



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION
20 January 2009

ITEM 9

Report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People

Progress report on the Joint Area Review Post Inspection Plan

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note the progress made in response to the recommendations set out in the Joint Area Review report of February 2008.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 A report on the outcome of the Joint Area Review had previously been considered by Cabinet in February 2008 and the Children and Young People's Commission meeting in March 2008. The formal action plan in response to the report was submitted to Ofsted in May 2008 for approval.
- 2.2 Members of the Children and Young People's Commission requested an update on the progress towards achieving the recommendations outlined in the inspection report. The detailed post inspection action plan is attached as Appendix 2

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 During September and October 2007 a Joint Area Review – JAR – of Children's Services in Derby City was conducted. The Joint Area Review Team comprised representatives from OfSTED, the Healthcare Commission, and the Audit Commission.
- 3.2 The JAR inspection team assessed the contribution of local services to securing good outcomes for children and young people.
- 3.3 The recommendations from the JAR were:

For immediate action

The local partnership should:

- ensure that an appropriate way is found for the successful dissemination of the findings of this report to children and young people in the area
- develop an over-arching strategy and inter-agency protocols for the identification and detection of missing children

- ensure that all actions plans clearly identify responsible officers, dates of delivery, expected outcomes, resources required and risks associated with failure to achieve.

All of the above recommendations have been achieved

For action over the next six months

- Make further progress in developing recruitment initiatives to ensure that all children in care are allocated to a qualified social worker.
- Make better use of available data to evaluate progress and plan improvements in relation to children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- Ensure that there are clear strategies to evaluate the effectiveness of all initiatives relating to reducing teenage pregnancy and improving sexual health.
- Revise the methods for collecting and analysing data, to ensure that actions to improve housing capacity for young people are targeted accurately.

All of the above recommendations have been achieved

For action in the longer term

- Increase the opportunities for more flexible college programmes and for work-based learning for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

This action has now been addressed by Derby College. The improvements in this area of work were also noted by the separate Ofsted inspection of Derby College which graded its provision for students with learning difficulties and or disabilities as grade 1 – outstanding.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1.1 None to this report

Legal

2.1 The statutory processes relating to the JAR are noted in the report

Personnel

3.1 None

Equalities impact

4.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5.1 The JAR assessed performance across the range of services for children and young people and the five outcomes in the Every Child Matters framework. These can be seen to relate to all six of the priorities in the current Corporate Plan, given the all- embracing nature of the children and young people's agenda.