

Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee

Update 20 December 2011

EIT Programme

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

Officer-led EIT Reviews

Children's Social Care

The Committee met on 1 December to receive a presentation on base line information as part of the EIT review of Children's Social Care EIT Review.

The review is examining the children's social care service, excluding child placements (subject to previous EIT review):

- First Contact
- Referral and Assessment Team
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- Specialist Social Work Teams
- Targeted Social Work Teams
- CAF Team
- Looked After Children and Leaving Care Teams
- Child Placement Team
- Resources Team (including oversight of Hartburn Lodge)
- Complex Needs Social Work Team
- Review Unit
- Contact Service
- Home Visiting Service

The children's social care service is heavily regulated through legislation, guidance and local procedures so there is relatively limited scope for genuine innovation or transformation. Notwithstanding this it is important that current structures and ways of working are subject to challenge and review in order to determine the most appropriate ways of working going forward. The review will be seeking to:

- Ascertain the optimum structure and line management arrangements to ensure efficient and effective service delivery, based on:
 - feedback from service users, staff and key stakeholders
 - regional and national best practice.
- Ensure that the available resources are maximised in order to effectively respond to the current workload pressures.
- Consider how the service can best respond to the recommendations arising from the Munro review of child protection.

The review is scheduled to report to Cabinet in March 2012.

Registration and Bereavement Services

The Committee also considered initial options in respect of the EIT review of Registration and Bereavement Services.

The preferred option for Bereavement Services is to review existing structures with a view to further improvements. The preferred option for Registration Services is to achieve efficiencies through improved working practices. Under these options, efficiencies will be met through:

- Further income generation through an increase in interment fees
- An increase in Registration Services income through the decommissioning of the statutory marriage room
- “Absorbing” the costs of implementing the Tell Us Once Service
- “Absorbing” the cost of administration of commemorative memorial wall and tree plaques

A further detailed report on all options will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 4 January 2012.