

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



27 July 2022

Report of: Tim O’Gara, Director - Legal and Democratic Services

Title: Decision of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman
(Complaint reference 21 007 446)

Ward: N/A

Presenting Report: Councillor Tony Dyer, OSMB Chair

Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board note the decision report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman as set out at Appendix A.

The Significant Issues in the Report

As set out in the report.



1. Policy

N/A

2. Consultation

N/A

3. Context

a. On 4 March 2022, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman issued a final decision report regarding a complaint against Bristol City Council in relation to delays in the Education, Health and Care process. The full report is set out at Appendix A.

b. One of the actions requested by the Ombudsman (para. 57) was that the Council agree, within 3 months of the decision, to ‘send a copy of the final decision to the relevant scrutiny committee so there is democratic oversight of the extent of the problems affecting children and families waiting for EHC assessments in Bristol.’

c. As the Ombudsman’s report was issued/published on 4 March, it was not practicable to formally report the decision to the 7 March meeting of the People Scrutiny Commission. The next meeting of the People Scrutiny Commission is on 12 September 2022. To avoid further delay in meeting the Ombudsman’s request, the Chair of the OSMB and the Chair of the People Scrutiny Commission have agreed that it is appropriate for the report to be submitted to this meeting of the OSMB. A copy of the decision report is in the public domain as published by the Ombudsman and was also sent to the members of the People Scrutiny Commission following its publication.

4. Proposal

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is asked to note the report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman as set out at Appendix A.

5. Other Options Considered

N/A

6. Risk Assessment

N/A

7. Public Sector Equality Duties

N/A

8. Legal and Resource Implications

N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A –

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman’s final decision in relation to complaint ref. 21 007 446