

## **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

### **Report of the 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 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

##### **Background**

2. As a result of questions asked at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee 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 Annual Report**

3. A request was made for the private fostering report to be published on CMIS alongside the papers for the November committee. This has now been actioned.

##### **Trend information relating to allegations against foster carers**

4. A question was asked about how many children in foster care were the subject of Child Protection / Safeguarding enquiries following allegations about foster carers. The trend in information for previous years is noted below.

2009/2010 = 8

2010/2011 = 6

##### **Questions regarding the Inspection for Safeguarding and Looked after Children**

5. Two more action plans were taken for discussion with members of the committee. Su Roxburgh Divisional Manager for Children with Disabilities attended to give an update on the transition action plan. In relation to the question relating to how many carers Banardo's have there are currently 3 Full Time Equivalent Contract Carers and 5 volunteers. There are four monitoring arrangements in place for the Banardo's contract which are listed below:

- Quarterly Contract Liaison meetings
- Quarterly service data collected
- Additional Contract Review meetings to address any necessary corrective action plans
- Regular individual child Reviews.

6. A question was raised about the how many short breaks have been provided by Barnardo's. The information chart below shows the break down of information including the number of nights children have received short breaks.

## Short Breaks provided by Barnardos Breakaway Project (Agency)

### During the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

Table 1 - Overnight Stays	No of Nights	Number of Children
Placement-Sb3 Family Based Overnight Stays Short Break In Carer'S Home (Contract Carer)	444	18
Placement-Sb4 Family Based Overnight Stays Short Break In Carer'S Home	91	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>22</b>

### During the period 1st April 2012 to 30th September 2012

Table 1 - Overnight Short Breaks	No of Nights	Number of Children
Placement-Sb3 Family Based Overnight Stays Short Break In Carer'S Home (Contract Carer)	85	10
Placement-Sb4 Family Based Overnight Stays Short Break In Carer'S Home	45	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>13</b>

### During the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

Table 2 - Day Care	No of Nights	Number of Children
Service-Sb6 Family Based Or Individual Day Care Short Break In Carers Home (Contract Carer)	2,673	20
Service-Sb7 Family Based Or Individual Day Care Short Break In Carers Home	1,060	9
Service-Sb8 Family Based Or Individual Day Care Short Break In Childs Own Home	284	1
Service-Sb17 Group Based Specialist Day Care (Short Breaks) Other	447	26
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,464</b>	<b>56</b>

### During the period 1st April 2012 to 30th September 2012

Table 2 - Day Care	Total hours	Number of Children
Service-Sb6 Family Based Or Individual Day Care Short Break In Carers Home (Contract Carer)	829	10
Service-Sb7 Family Based Or Individual Day Care Short Break In Carers Home	590	10
Service-Sb8 Family Based Or Individual Day Care Short Break In Childs Own Home	23	1
Service-Sb17 Group Based Specialist Day Care (Short Breaks) Other	9	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>30</b>

## **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 is 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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Jane Porter  
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Jane Porter  
Director of Children's Services  
Telephone: 01384 814200  
Email: [Jane.porter@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.porter@dudley.gov.uk)