

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 25 January 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 16th November 2011.

Background

2. As a result of questions asked at the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on 16th November 2011 regarding the items set out in the agenda, it was agreed that these would be itemised and responses circulated to the Member/s who requested the information. Below is a brief outline of the questions asked and supplementary information provided.

Question regarding the report on Care Proceedings (item 5 on the agenda)

3. A Councillor requested figures regarding the issues referred to in paragraph 21 of the Care Proceedings Report. The Assistant Director for Children and Families provided a 9 category breakdown of data from the last 12 months relating to care proceedings which were concluded totalling to 93 cases.

Questions regarding the report on Corporate Parenting (item 6 on the agenda)

4. A discussion took place regarding the implementation of a mechanism for reports on looked after children being referred to full Council. Due to the constitution being specific on what is taken to Council currently the only item in the Policy Framework is the Children and Young People's Plan, future discussions will take place regarding this.
5. A further conversation took place regarding the representation from the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on the Corporate Parenting Board. Representation of the Board was clarified at the re-launch of the Corporate Parenting Board on the 28th November 2011.

Questions regarding the report on Compliments and Complaints for Social Care (item 7 on the agenda)

6. A Councillor requested a response on why complaints received were higher in Care Management North than in Care Management South. The Assistant Director for Children

and Families provided an oral response to the question. Mark Falegate the reporting officer also commented that it could also be included in future reports.

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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