

# Corporate Parenting Board

## 11 February 2020

### Briefing Paper – Ofsted Annual Report 2019/20

Choose an item.

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr A Parry, Children, Education and Early Help

**Executive Director:** Theresa Leavy, Interim Lead for Children's Services

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**Report Status:** Choose an item.

**Recommendation:**  
Information Only

**Reason for Recommendation:**  
Regulatory advice

#### 1. **Executive Summary**

Key themes identified in Ofsted Annual report 2019/20

#### 2. **Financial Implications**

None Identified

#### 3. **Climate implications**

N/A

#### 4. **Other Implications**

None

## **5. Risk Assessment**

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: N/A

Residual Risk: N/A

## **6. Equalities Impact Assessment**

N/A

## **7. Appendices**

N/A

## **8. Background Papers**

The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2018/19

## **9. Highlights from the latest Annual Ofsted report as reported by the Ofsted's National Director for Social Care- Yvette Stanley.**

- The Director's overview acknowledges an increasingly effective response to the most vulnerable children.
- Almost half of local authorities inspected last year are now either good or better. All the local authorities that were re-inspected this year also improved.
- Resulting in 860,000 more children living within good and outstanding authorities, and around 1.3 million fewer children living in areas of inadequacy.
- Acknowledges a testament to the hard work and dedication of Directors of Children's Services, social workers and other staff up and down the country.

## **10. Challenging financial context**

- The report states that significant challenges will continue given the challenging financial context for social care.
- The pressure to meet the needs of the care population along with reductions in local government funding mean that local authorities are spending an increasing proportion of their budgets on children in need of help, protection and care.
- There is little left for early help and prevention which will continue to raise problems in the future.

- Improvements observed amid a difficult financial climate makes the achievements all the more impressive although raises difficult questions about how much further an already stretched sector can continue.

#### **11. Children's homes**

- 75% of the children's social care services that Ofsted inspect and regulate were judged good or better last year.
- The report highlights Ofsted concerns about the quality of some children's homes. The two biggest challenges facing the sector are sufficiency and capability.
- That there is a requirement for improved national oversight and strategic leadership to solve the problem and suggests the solution is not a single Local Authority solution.

#### **12. Unregistered provision**

- The report also repeats concerns about the rise of illegal, unregistered children's homes.
- Many local authorities are spending vast amounts on individual children and unregistered homes only tend to be used following an extensive search for a placement. Suggesting that this is about poor decisions and poor oversight.
- Some local authorities are not taking all the steps that they should to make sure that children are living somewhere appropriate and safe.
- Clearly statement that good decisions for children must be made no matter how difficult the circumstances are.

#### **13. Moving forward**

- The Director promotes the industry and suggests operators should be proud of the good work achieved but more regulatory work is to be done and looking forward to next year and hopeful of an increased improvement in the sector.

#### **Footnote:**

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.