



Derby City Council

**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMISSION**  
**13 December 2011**

**ITEM 6**

Report of the Strategic Director of Children and  
Young People

**Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services**

**SUMMARY**

- 1.1 An inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services took place in May 2011. The findings report was published jointly by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 27 June 2011.
- 1.2 Overall Derby's arrangements were assessed as 'adequate' and the report includes a number of areas where Derby is performing well. However the inspection team highlighted 24 recommendations to improve services, including five which must be implemented as soon as possible. .
- 1.3 An action plan detailing the 24 recommendations and actions required to address areas of improvement has now been developed and is attached.
- 1.4 The improvement action plan was reviewed by the Children and Young People (CYP) Commission on 13 September 2011 – tabled at Corporate Parenting Sub-Commission 13 December 2011.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To be aware of the improvement action plan.
- 2.2 To note the progress of the final Ofsted plan.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Local authorities and their partners have a duty to provide appropriate services that protect children in need. They are also required to respond to recommendations made by inspectorates such as Ofsted and CQC.
- 3.2 During any future inspection the Council would need to demonstrate that they have responded and acted upon the recommendations made by Ofsted in an effective and efficient manner.
- 3.3 To ensure that the progress and final Ofsted action Plan is noted at various Governance levels within the Council.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Local authorities are subject to regular inspections by Ofsted and CQC on services focused on safeguarding and looked after children. The last major inspection was the Joint Area Review in 2008.
- 4.2 The inspection team undertook their announced inspection in May 2011. The Council and partners received ten days notice prior to the inspection visit.
- 4.3 The inspection team reviewed a variety of evidence to form their judgements including:
- feedback from children and young people receiving services, including care leavers
  - discussions with parents and carers of children receiving services
  - performance data and results from recent unannounced inspections on children's services
  - case reviews of 46 files of children in need
  - interviews and focus groups with senior officers, elected members, service managers, front line professionals, partner agencies and a range of community representatives.
- 4.4 Copies of the inspection report have been circulated to key officers and elected members for information. The report is also available on the Council's website.
- 4.5 The overall effectiveness of safeguarding services in Derby was rated as 'adequate', with capacity for improvement assessed as 'adequate'. Services for looked after children were also rated as 'adequate'.
- 4.6 The report highlighted some areas of good performance, including 'staying safe' and 'economic well-being' outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. The report includes 24 recommendations for improvement, including five which must be implemented as soon as possible.
- 4.7 Derby City Council and its partners have responded to the inspection report by developing an improvement action plan as shown attached. Consultation on the plan has involved all stakeholders included and responsible for delivering the actions contained within the plan. The plan includes actions and outcomes to be achieved, timescales, lead officers and progress made.
- 4.8 The process for delivering and monitoring the improvement plan has been led by the Director of Children and Young People, with approval from the Children's Trust and Derby Children's Safeguarding Board.

- 4.9 The improvement plan will be monitored regularly and it is proposed that the CYP Commission receive regular updates at future meetings.
- 4.10 The improvement plan was presented to the CYP Commission on 13 September 2011. Any suggestions have been incorporated into the plan.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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- 5.1 No other options have been considered.

**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>	Hannah Hogg – Head of Legal (Children and Adults) Alison Parkin – Head of Finance (Children and Young People) Jon Redfern – Interim Director of Human Resources Jacqui Jensen – Director of Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding Katie Harris – Director of Specialist Services Lynda Poole – Director of Learning and Inclusion Rita Silvester – Director of Commissioning Heather Greenan – Head of Performance and Improvement
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<b>For more information contact:</b>  <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Sharon Hancock, Performance Manager 01332 643454 e-mail <a href="mailto:sharon.hancock@derby.gov.uk">sharon.hancock@derby.gov.uk</a> Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Improvement Action Plan Appendix 3 – Co-ordination of Engagement Activity with Children in Care – Summary Report
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<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1. Initial costs of the actions contained within the inspection improvement plan have been prepared and detailed costs are being finalised. These need to reflect any budget considerations that arise from the Star Chamber process in September 2011. Costs will be included in the improvement plan when they are finalised and reported on.

**Legal**

2. The Council and its partners have a statutory duty to respond to recommendations made by inspectorates such as Ofsted and CQC. Failure to address issues adequately could result in intervention.

**Personnel**

3. Some of the Ofsted recommendations have implications for personnel. These will be addressed through the improvement planning process.

**Equalities Impact**

4. Some of the recommendations relate to fully addressing the needs of different equality groups. These will be considered through the improvement plan.

**Health and Safety**

5. There are no issues arising.

**Environmental Sustainability**

6. There are no issues arising.

**Asset Management**

7. There are no issues arising.

**Risk Management**

8. Risks will be considered as part of the improvement planning process.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

9. Improving services for children in need directly supports a number of the priority outcomes in the Council Plan, including 'Being safe and feeling safe' and 'Achieving their learning potential'.