

	Corporate Parenting Committee 21 October 2020
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People
Closure Report: Leaving Care Improvement Plan Post-Ofsted Focused Visit (November 2019)	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Closure Report on Leaving Care Improvement Plan Post-Ofsted Focused Visit
Background Papers:	N/A
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This paper provides a summary of the actions completed following the recommendations arising out of the Ofsted focused visit on arrangements for care leavers that took place between 13th and 14th November 2019.
- 1.2 The Committee was presented with the findings of the focused visit in February 2020, detailing the recommendations for practice improvement: (<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=446&MId=5446&Ver=4>). It was agreed that a closure report, including an impact analysis of the improvement plan, would be presented to the Committee once the actions had been completed.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee is requested to review and comment on the actions taken by the Children and Young People's Department.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1. Ofsted inspects local authority children's services under a system called 'Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services' (ILACS). Most local authorities will receive a full inspection once during a 3-year cycle, the scope of which being dependent on the previous grading of the authority. A shorter, 2-day focused visit on a particular area of practice is carried out within the three-year inspection cycle¹.
- 3.2. Brent received an ILACS inspection in May 2018 with the outcome being 'Good' overall with services for looked after children and care leavers being judged 'Outstanding'. Brent received a focused visit from Ofsted inspecting arrangements for care leavers in November 2019. The recommendations made by Ofsted following the focused visit were:
- To improve consistency in timeliness and quality of pathway plans
 - To improve case recording including records of visits to care leavers, supervision records and management oversight and the management rationale for case closure
 - To improve audit arrangements to consider the quality of work with care leavers
 - To ensure there was risk assessments were in place to articulate measures to address and minimise risk.
- 3.3. An action plan, to ensure the recommendations were implemented over a 6-month period, was created and scrutinised on a monthly basis by the CYP Strategic Director. A Closure Report was prepared in July 2020 that included an analysis of impact of the quality assurance activity undertaken and confirmation that the recommendations had all been fully addressed.
- 3.4. The attached closure report details all activity undertaken to improve the above mentioned areas and confirmation that all actions have been completed.

4. Going Forward

- 4.1. The Leaving Care Quality Assurance Group has been formed to continue tracking the quality of practice including case recording, case management supervision and pathway plans. The group is chaired by the Head of LAC and Permanency and attended by relevant managers who will undertake both

¹ Ofsted's inspection arrangements have changed following Covid-19 Pandemic. To see details of new inspection regime: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>

qualitative and quantitative audits on a monthly basis to ensure sustained improvement. Audit findings will be discussed with Leaving Care Teams and LAC Teams on a regular basis to disseminate learning as part of CYP Quality Assurance Framework.