

# Efficiency, Improvement & Transformation

## Children's Social Care

### Scope

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<b>Select Committee:</b> Arts, Leisure and Culture	<b>Type of Review:</b> Gateway
<p><b>1. What services are included?</b> Children's social care service, excluding child placements (subject to previous EIT review):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First Contact</li> <li>▪ Referral and Assessment Team</li> <li>▪ Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)</li> <li>▪ Specialist Social Work Teams</li> <li>▪ Targeted Social Work Teams</li> <li>▪ CAF Team</li> <li>▪ Looked After Children and Leaving Care Teams</li> <li>▪ Child Placement Team</li> <li>▪ Resources Team (including oversight of Hartburn Lodge)</li> <li>▪ Complex Needs Social Work Team</li> <li>▪ Review Unit</li> <li>▪ Contact Service</li> <li>▪ Home Visiting Service</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. The Thematic Select Committee's / EIT Project Team overall aim / objectives in doing this work are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To identify options for future strategy / policy / service provision that will deliver efficiency savings and sustain / improve high quality outcomes for Stockton-on Tees Borough Council residents.</li> <li>▪ To ascertain the optimum structure and line management arrangements to ensure efficient and effective service delivery, based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- feedback from service users, staff and key stakeholders</li> <li>- regional and national best practice.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ To ensure that the available resources are maximised in order to effectively respond to the current workload pressures.</li> <li>▪ To consider how the service can best respond to the recommendations arising from the Munro review of child protection.</li> </ul>	

**3. Expected duration of enquiry? What are the key milestones?**

6 months (commencing October 2011):  
Consideration of Scope – ALC Select Committee 26/10/11  
Base line challenge – ALC Select Committee 01/12/11  
Options appraisal – ALC Select Committee 15/02/12  
Final Approval – Cabinet 08/03/12

**4. In addition to analysis and benchmarking costs, performance, assets etc, what other processes are likely to be required to inform the review? (e.g. site visits; observations; face-to-face questioning, telephones survey, written questionnaire, co-option of expert witnesses etc).**

- Staff consultation and involvement possibly via questionnaire and/or focus groups.
- Legal advice.
- Visits to/discussions with other local authorities.
- Other evidence of national best practice eg Ofsted Inspections and surveys.

**5. How will key partners and/or the public be involved and at what stages?**

- Service user feedback, using existing information/mechanisms where available during base line challenge phase.
- Key partners to be involved via existing meetings eg Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board, Children's Trust Board where possible during base line challenge and options appraisal.

**6. Please give an initial indication how transformation will enable efficiencies and improvements to be delivered by this EIT review**

The children's social care service is heavily regulated through legislation, guidance and local procedures so there is relatively limited scope for genuine innovation or transformation. Notwithstanding this it is important that current structures and ways of working are subject to challenge and review in order to determine the most appropriate ways of working going forward.