

**Education and Children's Services
Scrutiny Committee
2 March 2016**

**Covering Report:
Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services**

Summary and Objectives

1. The objective of this scrutiny is for the committee to have an early opportunity for discussion and comment on the outcomes of the Ofsted Inspection Report that was published on 11 February 2016, to inform any action plans that are being prepared for approval by Cabinet.

Scrutiny Focus

2. The focus areas for this scrutiny are the key themes in the Ofsted Report published in February:
 - What is working well
 - What needs improving

How this relates to County Council priorities

3. This scrutiny is linked to the County Council's corporate priorities as indicated below:

The County Council's Corporate Priorities	Link to this scrutiny
Raising educational attainment and skill levels	✓
Supporting the LEPs to increase economic growth	
Maintaining roads and developing Suffolk's infrastructure	
Supporting those most vulnerable in our communities	✓
Empowering local communities	

4. Having considered the evidence, the Committee may wish to:
 - i) make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, and/or the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Services;
 - ii) agree topics which could benefit from more detailed scrutiny at a future meeting, seek to influence partner organisations, or request further information.

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Local Councillor

All Councillors

Background

5. The Ofsted Inspection took place between 23 November and 17 December 2015, and their Report was published on 11 February 2016.
6. Ofsted began their current single inspection programme in November 2013: this looks at all local authority social care services in one inspection. The latest report and their inspection reports prior to the introduction of the single inspection are on their website: <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/suffolk>.
7. In addition to the published material there will be verbal input from Officers regarding potential areas for action, to enable discussion by the Committee, to inform the formal action plans that are being prepared for future approval by Cabinet.

Main Body of Evidence (attached)

- (i) **Evidence Set 1** (44 pages) - The Ofsted Report on "*Suffolk County Council - Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board*", 11 February 2016.