

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

### **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO CABINET**

**2 NOVEMBER 2006**

### **REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **CABINET DECISION**

**Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Cunningham**

**2006 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL.**

**NOTIFICATION OF DATES FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE  
ASSESSMENT AND JOINT AREA REVIEW.**

1. Summary

The Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in Stockton on Tees Borough Council is carried out by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) in conjunction with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). It is based on a self-assessment by the authority in combination with performance and inspection information in the year 2005-06. The results were formally announced on 1st November and are now therefore in the public arena.

Attached is the notification letter from OFSTED.

The dates for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and the Joint Area Review have also recently been announced and will commence the week of 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2007.

2. Recommendations

1. Cabinet to receive and note the outcome of the Annual Performance Assessment.
2. Cabinet to note the dates for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Joint Area Reviews and agree to receiving further reports on the planning for these events.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The Annual Performance Assessment must be reported to Cabinet and be in the public arena.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

**Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc.; whether or not they are a member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting, and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room during consideration of the relevant item.**

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**CABINET DECISION**

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**SUMMARY**

The Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in Stockton on Tees Borough Council is carried out by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) in conjunction with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). It is based on a self-assessment by the authority in combination with performance and inspection information in the year 2005-06. The results were formally announced on 1st November and are now therefore in the public arena.

Attached is the notification letter from OFSTED.

The dates for the aligned Comprehensive Performance Assessment and the Joint Area Review have also recently been announced and will commence on the week of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Cabinet to receive and note the outcome of the Annual Performance Assessment.
2. Cabinet to note the dates for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Joint Area Reviews and agree to receiving further reports on the planning for these events.

**DETAIL**

**Annual Performance Assessment.**

1. The Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in Stockton on Tees Borough Council is carried out by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) in conjunction with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). It is based on a self-assessment by the authority in combination with performance and inspection information in the

year 2005-06. The results were formally announced on 1st November and are now therefore in the public arena.

2. Attached is the notification letter from OFSTED. There are three parts to the scoring; for the local authority's children's services, its capacity to improve its services and for the local authority's social care services for children and young people.
3. The scores awarded are:
  - The contribution of local authority's children's services in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people- **4**
  - The council's overall capacity to improve its services for children and young people-**4**
  - The contribution of the local authority's social care services to maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people-**3**
4. Grade 4 represents a service that delivers well above minimum requirements for users and is deemed to be excellent/outstanding. This is the top grade.
5. Grade 3 represents a service that consistently delivers above minimum requirements for users and is deemed to be good.
6. These scores will form part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and represent a significant improvement from the previous year when the scores were;
  - The local authority's children's services-**3**
  - The local authority's education services-**3** (now not separately graded)
  - The local authority's social care services for children and young people-**2**
  - The council's capacity to improve its services for children and young people-**3**
7. The attached letter comments in detail on each of the five "Every Child Matters" Outcomes, identifies key strengths and recommends key areas for improvement. The areas for improvement are all areas which the authority has identified already and has either tied into this year's planning process or will be developed in next year's.
8. The areas identified for a focus in the Joint Area Review are:
  - Homelessness of young people
  - Community cohesion
  - Improvements in added value at Key Stage 3.
9. Each of these areas will be picked up specifically in the annual planning process and as part of the preparation for the Joint Area Review.

### **Comprehensive Performance Assessment/Joint Area Review**

10. In 2007, there will be further significant inspections of the Council's services.
11. The authority recently received notification of the Audit Commission's intention to conduct a Corporate Assessment of the Council's overall

performance in December 2007. Linked to this there will be, at the same time, a Joint Area Review of our Children's Services.

12. The two inspections will make a significant call on member and senior officer time, but nevertheless can be welcomed by the Council as an opportunity to test our progress against the new tougher inspection standards.
13. The process will involve a large team of inspectors on site over two weeks from 3 December 2007.
14. A further cabinet report will set out our detailed preparation plans.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

15. There are no specific financial implications from this report. Any planned developments to address the issues raised in the APA will be identified in the annual planning process and reflected in reports to Cabinet as appropriate.

### **Legal**

16. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

17. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

18. Key issues identified within the APA are being addressed in the review of the Children and Young People's Plan and linked to the Community Strategy.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

19. The document is in the public domain and as such is available to all councillors for information.

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