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**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)**

**Date: 11 January 2007**

**Subject: Recruitment, Retention and Workload of Children's Social Workers**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

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**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 During 2005/06, the Scrutiny Board (Children and Young People) carried out an inquiry into the recruitment, retention and workload of children's social workers. The board issued a final report in April 2006. A copy of the board's report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 In July 2006 Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) received the formal response from departments to the board's recommendations. On that occasion the board requested that a further update be provided in January 2007. This update has been received and is attached as Appendix 2.
- 1.3 Members are asked to consider the response provided, and to decide whether any further scrutiny involvement is required. In particular members are requested to consider the frequency of any future progress reports against the recommendations originally contained in the scrutiny board's report.
- 1.4 In deciding whether to undertake any further work, members will need to consider the balance of the board's work programme.

**2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the response provided and to decide whether further scrutiny involvement is required.

