



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MEETING 21 November 2006**

Report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People

### **Children Looked After Topic Review conducted by the Children and Young People's Commission**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. To note the report and the timescale for producing the Departmental response to the Topic review.

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Children and Young People's Commission finalised the terms of reference for the topic review of services for Looked After Children in June 2006.
- 2.2 The review itself took place during the week of the 24 July 2006 during which time they received presentations from a wide range of stakeholders concerned with the care of Looked After Children.
- 2.3 In addition to the presentations the Commission received substantial amounts of data and performance information including benchmarking data from other Authorities.
- 2.4 The report is a substantial piece of work which contains 31 recommendations several of those recommendations carry with them significant budget implications. These will need to be considered alongside the significant pressures that the Department is facing over the next 3 years.
- 2.5 Some of the recommendations reflect best practice and can be implemented once the report and action plan are approved.
- 2.6 The lead Assistant Director is producing an outline action plan with commentary on each of the recommendations. This will be considered by the Departmental Management team and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People before being presented to the Commission early in the New Year.
- 2.7 The key themes within the review are timely in that they accord with the intentions of the recently published Green Paper – Care Matters.
- 2.8 The report is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

## REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3. To ensure that the Department and the Cabinet Member can contribute to the response to the review and the associated action plan.

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**Background papers:**

**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 - Implications

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

1. None in this report but recommendations within the review carry significant financial implications.

**Legal**

2. None.

**Personnel**

3. None.

**Equalities impact**

4. The recommendations within the review are aimed at achieving better outcomes for this vulnerable group of children and young people.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

5. The proposals relate to the following corporate priorities:

**Improve the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods, by:**

- reducing inequalities between neighbourhoods

**Encourage lifelong learning and achievement, by:**

- raising skill levels to improve the chances of securing employment.

**Build healthy and independent communities, by:**

- improving the health of our communities
- delivering joined up services for children and young people that meet the needs of the local community.

**Deliver excellent services, performance and value for money, by:**

- reducing inefficiency by improving business processes and ability to perform.