

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting8th January 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

2008 Annual Performance Assessment of Services for Children and Young People in Stockton on Tees Borough Council

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report and a letter from Ofsted which summarised the findings of the 2008 annual performance assessment of Children's Services for Stockton-on-Tees Council.

The APA of children's services was based on a range of evidence, including a self-assessment, the review of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), performance indicators, other related service inspections, and briefings from other inspectorates and relevant bodies. The APA scores contributed to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the Council.

The performance ratings judged the Council's contribution to outcomes for children and young people to be at least good, and outstanding in one area. The graded judgements* included were as follows:-

Overall effectiveness of children's services: Grade 3
Being Healthy: Grade 3
Staying Safe: Grade 3
Enjoying & Achieving: Grade 3
Making A Positive Contribution: Grade 3
Achieving Economic Wellbeing: Grade 4
Capacity to improve, including the management of Children's Services: Grade 3

*Judgements are made on a 4 point scale, with Grade 3 being 'Good' and Grade 4 'Outstanding'.

The overall profile of scores placed the Council as the highest performing within the Tees Valley area and one of the higher performing councils within our group of 'statistical neighbours'. Whilst our scores were lower overall than in 2007 (when all judgements were graded 4, except for Being Healthy and Enjoying & Achieving) the context nationally was one

of overall decrease in scores. Amongst our statistical neighbour group, 5 of the 9 had experienced some level of reduction in their scores.

The APA report identified many key strengths as well as a small number of areas for development. The report was helpful in supporting the Council's own assessment of its performance and in contributing to the review of strategic plans and service improvement plans, to ensure the necessary actions were in place to build on strengths and respond to the areas for development. The Children and Young People's Plan provided the strategic framework for improvement in services, and included a range of actions already in place to address the areas for development.

The Council's progress in delivery and improvement of services would continue to be monitored through a range of meetings over the year with regional and national agencies. Progress in addressing performance would be reported to Cabinet through the quarterly corporate performance framework.

RESOLVED that the good outcome of the 2008 annual performance assessment (APA) be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The report on the annual performance assessment of Children's Services must be reported to Cabinet and be in the public arena.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Friday 16th January 2009

Proper Officer

12 January 2009