

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

29 JULY 2014

Title:	OFSTED Children's Social Care Inspection Feedback		
Report of the Corporate Director of Children's Services			
Open Report	For Information		
Wards Affected:	Key Decision: No		
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Sponsor: Helen Jenner, Corporate Director of Children's Services			
Summary: OFSTED undertook an inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and a review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) between 29 April and 22 May. The full OFSTED report was published on 7 July and can be found here: http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/barking_and_dagenham/051_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf It should be noted that Members of the Board will receive a verbal update at the July Board meeting on the outcome of the inspection, feedback processes and the action plan that is currently being put together to address gaps in provision.			
Recommendation(s) The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Note the publication of the full OFSTED report.2. Encourage agencies to respond proactively to action planning to address gaps in provision now that the report is published.3. Note that a full item on the inspection will be presented at the September Health and Wellbeing Board meeting to enable the Board to ensure that the proposed action plan to address the areas of weakness identified by the inspection is fit for purpose.			
Reasons Inspections are conducted under section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is carried out under section 15A			

of the Children Act 2004.

Following the inspection of services in Barking and Dagenham for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and the LSCB, all agencies will be required to input into the integrated action plan to address gaps in provision highlighted by the inspection report. This will also contribute to the Council priorities of ensuring every child is valued so that they can succeed and improving health and wellbeing through all stages of life.

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1 OFSTED's single inspection framework was published in October 2013 and came into effect in November 2013 on a universal three year cycle. The inspection brings together into one inspection: child protection; services for looked after children and care leavers, and local authority fostering and adoption services. As well as the single inspection, the framework also includes a review of the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The framework for the inspection was shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board on 11 February 2014.
- 1.2 London Borough of Barking and Dagenham was the fourth London Borough to receive an inspection under the new single inspection framework. The inspection took place between 29 April and 22 May.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to alert Health and Wellbeing Board members to the publication of the OFSTED report which can be found here:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/barking_and_dagenham/051_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf
- 1.4 Members of the Board should note that the overall judgement for the inspection is 'requires improvement' and that the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is also 'requires improvement'.
- 1.5 Members of the Board will receive a verbal update at the July meeting on the outcome of the inspection, feedback processes and the action planning that is currently being undertaken to address gaps in provision highlighted by the inspection report. Please also note that there will be a full item on the agenda for September to enable the Board to ensure that the proposed action plan is fit for purpose.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 Regular multi-agency meetings are held to plan for inspections and these (including the Local Safeguarding Children Board) will be used to put together an integrated action plan to address the areas of weakness identified by the inspection.
- 2.2 The voices of all young people shape our services; we need to ensure that the voices of Looked After Children are heard by all agencies. Work with Healthwatch and BAD Youth Forum needs to ensure that views of Barking and Dagenham Looked After Children placed out of the Borough are clearly heard and communicated.

3. Mandatory Implications

3.1. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The JSNA was referred to in the inspection and the exceptional growth in the number of children in the Borough was a key feature in the inspection. Identifying how the Borough will meet this accelerated demand must be a key feature of our refreshed JSNA.

3.2. Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Similarly, the huge increase in need and numbers must be reflected in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, children now make up a third of our population. The revised Health and Wellbeing Strategy will reflect this.

3.3. Integration

As stated above, an integrated action plan is now being worked up to address the areas of weakness identified by the inspection. The result of the inspection will require all agencies to work together to improve services for vulnerable children.

3.4. Financial Implications

Financial implications will be considered in the full report being presented to the September Health and Wellbeing Board.

3.5. Legal Implications

Legal implications will be considered in the full report being presented to the September Health and Wellbeing Board.

3.6. Safeguarding

The Board should note that OFSTED stated the following regarding safeguarding: "There are no widespread or serious failures that create or leave children being harmed or at risk of harm. The welfare of looked after children is safeguarded and promoted. However, the authority is not yet delivering good protection and help and care for children, young people and families." The integrated action plan will address these identified weaknesses.

4. Background Papers Used in Preparation of the Report:

Report to Health and Wellbeing Board – 11 February 2014, 'Summary of the New Ofsted Single Inspection of Services for Children' - <http://moderngov.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/documents/s76831/HWBB%20Single%20Inspection%20Report%20v0.1.pdf>

Ofsted Inspection Report for London Borough of Barking and Dagenham – 7 July 2014 -

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/barking_and_dagenham/051_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf

5. List of Appendices:

OFSTED Inspection Key Issues Summary **(to be tabled)**