

Strategic Director's Briefing for Children's PDS, 30 January 2018

New Ofsted inspection framework launched

Ofsted has just launched a new framework for Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). This focuses on functions which provide help, care and protection for children and young people and aims to move to a 'whole system' approach with less emphasis on an intensive inspection than was the case under the previous regime. It will include an annual self-evaluation, annual 'conversation' and three-yearly inspection proportionate to the LA's known performance (ie lasting only 1 week for 'good' authorities). However, there would be focused visits in intervening years, either to look at a particular area thought to be good practice or of local concern; or as part of a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) on a national theme.

Bath Community Academy (BCA) update

Parents of current year 8 and 9 pupils have now received offers for school places for September 2018. Once again, the vast majority have secured a place at one of the schools they expressed a preference for and the largest number will be transferring to the Bath Studio School.

Integrated working with the NHS

Both the Cabinet and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Board approved in November the proposals for us to develop plans to move towards greater integration between the two organisations, particularly in order to commission services in a more seamless manner for our residents. We anticipate that this will ensure a better experience for people using services, more opportunities to ensure that the work of the two agencies is complementary in achieving the best outcomes, and ultimately may bring some financial benefits in helping to better manage demand or in back-office efficiencies. We are working up the detail of how that might work and will share further information as it becomes available.

Mike Bowden
Strategic Director for People and Communities