

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 10th November 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.
3. The scheduled formal sessions of the inquiry took place in September and October. The Chair has agreed however that the attached additional information on the programme plan to 'turn the curve' on placements should also be considered as part of the Board's inquiry.
4. Relevant officers from Children's Services will be at the meeting to respond to members' questions and comments.
5. A number of visits and working group activities are also taking place as part of the inquiry. The findings from these activities will be incorporated into the Board's inquiry report.

Recommendations

6. The board is requested to consider the issues raised by this additional information provided to the inquiry.

Background documents

7. None.