

Meeting of the Cabinet – 9th February 2011

Report of the Acting Director of Children's Services

2010 OfSTED Annual Assessment of Children's Services

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Cabinet of the main findings and to provide a copy of the report.

Background

2. Since 2008 OfSTED has published its annual assessment of Children's Services for every area in the country. Throughout this period Dudley has kept pace with change and provide effectively for the children and young people within the Borough. In 2008 & 2009 the service was judged to be good despite the many education and care demands made nationally. In 2010 the Borough remained focused on Children's needs and again achieved a good rating.
3. The assessment takes account of the outcomes achieved by children and young people and the quality of services provided across the borough. This included the local authority contribution and that of partners who work in collaboration to achieve integrated support to children and young people.

Finance

4. This outcome has been achieved despite considerable savings and efficiencies that have been achieved by the Directorate of Children's Services and other agencies during 2010/11 and previously.

Law

5. The Coalition Government has decided to end the requirement for OfSTED to publish this report in future on an annual basis and we await confirmation of the date by when this decision will be implemented.

Equality Impact

6. The report is an assessment of services provided to all children and young people. It is informed by the outcomes achieved by all groups, and the progress that has been made in narrowing the gap between the lowest and highest performing individuals.

Recommendations

7. That Cabinet notes the report.



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Acting Director of Children's Services

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List of Background Papers

Annual Children's Services Assessment Letter 3rd December 2010