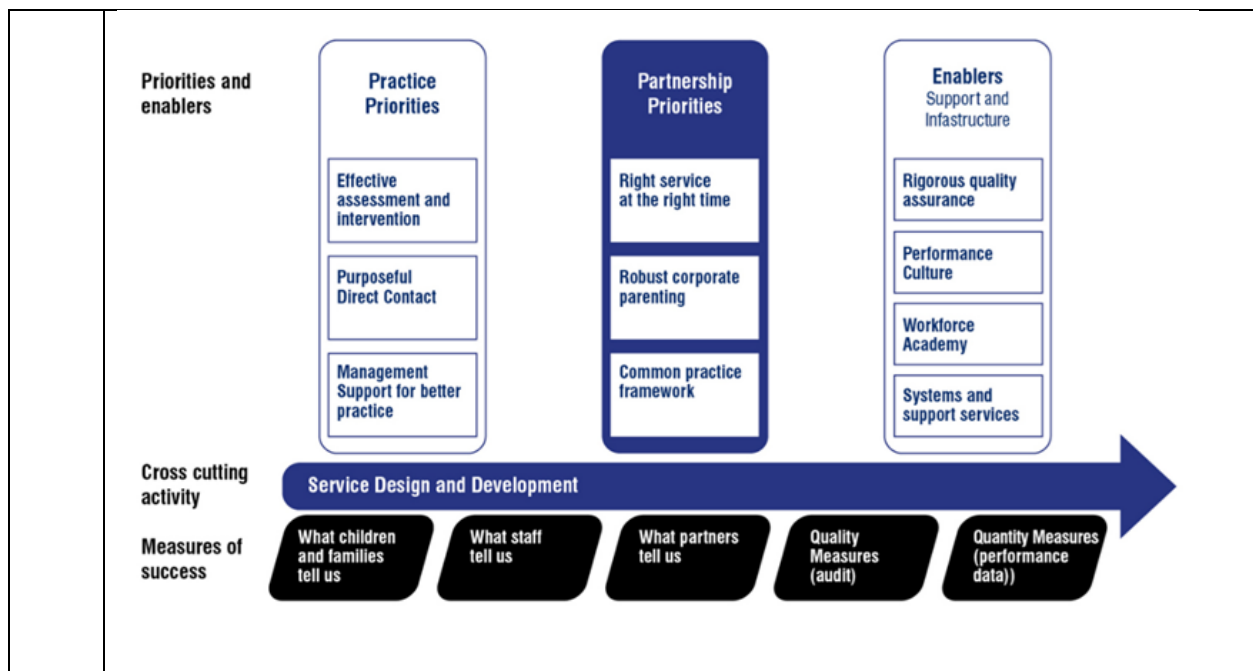


<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CHILDREN AND LEARNING SERVICE SELF EVALUATION OF PRACTICE
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	31 MARCH 2022
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Children and Learning</b>	
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
N/A	
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	
Southampton's self-evaluation of practice is reviewed on a bi-annual basis and is used to assess the quality of practice and progress against the service improvement plan. The Panel are invited to consider the latest version of the self-evaluation which was finalised in January 2022.	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
(i)	That the Panel notes the content of the self-evaluation of practice and the next steps in paragraph six of the report.
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	The Scrutiny Panel has oversight of the Children and Learning Service improvement plan. The service self-evaluation is used to assess the quality of practice and progress against the service improvement plan.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
2.	None
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
3.	The self-evaluation of practice is reviewed biannually by the Quality Assurance Unit, in conjunction with the senior leadership team, data team and key stakeholders. It is used to assess the quality of practice and to identify progress against and barriers to the service achieving its improvement priorities.



4. The self-evaluation is constructed against the [Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services \(ILACS\) framework](#) and is shared with Ofsted before each annual engagement meeting and inspection. In 2019, Ofsted said that *'Senior leaders demonstrate a balanced, accurate self-assessment of the quality of frontline practice to protect and support vulnerable children.'* This was a notable improvement from 2019. The next annual engagement meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

5. The self-evaluation framework comprises of:

- Leadership and Management
- Children in Need of Help and Protection
- Looked after Children and Care Leavers
- Education and Early Years

The service actively takes the opportunity to test the integrity of the content. Senior managers from Southampton recently participated, alongside delegates from two other local authorities, in a regional peer challenge session focused on self-assessment. Actions arising from that activity include creating a data compendium that will sit alongside the self-evaluation and developing better ways of capturing young people's views on the quality and impact of the services offered to them.

6. **Next Steps**

- The service will share the self-evaluation with Ofsted two weeks before the annual engagement meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- The Quality Assurance Unit will make the improvements to the document as outlined in paragraph five.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Capital/Revenue**

7. There are no capital / revenue implications directly associated with the report.

**Property/Other**

8.	None at this stage
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
9.	S.111 Local Government Act 1972
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
10.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
11.	The principal risk is reputational. The self-evaluation is gatekept by the senior leadership team before the current version is finalised. See paragraph 4.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
12.	<p>The service quality assurance framework contributes to achieving the outcomes desired for children in Southampton.</p> <p>The 2021-2025 Corporate Plan sets out the following regarding wellbeing in the city: “We want a city in which people can start well, live well, age well, and live happy and fulfilling lives. We will be a city that prevents and intervenes early, promotes wellbeing, and allows people to live independently for longer, enjoying their lives and all our great city has to offer.”</p> <p>Aligned to this, priorities in the Corporate Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of children looked after</li> <li>• Achieve our ambition to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City by 2024/25.</li> </ul>

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Children and Learning Service Self Evaluation

**Documents in Members’ Rooms**

1.	None
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
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**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
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**Other Background Documents**

**Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	None