

## OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2010

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises the outcome of two recent Ofsted inspections of Children's Services, the annual assessment and an unannounced inspection of safeguarding services.

#### **Annual assessment of Children's Services**

- 1.2 The annual assessment of children's services is derived from the performance profile of the quality of services and outcomes for children and young people in each local area. This performance profile includes findings from Ofsted's inspection and regulation of services and settings for which the local authority has strategic or operational responsibilities, either alone or in partnership with others, arrangements for making sure children are safe, together with data from the relevant indicators in the National Indicator Set (NIS).
- 1.3 The annual assessment derives from a four-point scale:

4	Performs excellently	An organisation that significantly exceeds minimum requirements
3	Performs well	An organisation that exceeds minimum requirements
2	Performs adequately	An organisation that meets only minimum requirements
1	Performs poorly	An organisation that does not meet minimum requirements

- 1.4 Within each level there will be differing standards of provision. For example, an assessment of 'performs excellently' does not mean all aspects of provision are perfect. Similarly, an assessment of 'performs poorly' does not mean there are no adequate or even good aspects. As in 2009, while the performance profile remains central to Ofsted's assessment, the minimum requirements for each grade outlined in the guidance do not alone define the grade. The assessment has involved the application of inspector judgement.
- 1.5 **Derby City Council children's services annual assessment 2010**

Children's services assessment: Performs adequately (2).

The main area of focus is the generally low performance at Early Years and Primary schools. Although secondary schools have performed much better in the 2010 results, educational attainment in Derby could – and should – be much better. An improvement

strategy is being developed with schools.

### **Inspection of Contact, Reception and Assessment Services**

Inspection of contact, reception and assessment services is an annual inspection. This inspection is unannounced and the Inspection Team arrives at a point of service with five minutes notice. There is a clear framework for inspection which the inspectors use to structure their inspection. Inspectors spend the majority of the two-day inspection working alongside staff, utilising the electronic case system (ICS) and tracking the process of real-time case work.

	Priority Action	An element of service delivery which may put children at risk of harm
	Meets minimum standards	Elements of the service which meet minimum requirements
	Strengths	Elements of the service which exceed minimum requirements

Derby has experienced two unannounced inspections of Reception Services in this current year. The first inspection (14 January 2010) resulted in the service receiving a Priority Action. An improvement plan was developed and significant progress was made on what was then described as 'areas for development'.

Derby received the second unannounced inspection of Reception Services on 2 November 2010. Inspectors visited the sites at Ashtree House and the Light House. Careline was not inspected on this visit.

Inspectors commented on the robust action plan and progress since the previous inspection. The Council no longer has a priority action.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. For information and to note.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To note the 2010 Annual Children's Services Assessment and the areas of challenge for Derby City children's services.
- 3.2 To note the Unannounced Inspection findings.

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

4. Children's Services Assessment 2010 - Appendix 1.  
Unannounced Inspection of Duty Referral and Assessment – Appendix 2.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5. None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	
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<b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	None Appendix 1 – Children's Services Assessment 2010 Appendix 2 – Unannounced Inspection and Assessment

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

1. None to this report

**Legal**

2. This is part of the statutory process relating to the annual assessment of children's services.

**Personnel**

3. None

**Equalities Impact**

4. None

**Health and Safety**

5. None

**Carbon commitment**

6. None

**Value for money**

7. None

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

8. The annual children's services assessment delivers the performance judgement for Derby City Council's children's services across the range of children and young people's services, which include provision of services to meet the priorities and outcomes as identified in Derby's Children and Young People's Plan. These relate to the priorities in the current Corporate Plan, given the nature of services delivered to children, young people and their families.