

ITEM 23a



COUNCIL CABINET
17 MARCH 2009

Report of the Chair of the Children and Young People Commission

Safeguarding Children Review

SUMMARY

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10 March 2009 the Children and Young People (CYP) Commission considered a report by the Chair of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board on the outcome of the recent Safeguarding Children Review.
- 1.2 The Commission was pleased to note the many positive outcomes of the review and members commended Andrew Flack and Rachel Dickenson for their contribution to these outcomes.
- 1.3 Commission members noted that the review had identified a number of areas which needed to be strengthened and endorsed the remedial actions that were proposed by the Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board.
- 1.4 The report identified three National Indicators that were underperforming and were rated as Red. The CYP Commission has received a detailed report on two of these indicators, NI 59 and NI60, and has written to the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families to ask what action is being taken by central government to address the issues which appear to be the main reason for the underperformance of these indicators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Council Cabinet endorses the actions proposed in the report by the Chair of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Commission was pleased to note Derby's broad range of strengths and members thanked Andrew Flack and Rachel Dickinson for their contribution to the achievement of this situation.
- 3.2 Members were concerned that there were areas which required attention but endorsed the actions that were proposed in Appendix 3 of the report to address the issues listed in 3.12 of the Chair's report.
- 3.3 One of the areas identified as requiring attention is the impact of the new electronic social care recording system and this has had an impact on the Council's performance against NI 59 and NI 60 (see 3.8 of the Chair's report). The CYP Commission has received a detailed report on these two indicators and the Chair of the CYP Commission has written to the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families to ask what action government is proposing to take to resolve the problems with the electronic social care recording system which appear to be the main cause of this underperformance.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The supporting information for the CYP Commission's comments and recommendation is contained in the body of the report by the Chair of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board.
- 4.2 The strengths of the safeguarding processes and practices in Derby are listed in 3.11 of the report by the Chair of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board. The areas requiring attention are shown in 3.12 of that report. The actions that are being or will be taken to address the areas requiring attention are listed in Appendix 3 of the Chair's report.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5. None

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Background papers: Background Papers - None
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. The report will potentially impact on all Derby children.

Corporate Priorities

5. This report has the potential to link with the following Corporate priorities

- Giving you excellent services and value for money