

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....17th December 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

2009 Annual Performance Rating of Children's Services

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the 2009 Annual Performance Rating of Children's Services. Attached to the report was the letter from Ofsted that provided the 2009 rating for Children's Services in Stockton-on-Tees. The Council was rated as performing well.

The annual rating of children's services was carried out by Ofsted, within the overall framework for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). As this was the first year of reporting under the new national framework, it was not possible to make direct comparisons with the 2008 annual performance assessment for Children's Services although the 'performing well' rating was in line with the 2008 grading of 'good' for the overall effectiveness of services. The 2009 ratings were based on the following scoring labels:-

Performs excellently: an organisation that significantly exceeds minimum requirements

Performs well: an organisation that exceeds minimum requirements

Performs adequately: an organisation that meets only minimum requirements

Performs poorly: an organisation that does not meet minimum requirements

The annual rating was based on the Ofsted performance profile of the quality of services and outcomes for children and young people in each local authority area. It drew together relevant findings from across Ofsted's inspection and regulation of education, care and skills and sets this evidence alongside the relevant Every Child Matters indicators from the National Indicator Set (NIS). Evidence in the profile covered three main areas:-

- the findings from regular and ongoing inspection and regulation of services, settings and institutions;
- findings from safeguarding and looked after children inspections;

unannounced inspections of contact, assessment and referral arrangements for children in need and children who may be in need of protection; evaluations of serious case reviews; safeguarding and looked after children findings from recent joint area review inspections; and findings from triggered inspections;

- performance against Every Child Matters indicators from the NIS.

Ofsted's annual performance rating of council children's services was reported within the CAA organisational assessment of councils, and contributed in particular to the CAA overall managing performance score for councils. Ofsted's performance profile and a range of other available evidence also contributed to the joint inspectorate area assessment within the CAA framework which included an evaluation of outcomes for children and young people.

The summary in the rating report identified a number of strengths and a few areas for development. The report supported the Council's own assessment of its performance and would contribute 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 (CYPP) provided the strategic framework for improvement in services, and included a range of actions already in place to address 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 report be received and the good outcome of the 2009 annual performance rating be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Children's Services rating is reported to Cabinet as part of the arrangements for informing members of the outcomes of Comprehensive Area Assessment

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

Not later than Midnight on Tuesday, 29th December 2009

Proper Officer  
21 December 2009