

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 24 May 2023

Subject: Re-establishment of the Ofsted Subgroup

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Summary

This report provides the Committee with the revised terms of reference for the Ofsted Subgroup which the Committee is asked to agree. The report also includes the current work programme for the Subgroup.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to re-establish the Ofsted Subgroup for the municipal year 2023-2024. The Committee is invited to:

1. Agree the revised terms of reference for the Subgroup.
 2. Agree the work programme of the Subgroup, which will be reviewed by the group at each of its meetings.
 3. Agree the membership of the Subgroup.
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Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

Appendices

1. Ofsted Subgroup Terms of Reference
2. Ofsted Subgroup work programme

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In November 2006 the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee established the Ofsted Subgroup to enable members to engage with and add value to the school improvement agenda.
- 1.2 The remit of the Subgroup was approved by the Committee in March 2007 and the terms of reference were subsequently revised by the Committee in October 2013, broadening the remit to include Ofsted inspections of the Local Authority in relation to school improvement and of children's centres and daycare providers.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 16 September 2014, in response to the Ofsted judgement that Manchester children's services were "inadequate", the Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee decided to expand the remit of the Ofsted Subgroup to include consideration of reports on local authority safeguarding arrangements and to request that the Subgroup look at this issue in more detail. The changes to the terms of reference were subsequently approved at the Committee's October 2014 meeting. In May 2016, the wording was amended to 'consider inspection reports and performance information for services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers' in order to clarify that the Ofsted Subgroup could consider any matters arising from the 2014 Ofsted inspection report of Manchester children's services. The Committee removed this from the Subgroup's remit at its June 2017 meeting but subsequently decided to include this in the Subgroup's remit again in September 2017.
- 1.4 In May 2016, the Committee also revised the terms of reference to include consideration of inspection reports and performance information for Manchester City Council-owned children's homes.
- 1.5 The proposed terms of reference for 2023 - 2024 have been amended to clarify that the Subgroup will consider an overview of inspection outcomes and any emerging themes and issues. The proposed changes are listed below and the complete proposed terms of reference are at appendix 1.

	Existing wording	Proposed wording
Rationale	<p>This Subgroup has been established to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider inspection reports and performance information for Manchester Schools; • consider inspection reports and performance information for Manchester Children’s Centres • consider inspection reports and performance information for Daycare providers in Manchester • consider inspection reports and performance information for Manchester City Council-owned children’s homes • consider Ofsted inspections and guidance into how local authorities secure school improvement • liaise with Council Officers, School Staff and Early Years staff to identify barriers to performance • consider inspection reports and performance information for services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers • make any necessary recommendations to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 	<p>This Subgroup has been established to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider an overview of inspection outcomes and any emerging themes and issues in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manchester Schools; ○ Manchester Children’s Centres ○ Daycare providers in Manchester ○ Manchester City Council-owned children’s homes ○ how local authorities secure school improvement ○ services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers • liaise with Council Officers, School Staff and Early Years staff to identify barriers to performance • make any necessary recommendations to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to re-establish the Ofsted Subgroup for the municipal year 2023-2024.
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to agree or amend the terms of reference as set out in the report at Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to agree or amend the work programme as set out in the report at Appendix 2.
- 2.4 The Committee is also asked to agree the membership of the Subgroup.