



Derby City Council

Children and Young People's Board 22 January 2013

ITEM 7

Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People

Ofsted Inspection of Arrangements for the Protection of Children

SUMMARY

- 1.1 On Monday 3 December 2012 Ofsted arrived in Derby to undertake an unannounced inspection of services for the protection of children.
- 1.2 The inspection lasted until Wednesday 12 December 2012, when informal feedback was presented to the Director of Children's Services.
- 1.3 The final report is scheduled to be published on the Ofsted website on Monday 21 January 2013.
- 1.4 A summary of the main findings of the inspection will be presented to Members on Tuesday 22 January 2013 and hard copies of the report will be circulated for consideration.
- 1.5 Any implications for Members will be highlighted at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the presentation and any actions recommended by Ofsted in the final inspection report on Derby's services for the protection of children.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Local authorities and their partners have a duty to provide appropriate services that protect children. They are also required to respond to recommendations made by inspectorates such as Ofsted. Board Members are central to the improvement of services across Children and Young People, which includes monitoring and challenging inspection related improvement plans.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 On 11 September 2012 Members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board considered a presentation on Ofsted inspection frameworks. As part of this presentation Members were briefed on an interim Ofsted inspection framework for the protection of children. The framework is scheduled to run from June 2012 until June 2013 (replacing the inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children (SLAC)) after which a multi-agency inspection framework for the protection of children will be introduced.
- 4.2 It was discussed in September 2012 that the process for inspecting authorities under the interim framework is based on the 'risk' level for each authority, judged from performance in their last SLAC inspection. Derby was inspected in May 2011 and was judged to be 'adequate' against the SLAC framework (with only two 'good' elements) and was therefore preparing for an unannounced inspection under the interim framework.
- 4.3 The Lead Inspector from Ofsted arrived to commence an unannounced inspection of Derby's services for the protection of children on Monday 3 December 2012. The full team was on site by Wednesday 5 December 2012.
- 4.4 The inspection lasted until Wednesday 12 December 2012. Overall, there were 96 cases sampled with 57 individual cases tracked. The inspection team saw 17 children and young people, met with 24 parents / carers / family members and looked at over 165 different documents and pieces of evidence.
- 4.5 The inspectors met / spoke to a variety of professionals during the duration of the fieldwork...
- A variety of practitioners and partners (including partners from schools, police, health and the third sector).
 - The Independent Chair of the Derby Children Safeguarding Board and the Board Manager.
 - The Head of Quality Assurance.
 - Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Advisors.
 - The Lead Member for Children's Services and the Chair of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board.
 - Manager of Careline (Derby's out of hours service).
 - Head of Safeguarding.
 - Service Director for Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding and the Heads of Service for each of the three localities.
 - Strategic Director of Children's Services.
 - Head of Commissioning.
 - Head of Inclusion and Intervention.
 - Director of Public Health.
 - Head of Performance and Improvement.

4.6 The inspectors also observed a wide range of activities...

- A random selection of child in need and child protection meetings (both initial and review meetings).
- A child sexual exploitation (CSE) professional meeting and a CSE strategy meeting.
- A placement panel.
- A multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC).
- A vulnerable child meeting (VCM).
- A core group meeting.
- A visit to the Lighthouse.
- A visit with a child practitioner.
- A visit to a Children's Centre (Alvaston).

4.7 The inspection focused solely on child protection services and judgements were made against three different elements of service delivery, which supported a judgement on the 'overall effectiveness' of Derby's services for the protection of children...

- The effectiveness of the help and protection provided to children, young people, families and carers.
- The quality of practice.
- Leadership and governance.

4.8 The final report published by Ofsted will contain recommended actions for improvement that will need to be executed in the stated timescales, which are likely to fall within one of three time categories; immediately, within three months or within six months. To support in addressing any recommendations made in the final report an improvement plan will be drafted and reported back to the Children and Young People's Board by the end of March 2013.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Andrew Bunyan – Strategic Director for Children and Young People
Other(s)	Heather Greenan – Head of Performance and Improvement

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List of appendices:	None
	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Any financial implications relating to inspection activity will be contained with existing budgets.

Legal

- 2.1 Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) carry out the inspections under section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Ofsted conduct inspections under sections 20–23 of the Children Act 2004.

Personnel

- 3.1 Workforce development issues were picked up through the evaluation framework under quality of practice.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Equality and diversity issues were picked up throughout the inspection and were considered against each of the three evaluation schedule areas.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None.

Risk Management

- 8.1 Risks were managed as part the project management of the inspection. Any risks associated with recommendations will be managed by the Children's Improvement Board and, as appropriate, by Derby Children Safeguarding Board.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The inspection framework for the protection of children supports...
- Being safe and feeling safe.
 - Good quality services that meet local needs.

- A skilled and motivated workforce.