

Thurrock - Children's Social Care

Development Plan 2017-19

This Service Development Plan has been developed to retain the Ofsted inspection report recommendations and updated to include current improvement priorities. Delivery of the plan priorities will position the authority well to achieve a "good" rating in future inspection. The authority must be assured that the Ofsted recommendations are acted on to deliver better outcomes for children. Ofsted recommendations are identified in the plan as Ofsted 1, Ofsted 2 etc. The Development Plan has been developed around eight key priorities for improvement:	RAG Summary of all areas	
	Previous period	Current period
	2.0	2.6

	Previous period	Current period
1. Recruiting, retaining and developing a skilled and confident social care workforce	2.8	3.3
2. Providing coherent and coordinated early help services to children and their families	1.7	2.3
3. Building consistent quality and timeliness of assessment; care planning and decision making for children in need and in need of protection.	1.5	2.5
4. Ensuring high quality support and services for looked-after children and effective permanency planning. Ensuring timely purposeful post adoption support.	2.0	2.9
5. Putting the voice and day to day experience of the child at the centre of social care practice	2.0	2.0
6. All children missing from home or care must have access to a return interview. Analysis arising from risks faced by children missing from home or care and children missing from education should inform action to reduce risk	1.5	2.5
7. Supporting young people leaving care to have a positive and successful transition to adulthood and independence	2.3	2.4
8. Embedding strong quality assurance and governance mechanisms to drive continual improvement in services	2.6	2.9

Specific actions to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people are set out under each of the eight priorities. Each action includes the timescales by which the improvement should be delivered alongside a clear indication of how success will be measured and evidenced. Progress will be RAG-rated and reported monthly to the Improvement Board. The report is linked to a separate dedicated performance report that will be updated monthly. Full details of the progress tracker are set out on the following page.

Governance - The Service Development Plan will be overseen by the Development and performance Board chaired by the Chief Executive. The Lead Member will also review progress.

1	The action has not yet started or there is significant delay in implementation. The action must be prioritised to bring it back on track to deliver improvement.
2	The action has started but there is some delay in implementation. The action must be monitored to ensure the required improvement is delivered.
3	The action is on track to be completed by the agreed date. Evidence is required to show that the improvement has been sustained.
4	The action has been completed and there is evidence that the improvement has been sustained. The action remains in the plan for monitoring.
5	The action has been completed and there is evidence that the improvement has been sustained. The action can safely be removed from the plan.