

## **Title of report:**

# **Fourth Ofsted Monitoring Visit feedback**

**Meeting: Cabinet**

**Meeting date: Thursday 28 March 2024**

**Report by: Cabinet member children and young people;**

### **Classification**

Open

### **Decision type**

Non-key

### **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

### **Purpose**

To share the feedback letter from Ofsted following their fourth Monitoring Visit conducted on 21 - 22 February 2024.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**That:**

- a) **Cabinet receive and note the feedback from Ofsted Inspectors' Monitoring Visit letter, at appendix a**

### **Alternative options**

1. There are no alternative options. Herefordshire Council Children's Service is judged to be inadequate by Ofsted and will be subject to monitoring visits until the next Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) where a re-grading will be considered.

## **Key considerations**

2. Inspectors visited Herefordshire Children's Services on 21 and 22 February 2024, and focused on older young people in care aged 16 and 17 and care leavers aged 18 to 25.
3. The inspectors acknowledged that whilst improvements continue to be made, the pace of change needs to improve and the overall quality of practice needs to be more consistent.
4. The content of the report has been considered in detail and the Service is already using the feedback to help improve support for care experienced children and young people in Herefordshire.
5. The current Improvement Plan, which responded to the findings from the ILACS in July 2022, has been reviewed and a draft refresh for 2024 – 2025 has been presented and considered by Improvement Board members on 20 March 2024. The intention is to present the refreshed Improvement Plan at the Cabinet meeting on 25 April 2024.

## **Community impact**

6. The County Plan 2020–2024 includes the ambition to 'strengthen communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together' and more specifically, the council aims to:
  - a. Ensure all children are healthy, safe, and inspired to achieve;
  - b. Ensure that children in care, and moving on from care, are well supported and make good life choices.
7. Ofsted monitoring visits and inspections have an impact, directly and indirectly, on the lives of both current and future children in care aged 16 and 17 and care leavers aged 18 to 25.

## **Environmental Impact**

8. There are no specific environmental impacts arising from this report

## **Equality duty**

9. There are no equality issues arising from this report.

## **Resource implications**

10. This section should include an assessment of the impact of the decision on finance, ICT, human resources and property.

## **Legal implications**

11. The Ofsted inspection in July 2022 was undertaken under the Framework, Evaluation Criteria and Inspector Guidance for the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). This contains provisions regarding actions to be taken after an inadequate inspection report. These include monitoring by Ofsted, an action plan, a

number of monitoring visits and a re-inspection. The most recent February 2024 Ofsted monitoring visit was the fourth monitoring visit that has been undertaken and a fifth Ofsted monitoring visit is likely at some point in the summer 2024.

12. Whilst Ofsted is not under a legal duty to publish the initial monitoring visit feedback letter, subsequent letters following the second and subsequent monitoring visits are published on the Ofsted website. The fourth monitoring visit letter was published on the Ofsted website on 27 March 2024 and is in the public domain.

## Risk management

13. There are no new or additional risks arising from this visit. Risks associated with the wider improvement plan are monitored by the Improvement Board.

## Consultees

14. None.

## Appendices

Appendix A: Ofsted Feedback Letter

## Background papers

None identified.

## Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Please note this section must be completed before the report can be published		
Governance	John Coleman	Date 27/03/2024
Finance	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
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Equality Duty	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
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