

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 21 June 2012

Report of the Acting Director of Children's Services

Responses to Questions

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee of the written responses or circulated documents sent to Members following questions asked at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 22nd March 2012.

Background

2. As a result of questions asked at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 22nd March 2012 regarding the items set out in the agenda, it was agreed that these would be itemised and responses circulated to all Members for their information. Below is a brief outline of the questions asked and supplementary information provided.

Questions regarding the Safeguarding and Looked after Children Inspection Action Plans

3. An initial report on the outcomes of the Safeguarding and Looked after Children Inspection was taken to committee for discussion which included three action plans. The Lead Officer informed the members further action plans will be taken through 2012/13 for scrutiny. This was therefore noted in the draft work programme for the next municipal year for approval at the June 2012 committee.
4. In addition it was agreed as an action for the representatives of the Health Authority and Police Service to be invited to a future Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to report on further outcomes and inspection action plans.

Questions regarding the Education Act 2011 and its impact for Dudley

5. As noted in the minutes of the Scrutiny Meeting the Assistant Director (Education, Play and Learning) agreed to provide subsequent reports on the impact of the changes this has also been reflected in the draft work programme to be approved at the next Scrutiny Committee.
6. The Acting Director of Children's Services sent information regarding 6th Form Colleges in light of provisions in the Education Act 2011. This information will be emailed to the new members when made available.

7. The Acting Director prepared a response in respect of the question asked about having more clarification on what powers IEA has regarding academies and reporting aspects this was sent directly to the Councillor.

Questions regarding the Standards Report

8. A report on School Standards was presented to the members for scrutiny. A member raised a question regarding the children from the Yemeni Community and the measure that could be taken regarding improvement of attainment for pupils. The Assistant Director (Education, Play and Learning) responded directly to the Councillor who asked for the information.

Finance

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Law

10. The statutory provisions relating to the above matter are contained in Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972, which enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its various statutory functions.
11. The rules of “proportionality” to reflect the political balance of the Committee do not apply to the appointments referred to in this report.

Equality Impact

12. The report takes into account the Council’s Policies on Equality and Diversity.

Recommendations

13. The Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.



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Jane Porter
Acting Director of Children’s Services

Contact Officer: Sarah Bailey
Strategic Support Administrator
Telephone: 01384 813545
Email: Sarah.bailey@dudley.gov.uk