

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 8th September 2011

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry - External Placements

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This year the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference identify three pieces of work for the Board to undertake related to the three obsessions in the Children and Young People's Plan.
2. At the board's meeting in June, members agreed that their first major piece of work this year would be an inquiry on the first of these areas - reducing the number of looked after children – and that their inquiry would focus on the issue of external placements. A copy of the agreed terms of reference is attached as Appendix 1.
3. The first formal session of the inquiry was scheduled for September. A report from Children's Services will be circulated to Board Members prior to the meeting. This will cover issues identified in the terms of reference for the inquiry. Relevant officers from Children's Services will be at the meeting to respond to members' questions and comments.
4. The next session of the inquiry is scheduled for the Board's next meeting on 6 October 2010, as set out in the terms of reference. A number of visits and working group activities will take place between these two sessions.

Recommendations

5. The board is requested to consider the issues raised by this session of the inquiry.

Background documents

6. None.