

**OFSTED INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND
PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS
and REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN BOARD**

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1. Summary

A team of 9 inspectors from Ofsted spent four weeks in the Children's Services directorate from 11th September to 5th October 2017 inspecting services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. They also undertook a review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The inspectors met a wide range of staff, Members and partners, spent time with the various social care teams as they went about their day to day work, accompanied social workers on scheduled visits and case reviews and examined a vast amount of data.

Their report was published on 24th November 2017 and the overall judgement for Shropshire's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers is "Good", which represents an improvement since the last inspection of children's social care in 2012. The report is attached at Appendix A.

It is recognised that Shropshire Council's children's social care is still on a journey of improvement and there are recommendations made within the report. We are required to draw up an action plan for these recommendations within the report and return this to Ofsted within working 70 days.

2. Recommendations

Scrutiny is asked to note the attached report and approve that the report and action plan be considered at a future meeting.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Impact on Children and Vulnerable Adults, Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community and other Consultation)

There is a risk to the safeguarding of vulnerable children and young people in Shropshire if the appropriate level of service is not provided, as well as to the reputation of Shropshire Council should services fall below acceptable standards.

4. Financial Implications

There may be financial implications for Shropshire Council both in maintaining progress and in meeting some of the recommendations made by Ofsted within the report.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
None
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cllr Nick Bardsley
Local Member All Members
Appendices Appendix A Ofsted Report