

**DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**North Dudley Area Committee 27 June 2007**

**Joint Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Director of Children's Services**

**Progress of Elected Member Visits to Adult and Children's Social Care Establishments 2006/7**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide the Committee with information about the progress of visits to Adult and Children's social care establishments undertaken by Members during 2006/7 and to inform Committee about actions taken in response to Member comments.
- 2 To seek nominations from the Committee for Members to carry out visits to Social Care establishments during 2007/08.

**Background**

3. Each Area Committee nominates pairs of Members who are willing to undertake visits to Adult and Children's Social Care establishments. A list of residential and day care establishments for adults and children across the Borough is attached as Appendix 1.
4. The purpose of the visits is to assist Members in reviewing the residential and day care service delivery to Adults in establishments managed by the Directorate of Adult Community & Housing Services and to Children in establishments managed by the Directorate of Children's Services. We would normally attach details of the visits carried out by North Dudley Area Committee but unfortunately due to events beyond their control Members were unable to carry out any of the scheduled visits.
5. The visits also assist Members in fulfilling their role as Corporate Parents of Looked After Children.
6. All Members participating in the rota of visits must have received training in the role and satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau clearance.
7. Training to assist the process for 2007/8 will be arranged and provided to Members.

8. The rota process and the delivery of training is managed within the Policy, Performance & Resources Unit of the Directorate of Adult, Community & Housing Services. Over a period of time Members have made suggestions to improve the process and these have been incorporated into the Protocol determining the responsibilities of Members and officers. The Protocol is attached as appendix 2.
9. Staff of the Policy, Performance & Resources Unit provide Members with
  - a copy of the Protocol for Members and Officers
  - a schedule of visits to be undertaken during the period
  - a reminder of scheduled visits to establishments
  - a proforma for completion at each visit
  - background information about each establishment, in terms of purpose and staffing
  - a copy of the comments made by Members on the previous visits.
10. Members completed proformas are sent to the relevant Assistant Director for comment and response.

### **Finance**

11. There are no immediate financial implications from this report. The programme of Member visits can continue to be provided from within existing resource allocation.
12. On occasion, Member comments and recommendations will have additional cost implications. These are forwarded in the first instance to the Technical Support Services and where appropriate to the Property & Steering Capital Group for consideration.

### **Law**

13. Members' visits to Social Care establishments assist in meeting some of the relevant requirements of the Children Act 1989 and the Care Standards Act 2000.

### **Equality Impact**

14. The visits to establishments are intended to assist officers in ensuring that services are delivered in a fair, equitable and service user focused manner. The visits provide opportunities for Members to consult with a wide ranging group of people with varied needs, abilities, disabilities, age, gender and ethnicity.

### **Recommendations**

15. That Members consider and comment on the information contained in this report and attachments

16. That Members make further nominations from Committee for participation in the rota for the year 2007-2008.



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