

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Board

OFSTED INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SERVICES

Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Cllr Mike Carr

Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings

18 August 2011

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To inform the Corporate Parenting Board of the outcome from the Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services that took place between 6 and 17 June 2011.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the findings contained within the Ofsted Inspection Report attached at Appendix 1.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION, WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent
Urgent report

If urgent, please give full reasons.

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

5. An inspection was carried out by Ofsted Inspectors between 6 and 17 June 2011. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the contribution made by relevant services in the local area towards ensuring that children and young people are properly safeguarded and to determine the quality of service provision for looked after children and care leavers.
6. The inspection report (Appendix 1) identified areas of strength and areas of practice that met requirements, with some areas for development.
7. An Action Plan will be developed to address the areas for development identified within the Ofsted report and brought to a future meeting of Corporate Parenting Board. The Inspection did not identify issues that the Service was not already aware of.

Looked After Children

8. The second part of the inspection report focuses on services and outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. Services were rated as adequate overall, with the support for children leaving care rated as outstanding. The main focus of action plans will be to strengthen the virtual school and a range of work with Looked After Children.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9. Not applicable.

OPTION APPRAISAL

10. The Ofsted report documents the findings from the Ofsted Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services in Middlesbrough and an action plan is required to address recommendations.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

11. **Financial** – Work is underway to address the actions needed within existing resources. This will include refocusing existing services on early intervention and prevention, both within the Council and across agencies.
12. **Ward Implications** – This report impacts on all wards within Middlesbrough.
13. **Legal Implications** – There are no legal implications.

RECOMMENDATION

14. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board note the contents of the Ofsted Inspection Report and await the formal Action Plan.

REASONS

15. The report addresses key areas of the Authority's responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

16. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
 - Ofsted Report – Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services – 22 July 2011

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