

Report to	Governance & Audit Committee
Date of meeting	09 June 2021
Lead Member / Officer	Lisa Lovegrove – Chief Internal Auditor
Report author	Lisa Lovegrove – Chief Internal Auditor
Title	Direct Payments for Children – Internal Audit Follow Up

1. What is the report about?

1.1. This report provides an update on progress in implementing the action plan that accompanied the Internal Audit report on Direct Payments for Children dated November 2020 which was presented to this committee in November 2020.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. This report is to provide information on how the council is implementing improvements with regards to 'Direct Payments for Children' since the issue of the Internal Audit report. The report gave a low assurance, so Governance & Audit Committee requested a progress report. This is the first progress report.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That the committee reviews progress with addressing the audit actions and decides whether it requires any further update reports on progress with the improvement action plan.

4. Report details

4.1. Our original review of Direct Payments - Children was completed in November 2020 giving a low assurance rating.

4.2. Our follow up review was originally scheduled to be reported to committee in April 2021, however, it was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.3. The Internal Audit follow up report (Appendix 1) shows that the progress with implementing the agreed action plan arising from the audit.

4.4. While Education and Children's Services has been placed under additional demands, particularly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, progress has been made with implementing the agreed actions raised. The result of our follow up review considers the assurance rating to now be 'medium'.

4.5. Internal Audit will continue to monitor the outstanding actions to ensure that they are completed with a second follow up scheduled for September 2021.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report