

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

24 APRIL 2014

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member – **Councillor McCoy**

CHILDREN'S CENTRES QUALITY ASSURANCE OUTCOMES – SPRING 2014

1. Summary

This report is an update to the report presented to Cabinet on 16th January 2014. Members were informed in that report that a performance management structure is in place and as part of the monitoring, annual conversations take place with each centre to assess the quality and impact of services. The second annual conversations took place in February 2014 and this report details the outcomes of those conversations for all 12 children's centres.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet are requested to note the report and make comment as appropriate.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decisions

For information only.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's

code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, 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 and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

24 APRIL 2014

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor McCoy

CHILDREN'S CENTRES QUALITY ASSURANCE OUTCOMES – SPRING 2014

SUMMARY

This report is an update to the report presented to Cabinet on 16th January 2014. Members were informed in that report that a performance management structure is in place and as part of the monitoring, annual conversations take place with each centre to assess the quality and impact of services. The second annual conversations took place in February 2014 and this report details the outcomes of those conversations for all 12 children's centres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet are requested to note the report and make comment as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

1. This report provides an update on the performance of Stockton's 12 Children's Centres of which 8 are commissioned. Big Life Families manage Frederick Nattrass, The Star (with Newtown)] and 4Children manage Barley Fields, Elm Tree, Layfield, New Life, Northern and Riverbank.
2. Children's Centres are judged and graded by Ofsted on their performance to meet the core purpose of a children's centre which the Department for Education describes as: 'to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on those in greatest need. Children's Centres must work to make sure all children are properly prepared for school, regardless of background or family circumstances. They also offer support to parents.' (revised January 2014.) Ofsted Inspectors judge the overall effectiveness of the centre.

This is the overarching judgement.

In order to make a judgement about the overall quality of a centre, inspectors first make three key judgements. These are:

- access to services by young children and families

- the quality and impact of practice and services
 - the effectiveness of leadership, governance and management.
3. In judging the quality of the provision and the impact of service provided by the centre, inspectors will decide whether the centre is 'outstanding' (grade 1), 'good' (grade 2), 'requires improvement' (grade 3) or is 'inadequate' (grade 4). Prior to April 2013, when a more challenging Inspection Framework was introduced, the "Requires Improvement" judgement was "Satisfactory".
Two Stockton Children's Centres were inspected in March 2014- Elm Tree and Barley Fields; reports are yet to be published.

ANNUAL CONVERSATIONS 2014

4. A key aspect of the Local Authority performance process is 'The Annual Conversation' which takes place with each centre. This is the responsibility of the Chief Adviser who, through the Annual Conversations, assesses the quality and impact of services in each Children's Centre and ensures key priorities for improvement are identified and actions to address the priorities are given. These actions are monitored at quarterly performance management meetings.
5. The second round of annual conversations took place in February 2014 and involved each centre completing a self-evaluation form including data and any other relevant information which was then submitted to the Education Improvement Service (EIS). The EIS team visited the centres and met with the centre manager; other key personnel joined the discussions as decided by the Centre Manager or as requested by the lead adviser to facilitate discussions. Discussions took place with reference to the SEF, data and any other information. Considering the evidence discussed against the current Ofsted schedule, advisers reached final annual conversation judgements. Where the Centre's judgement differed from the advisers, reasons for the differences were clarified.
6. *Appendix 1* identifies the reach area by ward and shows the outcomes for all centres, including both partner and council managed centres, from the 2014 annual conversations.
7. Three key priorities were identified for each Centre which addressed the area of focus for the Centre and addressed the key priorities for the Borough as identified in the SBC Council Plan to 2015.
8. The Annual Conversation and subsequent Performance Management meetings contribute to the SBC Council plan key objective to have '*A robust performance and financial management framework*' and the key objectives of the council plan addressed in the Children's Centre priorities are predominantly:
- *Narrow the attainment gap* (ensuring school readiness)
 - *Improve targeted early intervention services* (increasing access from targeted groups)
 - *Reduce Levels of Obesity in children and Young People* (increase breastfeeding rates and other services to combat obesity)
 - *Reduce the impact of poverty on family life* (increase opportunities for adult training and volunteering)

- *Ensure all young people are in receipt of education, employment or training* (improve partnership with schools and improve services to support pregnant teenagers and teen parents to access education and employability)
- *Effective Community Engagement* (increase number of users represented on Parent Forums and Advisory Boards)

9 Table 1 (below) gives the three key priorities identified for each Children's Centre.

| Children's Centre Name | Priorities 2014/15 |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Stockton Borough Council | |
| High Flyers Thornaby | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase access to services targeted at Traveller families. 2. Improve target children's school readiness to contribute to the percentage of children achieving a good level of development. 3. Improve provision and take up for adults from workless household to increase their employability through volunteering opportunities. |
| Footsteps Billingham | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the percentage of mothers initiating breastfeeding and maintaining to at least 6-8 weeks. 2. Increase registration and access of families in the Billingham South SOAs. 3. Improve transitions into school, particularly around data sharing and assessments. |
| Sunrise Stockton | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to contribute to the percentage of children achieving a good level of development by working with key partners and parents to further promote school readiness. 2. Continue to build capacity where volunteers are concerned including coaching for key members of staff 3. Continue to build capacity within the parents' forum and enhance individual skills regarding delivery of key messages to other parents within the centre. |
| Redhill Roseworth | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further increase registration and access to services of families living in the most deprived SOAs of the reach. 2. Increase access to services targeted at teen pregnant and lone parents. 3. Further increase the number/percentage of mother's initiating and maintaining breastfeeding to 6 – 8 weeks. |
| Big Life Families | |
| Frederick Natrass Norton | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks so that the average rate for 2013 – 14 is at least 28% 2) Ensure provision of learning opportunities to reduce the number of workless families, particularly focusing in engaging lone parents in accessing these opportunities 3) Embed the 2 year old Free Education provision so that it is at least good: evidenced by the majority of children make at least good progress in learning development, as measured by the EYFS. |
| The Star Stockton | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks so that the average rate for 2013 – 14 is at least 24.5%. 2) Engage with local primary schools to improve rate of engagement and improve target children's school readiness 3) Identify pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers in the area and working with partners enhance the outcomes of children of these parents. |

| 4Children | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| New Life Billingham | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue to increase the % (and number) of target groups accessing services provided by the Centre, particularly children from the 30% SOAs. 2) Improve outcomes for families dependent on workless benefits through access to quality accredited courses. 3) Increase % of children attaining a Good Level of Development |
| Riverbank Thornaby | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue to contribute to the percentage of children achieving a good level of development in the EYFS profile 2) Continue to contribute to a reduction in levels of obesity in reception age children 3) To increase the number of volunteers in the centre and local community, as part of an overall strategy to improve economic well-being. |
| Barley Fields Ingleby Barwick | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To further increase the uptake of adult learning opportunities and demonstrate the long term impact on outcomes for families. 2) To develop links with schools and group settings to further promote school readiness so that those children supported by the Centre are working within age related expectations when starting school. 3) To increase registrations and access of families from target groups to 65% (currently 41%). |
| Elm Tree Elm Tree | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To identify lone parents and their individual needs and take action to improve outcomes. 2) To identify pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers in the area and, working with partners take action enhance the outcomes of children of these parents. 3) To improve provision and take up for adults from workless households to increase their employability. |
| Northern area | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue to increase the % (and number) of target groups accessing services provided by the Centre, particularly children from the 30% SOAs. 2) Improve outcomes for families dependent on workless benefits through access to quality accredited. 3) Increase % of children attaining a Good Level of Development. |

OFSTED INSPECTIONS

- 10 There have been 2 Children's Centre Inspections in March 2014 (subsequent to the Annual Conversation). Elm Tree was judged 'Requires Improvement', which was consistent with the Centre Self-Evaluation and the Annual Conversation Evaluation, whilst Barley Fields was judged 'Good', an improvement on the Centre Self-Evaluation and the Annual Conversation Evaluation, both of which were 'Requires Improvement'.

In both inspections, the improvement actions identified by Ofsted broadly reflect those identified by the local authority in the Annual Conversation.

| Children's Centre | Annual Conversation Priorities | Ofsted Improvement Actions |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Elm Tree | To identify lone parents and their individual needs and take action to improve outcomes | Increase the number of families using the Centre, especially those in need, by the local authority establishing more effective protocols for sharing key data and information, more effective marketing of what is on offer and through more effective outreach work [reference other actions for Elm Tree] |
| Elm Tree | To identify pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers in the area and working with partners take action to enhance the outcomes of children of these parents | Increase the number of mothers choosing to breastfeed their babies |
| Elm Tree | To improve provision and take up for adults from workless households to increase their employability | Extend the opportunities for more adults, particularly those from workless homes, to enhance their economic well-being by (5 proposals) |
| Elm Tree | | Strengthen the role that parents play in the planning and development of services and in making decisions about the most important priorities for improvement, for example, through the formation of a parents' forum and encouraging more parents to become members of the advisory board. |
| Barley Fields | To further increase the uptake of adult learning opportunities and demonstrate the long term impact on outcomes for families | To ensure that the education and learning needs of adults are clearly understood and met by regular consultation with adults and effective partnership working to deliver training and support effective signposting, information and advice |
| Barley Fields | To develop links with schools and group settings to further promote school readiness so that those children supported by the Centre are working within age related expectations when starting school | To further improve the use and evaluation of data to more accurately identify current performance and enhance the planning of provision by better analysis of feedback from families so that it identifies strengths and areas for improvement and better use of data to capture target groups and define meaningful interventions |
| Barley Fields | To increase registrations and access of families from target groups to 65% (currently 41%) | |

NEXT STEPS

11. The focus for the council will be on the performance management going forward in 2014 towards the next annual conversation to pursue completion of the actions to achieve the priorities agreed. Specific actions for the council will also include:
- Refining further the data available to Children Centres from Social Care so they can target families in need more accurately.
 - Supporting the Children Centres through Ofsted inspection and learning from the findings to inform future improvements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable for this report

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable.

CORPORATE PARENTING

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

Not applicable

Name of Contact Officer: Lynda Brown

Post Title: Head of Education, Early years & Complex Needs

Telephone No. 01642 527041

Email Address: lynda.brown@stockton.gov.uk

