

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**North Lincolnshire Council Self Evaluation of the Experiences of Children in Need of Help and Protection, and of Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2018/19**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 For Cabinet to note the North Lincolnshire Council Self-Evaluation of the Experiences of Children in Need of Help and Protection and of Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2018/19, updated in September 2019;
- 1.2 For Cabinet to note the positive and improving practice, developments and performance and continue to support our work with children and families.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Ofsted framework, evaluation criteria and inspector guidance for the inspection of local authority children's services 2018 system includes "local authorities sharing an annual self-evaluation of the quality and impact of social work practice".
- 2.2 The self-evaluation is utilised by Ofsted to inform and identify areas for further exploration within the inspection framework including through focused visits that look at a specific area of service or cohort of children, full inspections (standard or short) where judgements are made and joint targeted area inspections (JTAI). It also forms the basis of their annual engagement meeting with the Director of Children's Services.

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 This report is to inform Cabinet regarding the North Lincolnshire Council Self-Evaluation of the Experiences of Children in Need of Help and Protection and of Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2018/19, updated in September 2019.
- 3.2 Building on a strong base, the self-evaluation highlights the continued good progress made by services to children in North Lincolnshire. Further external scrutiny through the Ofsted annual conversation, focused visit and reported performance information has also confirmed the continuing positive progress throughout the year.

3.3 Positive and improving practice, developments and performance identified include:

- North Lincolnshire are early adopters of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.
- The child's voice being firmly at the centre of practice.
- Children in North Lincolnshire who are in need of help and protection make good progress, and are supported to live safely within their family network.
- The number of children entering the youth justice system as 'First Time Entrants' continues to reduce demonstrating the success and effectiveness of the preventative approach.
- Children and families benefit from a stable, skilled and experienced workforce with manageable and well-supervised caseloads for Social Workers. North Lincolnshire were successful in the National Social Work Awards winning 'Team of the Year'. The service is participating in Phase 2 of the National Assessment and Accreditation System for Child and Family Social Work (NAAS).
- Development of new and innovative practice models including 'You Say Who', 'Holding On' and Enhanced Risk Assessment models which all focus on building resilience and supporting children to live within their families.
- Improvements in education outcomes for our children and young people with SEND both at SEN Support and those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- Established partnership working to effectively respond to children who are unaccompanied and seeking asylum.
- A well-established and strong corporate parenting board provides robust challenge and support in relation to outcomes for children in care.
- A small (and reducing) minority of children and young people in care are placed at a distance in external provision.
- Attainment in schools for children in care at Key Stage 4, and progress for this cohort places North Lincolnshire above Statistical Neighbours and National figures.
- Care Leavers in education, employment and training show North Lincolnshire to be above Statistical Neighbour and England rates.
- Whilst the children in care population increased during 2018/19 compared to previous years, children in care numbers have been stabilised and are reducing.
- Improvement in stability for children in care in where they live, their education and with their workers.

3.4 Key areas that were identified to be progressed to continue the improvement and development of services were as follows:

- The Council and CCG are developing an Integrated Children's Trust in order to further strengthen local arrangements for commissioning and providing best quality services based upon local need.
- To further build upon the effectiveness of early help arrangements in light of the integration agenda.
- Further strengthen work to ensure older young people have support as they transition into young adults.
- As part of the Children's MARS arrangements, working with key partners to drive forward a vision for working with children, adolescents and families that seeks to 'change the narrative' of the safeguarding system to build upon children and family strengths.
- Build on existing provision to engage the young people in positive activities, education and sustainable programmes to reduce offending supported by partners across all agencies.
- Continue to focus upon further improving the stability of children in care.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 To publish the evaluation would present a positive picture in relation to our work in North Lincolnshire.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

- 5.1 None – this report for information only

#### **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 None identified.

#### **7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 7.1 Not applicable.

#### **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 8.1 The North Lincolnshire Council Self-Evaluation of the Experiences of Children in Need of Help and Protection and of Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2018/19 outlines the impact and outcomes of voice and engagement activity with children, young people and families.

#### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 For Cabinet to note the North Lincolnshire Council Self-Evaluation of the Experiences of Children in Need of Help and Protection and of Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2018/19 and to continue to support our work with children and families.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

North Lincolnshire Council Self Evaluation of the Experiences of Children in Need of Help and Protection and of Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2018/19