



## Review of Children Looked After Services

### RECOMMENDATION

1. To consider and approve the review of Children Looked After Services as the next topic for review by the Social Care and Health Commission.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members of the Social Care and Health Commission resolved at their January meeting to conduct a review on children looked after services. Where looked after means all the children and young people who are looked after by a local authority in accordance with the Children Act 1989.
- 2.2 Children services have been subject to a number of inspections by the Commission for Social Care Inspection over recent years including the inspection of Fostering Service, Adoption Service, Residential Children's Units and the Children's Services. Members felt that undertaking a detailed review of the Children Looked After Services could further strengthen this statutory service.
- 2.3 Although the Commission had not finalised its terms of reference at the time of writing this report, it is likely to
  - examine why there are high number of looked after children in the city compared with other similar sized authorities
  - examine the processes involved in looking after children and consider whether the placements are effective, deliver good quality of service and outcomes for looked after children
  - consider ways of safely reducing the gap between Derby and similar sized authorities of the number of looked after children
  - understand the triggers for child protection register
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Management Commission is responsible for approving work programmes for Overview and Scrutiny Commissions.

**For more information contact:** Mahroof Hussain 01332 255597 e-mail [mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk](mailto:mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk)  
**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 – Implications

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

1. Overview and Scrutiny Commissions have been allocated a research and any expenditure arising from this review will be contained within the budget allocated to the Social Care and Health Commission.

**Legal**

2. None.

**Personnel**

3. None.

**Equalities impact**

4. Looked after children are considered to be amongst the most vulnerable groups in the city.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

5. The report supports the Corporate Objectives of healthy safe and independent communities and contributes to the Corporate Priority to **modernising social care.**