

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 15 September 2011

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 to members to questions asked at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the 23 June 2011.

Background

2. As a result of questions asked at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 23 June 2011 regarding Children in Need, it was agreed that these would be itemised and responses circulated to all members for their information.

Is there any literature or contact details available for members to raise a child protection query?

3. The literature for 24-7 service delivery was made available to the members of the committee indicating the process required to raise a child protection query. The information can also be located at the link provided. <http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/index.asp?pgid=18304> This service delivery information along with the other documents have been uploaded onto the CMIS website.

Where can the information be found regarding the roles and responsibilities for Councillors for Child Protection?

4. The documentation on the roles and responsibilities of Councillors relating to child protection framework was circulated to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee members for reviewing. The electronic version of this document can be found on the Research in Practice website. <http://www.rip.org.uk>

Is there anymore detailed information and data regarding statistics for children in need?

5. The statistical data was distributed as part of the Scrutiny Committee paperwork on the 23 June 2011 as an Appendix to the main report on Children in Need. The contents of the Appendix detailed information of contacts made from different organisations which were then broken down into percentages. Also initial and core assessments were commented on, as there was a rise in core assessments in 2010/11. The Assistant Director for Children &

Families sent out more statistical information as requested on ward areas to members of the committee.

Right Service, Right Time, Right Place Guidance – available to Members of the Committee?

6. The Right Service, Right Time, Right Place guidance was raised at the Scrutiny Committee and the Assistant Director has responded to the report by circulating the draft documentation.

Finance

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

Law

8. 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 its calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its various statutory functions.
9. 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

10. The report takes into account the Council’s Policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendations

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



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