

# BUSINESS SUPPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017

## BRIEFING NOTE

Briefing Note from: Ann Domenev, Interim Deputy Director Children and Adults

### Summary

Following a discussion at the agenda planning meeting, this briefing note has been produced to inform the Committee of the reasons behind the recommendation to down grade the rating of the Corporate Risk SR26 (Children's Social Care) on the Corporate Risk Register from All to BII.

### 1. Background

- 1.1 A letter addressed to the Leader of the Council was received in December 2016 from Edward Timpson MP, Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, in which the Minister indicated that he was pleased with the progress that Medway had made since the Ofsted Inspection of October 2015.
- 1.2 On the basis that Edward Timpson MP advised in his letter that the DfE would end their involvement with Medway Council due to the progress that Children's Services has made, CMT would like the rating of Risk SR26 (Children's Social Care) of the Corporate Risk Register to be down graded from All to BII.
- 1.3 Extracts from the Minister's Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 are provided below to support the recommendation:-
  - *"I have been very pleased to hear about your ongoing work to improve children's social care services in Medway since Ofsted's judgement of 'requires improvement' in November 2015."*
  - *"The Department for Education has provided support and supervision for the past 12 months while you have continued to strengthen services. I am delighted that the period of support and supervision is now complete; this ends our formal involvement with Medway Council."*

- *“It is clear that the council has made good progress in addressing the issues raised in Ofsted’s 2015 inspection report. Overall I am reassured that there is strong and committed leadership in Medway, and a clear vision for delivering high quality services. There is evidence not only that you have embedded improvements made during the Department’s intervention, but that you are taking appropriate steps to identify and address further areas for improvement.”*

**Lead officer contact**

Ann Domenev, Interim Deputy Director Children and Adults