

REPORT TO: Children, Young People & Families
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 23rd January 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director Children's Services

PORTFOLIO: Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Ofsted Focused Inspection

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Members of the Board to receive a presentation on the outcome of the Ofsted Focused Visit which took place 23rd and 24th November 2022 and the subsequent actions taken in response to their findings.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members of the Board:

- i) Note the findings of the OfSTED report;**
- ii) Note the update on the improvement actions presented.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton received a Focused Visit from Ofsted on 23rd and 24th November as part of the inspection cycle. Ofsted will published their report on 13 January 2023.

3.2 The focus of the visit was the Council's first response in dealing with contacts and referrals to Children's Social Care & Early Help, including the strategy discussion / S47 process. Inspectors also took the opportunity to review our arrangements for managing allegations against professional, i.e. LADO process. As part of any inspection, inspectors also consider the recommendations from previous inspections, most notably the areas for priority action from the last focused visit in October 2021.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Having a strong and robust framework for identifying and responding across all agencies is the key to ensuring that children and young people are safe and protected, and partners are clear about their responsibilities and role in working together.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Children and young people whose health needs and level of development is potentially compromised are identified early and multi-agency support is in place to support them.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Children who are at risk of harm are identified quickly and services work together to minimise the risk of harm and take action to formally protect children in a timely way.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 All key stakeholders are committed to working together to ensure a robust and consistent approach to protect children in Halton.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Issues arising from a child's equality and diversity needs will inform the decision-making at the point of contact and it will be ensured that the voice of the child is to the forefront.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None.