



Derby City Council

**Children and Young People Board  
25 June 2013**

**ITEM 9**

Report of the Children and Young People Board  
Chair

**Topic Review 2013**

**SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Board should consider topics that they wish to review in the coming year at the beginning of each municipal year. The reviews may cover anything within their remit and could include internal as well as external facing services.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Team can support 2 topic reviews per year.
- 1.3 The Children and Young People Board was been asked by Council Cabinet last year to take forward a motion from Council on the Family Intervention Project.
- 1.4 At its first meeting of the municipal year last year (26 June 2012) the Children and Young People Board agreed to the request but due to departmental changes altered the scope of the review and carry out a broader topic review into the Early Intervention Services.
- 1.5 It was acknowledged at the Children and Young People Board meeting on 26 June 2012 that conducting a review into the Early Intervention Services would be difficult given the departure of the Director in July 2012. The Board decided at its meeting on 11 September to delay the topic review into the Early Intervention Service.
- 1.6 Instead the Board completed a review into the Residential Children's Homes in the City in 2013-14. This review took far longer to complete than had been expected and therefore the Early Intervention Service review was postponed indefinitely.
- 1.7 The Board is asked to consider whether it wishes to begin the Early Intervention Service review with immediate effect or whether it would like to conduct a review into a different topic.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To determine whether the Board wishes to conduct a review into the Early Intervention Service, or;

- 2.2 To agree to conduct a topic review into another area that falls within the Boards remit.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To meet the Council Cabinet's request to conduct a topic review into the Early intervention Service or another topic that falls within the Board's remit.
- 3.2 To enable the overview and scrutiny officer to begin work on the Topic Review.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council Constitution limits one topic review report to be submitted to the Council Cabinet every six months from Scrutiny Boards. It is possible for each Board to conduct two reviews in each municipal year. Topic reviews are not mandatory, but if the board wishes to conduct in-depth reviews in the current year, it is suggested that members should aim to agree a topic for review at the earliest opportunity.

- 4.2 On 25 January 2012 the Council resolved that:

The Derby Family Intervention Project was set up in November 2007, to work with the most vulnerable families, to bring stability into their lives, to prevent homelessness and to help improve opportunities for children and young people. This service has already seen cutbacks and continues to be undermined, contrary to the recent repackaged proposals to 'transform the lives of the country's most troubled families' (DCLG, Dec 2011).

Council therefore calls upon the Cabinet to instigate a review, to examine what has worked well in this project and what gaps now need to be filled; highlighting opportunities for development, new funding streams, and the impact this work has on the community in which these families live, so that vulnerable groups and individuals are not put at risk.'

- 4.3 Council Cabinet considered the resolution at its meeting on 21 February 2012 and resolved to:

'To request the Children and Young People Commission to undertake a review of the project.'

- 4.4 It was acknowledged at the Children and Young People Board meeting on 26 June 2012 that conducting a review into the Early Intervention Services would be difficult given the departure of the Director in July 2012. The new Service Director started with the Authority in September 2012 and is now in a position to help with the review process.
- 4.5 Additionally recent Ofsted inspections have explored the effectiveness of the early intervention and help offer, including identifying those children and young people that may be at risk. The Board would be able to look at the outcomes of this external inspection and incorporate its findings into their topic review.
- 4.6 The Board last year chose to look at Children’s Residential Homes and deferred the Early Intervention Services review until January. However the Children’s Residential Home review took far longer to complete than had been anticipated and the Early intervention services Review did not get started in the last municipal year.
- 4.7 The Board will need to consider whether it wishes to start this review with immediate effect or whether it wishes to select another item from the Children and Young People Board’s remit.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	      Phil O’Brien, Statutory Scrutiny Officer
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Ellen Bird 01332 643646 ellen.bird@derby.gov.uk 26 June 2012 – Item 10b Topic Review 2012/13 11 September 2012 – Item 11 Topic review 2012/13 Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Legal**

2.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Personnel**

3.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Equalities Impact**

4.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Health and Safety**

5.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Environmental Sustainability**

6.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Property and Asset Management**

7.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Risk Management**

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1
- Achieving their learning potential
  - Good health and well-being
  - Being safe and feeling safe
  - A strong community

- Good-quality services that meet local needs