

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM 8

REPORT TO CABINET

8TH JANUARY 2009

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Children & Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Cunningham

2008 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. Summary

The attached letter from Ofsted summarises the findings of the 2008 annual performance assessment of Children's Services for Stockton-on-Tees Council. The performance ratings judge 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 in the report are 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'.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet are recommended to receive the report and note the good outcome of the 2008 annual performance assessment.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The report on the annual performance assessment of Children's Services 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 (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must 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 (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

AGENDA ITEM 5

REPORT TO CABINET

8TH JANUARY 2009

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

2008 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

SUMMARY

The attached letter from Ofsted summarises the findings of the 2008 annual performance assessment of Children's Services for Stockton-on-Tees Council. The performance ratings judge 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 in the report are as follows.

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Capacity to improve, including the management of Children's Services: Grade 3

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RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet are recommended to receive the report and note the good outcome of the 2008 annual performance assessment (APA).

DETAIL

1. The APA of children's services is carried out by Ofsted. It is 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 contribute to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the Council.
2. The attached letter confirms the outcome of the annual assessment of performance for the 2007-08 period. The APA letter was published on 17th December 2008 and is required to be reported within the public arena.
3. The overall profile of scores places 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 are lower overall than in 2007 (when all judgements were graded 4, except for Being Healthy and Enjoying & Achieving) the context nationally is one of overall decrease in scores. For example, 73% of the published council APA reports are good or outstanding for 'overall effectiveness' compared to 78 % last year. Only 9 are judged as overall

'outstanding' compared to 12 last year. Amongst our statistical neighbour group, 5 of the 9 have experienced some level of reduction in their scores.

4. The APA report identifies many key strengths as well as a small number of areas for development. The report is 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 are in place to build on strengths and respond to the areas for development. The Children and Young People's Plan provides the strategic framework for improvement in services, and includes a range of actions already in place to address the areas for development.
5. The Council's progress in delivery and improvement of services will continue to be monitored through a range of meetings over the year with regional and national agencies. Progress in addressing performance will be reported to Cabinet through the quarterly corporate performance framework.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Resource issues to address areas for improvement will be managed through the annual cycle of service planning and review of the medium term financial plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. The reporting of the APA outcome is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

9. The performance rating for Children's Services impacts across the core theme of 'Children and Young People'. Addressing the key areas for improvement identified in the APA report will support progress in achievement of the key ambitions for this theme, and will contribute to progress in other themes, as identified in the CYPP.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. Consultation was not relevant in relation to this report.

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Background Paper

Ofsted letter of 17th December 2008 'Annual performance assessment of services for children and young people in Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council 2008'.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

The 2008 APA letter is in the public domain and is available to all Councillors for information.

Property

The report does not have implications in relation to the Council's property.