

Report Title:	Children and Families Service: April 2020-March 2021
Meeting for:	Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission
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Report Summary

This report is an update to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission for the 12th July 2021 meeting. The contents of this report should be reviewed by the Commission.

This report is 12 pages long and provides an update on the current progress of the Children's Action Plan following the Ofsted ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) inspection of the Children and Families Service in November 2019. Ofsted's inspection report can be viewed on their website¹.

Ofsted found that Hackney Children and Families Service require improvement to be good, and made 6 recommendations for improvement as part of their inspection report:

- The quality of information-sharing by partners and the quality of decision-making within strategy discussions.
- The assessment of the impact for children of living in neglectful environments to inform authoritative and child-centred practice.
- The quality of assessment and planning for children subject to private fostering arrangements.
- The timeliness and effectiveness of pre-proceedings work, including the quality of contingency planning.
- The welfare of children who are missing education or who are home educated is safeguarded
- The effectiveness of management oversight by leaders and managers at all levels, including the effectiveness of oversight from child protection conference chairs.

¹ Ofsted inspection of children's social care services in the London Borough of Hackney, November 2019: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50135828>

Our children's action plan² was produced following the Ofsted visit of our Children and Families Service in November 2019 and sets out the actions the Council intends to take to address the findings detailed in Ofsted's subsequent inspection report. This plan was sent to Ofsted and published in March 2020, just before the Covid-19 pandemic first lockdown in England.

The action plan addresses both the specific recommendations made by Ofsted and wider improvements that could be made in particular areas of our practice.

Each of the timescales attached to the actions in the plan were reviewed in June 2020 in light of Covid-19 and given a rating indicating the level of impact of Covid-19 on the original intended timeframes for completion.

The action plan has associated performance indicators to measure our progress on delivering the improvements specified.

This report to CYP Scrutiny Commission contains the latest progress against the delivery of the improvement plan:

- Each page of the report takes the recommendations from Ofsted in turn, and provides an update on the critical activity that has taken place over recent months to improve practice in this area. The report also covers the measures ('metrics') by which we are measuring our progress.
- The report also takes wider improvements that have been agreed by the Children and Families Service as needed, updates against recent activity and measures of progress.

² Hackney Children's Action Plan (June 2020):
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_TaluGvZHrrsHor3nsHRLX0bAKnToz9N/view