1.2 The Working Group selected two of the twelve Ofsted recommendations, held three meetings to receive information and interview Council officers and representatives from partner organisations, formulated conclusions and recommendations, and produced the attached report. On 27 March 2018, the Education and Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved the report and its findings and resolved that it be considered by the Cabinet.

#### **3. Report detail**

- 3.1 Following its establishment, an initial meeting of the Children’s Services Ofsted Working Group was held on 22 January 2018, during which it was agreed to consider two of the twelve recommendations from the Ofsted report:
  - Recommendation 1: Ensure that thresholds of need are understood and applied at every stage of the child’s journey.
  - Recommendation 2: Ensure that frontline management oversight of practice improves the quality of decisions and the provision of help to children.
- 3.2 Two meetings of the Working Group were held on 5 and 14 March 2018 respectively, when documentation was received and interviews with officers from the Children’s Services Directorate and partner organisations were conducted. The Working Group then reviewed this evidence and formulated the conclusions and recommendations that are featured in the attached report.
- 3.3 On 27 March 2018, the Education and Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Working Group’s report. The Committee approved the recommendations, as detailed on pages 21-22 of the report, and resolved to recommend to Cabinet:

**That the Cabinet receive the report of the Children’s Services Ofsted Working Group, consider the recommendations contained therein and decide what action, if any, it wishes to undertake.**

## Background papers

- *Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers*, Ofsted, 4 September 2017.
- *Walsall Children's Services Post-Ofsted Action Plan – Our Journey to Excellence*, Walsall Council, 1 December 2017.

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