

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 22nd March 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 the 25th January 2012.

Background

2. As a result of questions asked at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 25th January 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 Fostering Service (item 5 on the agenda)

3. A report on the Fostering Service was taken providing Scrutiny Committee members with key information and developments which have taken place since the last OfSTED inspection in 2009. The Committee asked to be briefed on collaborative working in relation to fostering provision. The Assistant Director for Children and Families produced a briefing paper for members which was circulated via email.
4. It was also requested that information on benchmarking data to be included in all future reports on the Fostering Service going to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. This has therefore been noted in the work programme for 2012/13.

Questions regarding the oral report for the Children's Services OfSTED Inspection outcomes for safeguarding and Looked after Children (item 6 on the agenda)

5. An oral update was given by the Acting Director of Children's Services on the OfSTED judgements following the inspection as it was embargoed and not published until the date of the Committee. It was agreed that a full report with the findings and the action plan would be taken to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd March 2012 for discussion.

Finance

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

Law

7. 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.
8. 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

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

Recommendations

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



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