

Blackpool Childrens Services Improvement Journey

Victoria Gent DCS

22 June 2023

Childrens Scrutiny



Our Journey



New Early Help Strategy Launch

Monitoring Visit Sept 2021

Commissioner intervention ends – Spring 2021

22/23

2 Monitoring visits 2019

21/22

20/21

SEND Inspection Feb 2022 – WSOA 4 areas

Inadequate Children's Services

19/20

Focused Visit Feb 2021

Direction to work with Commissioner, 2019

Youth Justice inspection spring 2021 - **Good**

2 Monitoring Visits 2022

18/19

Inadequate Youth Justice

Corona Kindness

spread kindness, not the virus



Key headlines from ILACS report

What needs to improve?

- The multi-agency response to children suffering domestic abuse or long-term neglect, and to those children with complex needs.
- Work with partners to strengthen their contribution to early help and neglect.
 - Sufficient placements to meet children's assessed needs.
- The timeliness of meeting children's dental and emotional needs.

The practice model additionally requires strengthening to be able to respond effectively to issues such as domestic abuse and neglect.

We have a revised improvement plan that addresses all the issues and recommendations within the ILACS report.

Our Challenges Along the Way!

- **Deprivation**
- **Health of the adult population**
- **The long-standing nature of inadequacy**
- **Instability in management and leadership**
- **Workforce-high agency cohort**
- **Volume of work**
- **History of statutory escalation**
- **”Blackpool Exceptionalism”-Culture Shift**

Our Strengths

Our size-Small but Mighty!

Strong corporate and political support

Sense of Optimism and momentum-positive talk encourages positive talk

Capitalizing on our USP

Aspiration, achievement and opportunities –

“Jobs in the Family Firm”

**Small, dynamic, receptive to change and learning
from others**

**Betterstart, Headstart, Opportunity Area,
Levelling Up**

Plans for the future-Getting to Good

Extending and further integrating the local multi-agency Early help offer through the Family Hubs model

- Multi-agency partners co-located to deliver services

Enhance and develop our Blackpool Families Rock

- Implementing Multi-agency teams on the lines of the Hertfordshire Family Safeguarding model to more effectively intervene with children and families.

Tailored services co-produced with local families targeting critical local issues, such as “Born into Care

Revised governance and accountability framework for the local partnership

- Need to respond to increasingly constrained resourcing, while retaining a focus on the non negotiables and working to reduce avoidable expenditure

Children and Families Partnership Plan

New Childrens and Families Partnership Plan currently being prepared

Task and Finish Group lead by Head of Safeguarding and Strategic partnerships

Consultation with families over summer

Development Day 15 March 2023-over 85 attendees

Draft plan-to Board in July

Final Plan-September

Place Based Childrens safeguarding Arrangements

Current safeguarding arrangements- Pan- Lancs

Decision to move to Place Based Board in February 2023

Transitional period through until 4 September

Initial workshop in February 2023

Scoping out a new Business Unit-Joint with Adults and Community Safety-Join the Dots approach

Dynamic and Ambitious Business Unit to deliver improvements and drive change in key areas such as domestic abuse

Final touches 19 June to arrangements-to be agreed with partners

Transformation within Childrens Social care

Blackpool Families Rock-move from practice principals to definitive delivery model

Multi disciplinary teams-Domestic abuse/mental health/substance misuse

Head of Transformation appointed to lead work

Over summer-Project team in Place

Key Objectives-

To bring Blackpool in line with comparator authorities

To deliver an improved offer to families

Workshop 11 July to scope out

Build on co production-Operational workforce Group/Lived Experience

Questions and Thankyou!

