

For general release

REPORT TO:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub Committee 27th November 2018
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE PRACTICE WEEK SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2018
LEAD OFFICER:	Philip Segurola, Interim Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Alisa Flemming
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Philip Segurola, Interim Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	This Item is contained within the Sub-Committee's work programme
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	To review the findings of the Practice Week September 2018 Summary Report and note the recommendations for action arising from the audit work undertaken.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises the activity and findings of Children's Social Care Practice Week, which is held every six months as outlined in the Quality Assurance Framework.
- 1.2 During Practice Week, senior leaders complete case discussion audits with practitioners and undertake observations of practice such as home visits, child protection conferences and core group meetings. The intention of Practice Week is not simply to evaluate the quality of casework, but also to influence frontline practice by providing immediate feedback to practitioners.
- 1.3 The theme of the September Practice Week was permanency planning for children in the care of the local authority. The report summarises the findings overall for audits completed on 42 children from two cohorts of children: those how have been in care for more than twelve months and are aged under 12 years, and those who have come into care in the three months from June to August 2018.
- 1.4 Each aspect of the audit is graded and the report provides some analysis of these gradings in relation to practice and areas for development.

- 1.5 The findings identified emerging signs of improved practice, including stability of placements, improved frequency of recording of management oversight, purposeful visits, good partnership working and evidence that social workers know their children and can speak confidently about the work they are doing.
- 1.6 Areas for ongoing development include more rigour in implementing permanency plans and other processes to support permanent placements, systematic tracking of progress of plans, and direct work with children, particularly life story work. Quality of supervision and management oversight also requires continued focused attention.

CONTACT OFFICER: Sue Brunton-Reed, Quality Assurance, ext 47688

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None.

APPENDICES: Appendix 1 Practice Week Summary September 2018