

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**24 MAY 2018**

**REPORT OF SENIOR  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION**

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

**ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO JOINT TARGETED AREA NEGLECT INSPECTION –  
NOVEMBER 2017**

1. Summary

This report presents Cabinet with the action plan resulting from the Joint Targeted Area Neglect Inspection undertaken in Stockton in November 2017.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is requested to note the attached action plan in response to the Joint Targeted Area Neglect Inspection which was largely positive about the impact on Children's Services.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

To ensure Cabinet is aware of the proposed actions, which will subsequently form the basis of quarterly performance update reports.

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)

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**SUMMARY**

This report presents Cabinet with the action plan resulting from the Joint Targeted Area Neglect Inspection undertaken in Stockton in November 2017.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is requested to note the attached action plan in response to the Joint Targeted Area Neglect Inspection which was largely positive about the impact on Children's Services.

**DETAIL**

1. Between 20 and 24 November 2017, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and HMI Probation (HMI Prob) undertook a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Stockton-On-Tees. This inspection included a 'deep dive' focus on the response to children experiencing neglect.
2. The Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) included an evaluation of the multi-agency 'front door' for referrals: when children who may be in need or at risk of significant harm become known to local services. In this JTAI, the evaluation of the multiagency 'front door' focused on children of all ages who are being or have been neglected. Also included was a 'deep dive' focus on children between seven and 15 years old who have been neglected. This group of children will be referred to as 'older children' for the purpose of this report. Alongside this, the inspection considered the effectiveness of the multi-agency leadership and management of this work, including the role played by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
3. The report of the inspection was published on 15 January, with a requirement to submit a multi-agency action plan to Ofsted by 18 April. This deadline was achieved.
4. The inspection was largely positive about the impact of Children's services, noting in particular:
  - a. Commitment and prioritisation across partners
  - b. Effective skills and knowledge amongst front line staff

- c. A culture of learning and a suitable focus on neglect
  - d. A good early help offer
  - e. An effective front door to social care through the Children's Hub
  - f. Effective leadership and oversight
  - g. A commitment to and evidence of a quality programme of workforce development
5. Further details can be found at Annex 1.
6. The inspection also identified some areas for improvement, including:
- a. The resilience of the Children's Hub
  - b. The need to update the Children and Young People's Plan and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
  - c. The quality of child in need plans, which can in some cases lead to drift and delay
  - d. A bigger focus on quality and feedback in the performance system
  - e. Detailed actions for partners including Cleveland Police, National Probation Service, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, NHS commissioners and providers.
7. Further details of the action plan are included at Annex 2.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

8. The focus of this inspection was on children and young people who may be experiencing neglect, and the effectiveness of the response. Each individual case is subject to an assessment process which then leads to the development of a child centric plan. The inspection identified that more could be done by all agencies to ensure that the 'child's journey and lived experience' continues to be at the heart of our processes.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. There are no additional legal implications arising from this report.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

11. The outcome of the inspection, and this action plan are categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

### **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

12. The report directly addresses the policy principle of protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention. Children suffering from neglect are some of the most vulnerable in our communities. The report made a number of recommendations about how the Council could

work more effectively with part agencies to assess risk, share information and act swiftly and decisively.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

13. Although this inspection was not focused specifically on the role of the Council as corporate parent, there are key learning points for the Council in how it responds to and addresses the risk of neglect. The inspection found that where the Council had acted swiftly to take children into care, outcomes for children were better. A key action from the report, is to improve the early identification and risk management of young people where neglect is a factor, to ensure that effective assessment, planning and support can be provided to reduce the need for children to come into care.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

14. The Cabinet member for Children and Young People has been consulted.
15. Partner agencies were consulted and involved in the development of the action plan.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Martin Gray  
**Post Title:** Director of Children's Services  
**Telephone No.** 01642 527043  
**Email Address:** martin.gray@stockton.gov.uk

Education related? No

Background Papers: None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: None specific

Property : No implications