

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 4th DECEMBER 2019

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Ofsted

In September this year Ofsted undertook a full inspection of Leicestershire Children's Services and considered the quality of work across Early Help and Children's Social Care and the impact of services on children and young people in Leicestershire. The inspection concludes in gradings indicating how the service is judged to be performing in 4 broad areas. The last inspection of Children's Services in 2016 concluded that all areas required improvement to be good.

The outcome of this inspection is that the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families is now judged to be good, the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection requires improvement to be good, the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers is good and the overall effectiveness requires improvement to be good.

Alongside the judgements Ofsted recognised that progress has been made in many areas of children's services in Leicestershire and that the commitment and investment by political and corporate leaders, together with effective work by staff and senior managers, have meant that responses to the needs of children and families have improved in many areas across children's services.

Department for Education (DfE) Care Leavers Visit

In November the Department hosted a visit from the DfE National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers who noted positively the rapid progress Leicestershire has made in relation to our offer for care leavers, in particular our Corporate Parenting response, our local offer for care leavers, apprenticeships, links with businesses and full council tax exemption that are all contributing to better outcomes for our care leavers. His view was that we are in the top ten of improving Local Authorities in England

Stonewall

Leicestershire County Council has been awarded the **Gold CYPs Champion Award**. (one of only 5 to achieve Gold). The programme of work that leads to the award helps put LGBT inclusion at the heart of Children's Services and Public Health and helps to devise innovative solutions based on local needs to better support vulnerable LGBT children and young people as well as improve their health and wellbeing.

Children's Innovation Partnership

Since joining with Barnardo's to work together on the Children's Innovation Partnership, additional grant funding has been achieved as follows:

- In May this year we were told we'd been successful in our bid for The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) and received a total of £798,000 – to specifically focus on 'school hunger' and to run holiday activities for children eligible for free school meals. 2023 children accessed the programme over the summer
- Youth Engagement Funding to work with around 3,000 children over 2 years on Advanced LifeSkills (an evidence-based, whole-school, early intervention resilience building programme) to 11 – 14 year olds across a group of 8 secondary schools in Loughborough.
- DfE funding for 18 months to deliver 102 Family Group Conferences with families pre-court proceedings - £234,600

Significant success in securing funding for programmes to support children in Leicestershire.

Mr I. D. Ould CC