

Report of East North East Area Leader

Report to Outer North East Area Committee

Date: 22 October 2012

Subject: Children's Services update

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. The Outer North East Area Committee received an update report from Children's Services at its meeting on 10th September. Concerns were raised by the area committee that this report did not include any detail on independent children's homes. The Area Committee was made aware of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) report on Independent Children's Homes and it was resolved that this report should be submitted to the next meeting of the Outer North East Area Committee. The Director of Children's Services was also asked to provide a response to the concerns raised by the Area Committee concerning funding arrangements for clusters. This report includes the Scrutiny Board report, and a briefing note on funding arrangements.

Recommendations

2. Members are asked to note the content of the briefing note on cluster funding and the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) report on Independent Children's homes.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a response to the queries raised at the Outer North East Area Committee on 10th September concerning two issues – independent children's homes, and cluster funding.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Area Committee receives an Update Report from Children's Services twice a year in September and March. This provides the area committee with an opportunity for discussion on key issues concerning children and young people.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 At the September area committee two issues were raised.
- 3.2 Firstly, concerns were raised that where no detail was regarding Independent Children's homes in the Children's Services update report. The Chief Officer presenting the report informed the meeting that this information would be included in the next update report. The Area Committee was also made aware of a detailed report considered at the Scrutiny Board on 23 August 2012 on Independent Children's Homes.
- 3.3 The Area Committee resolved that a copy of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) report on Independent Children's homes be submitted to the next meeting in October for discussion. This is attached as Appendix A to this report.
- 3.4 Secondly concerns were expressed regarding funding arrangements for clusters.
- 3.5 The Area Committee resolved that the Director of Children's Services should provide a response on the funding arrangements for clusters to the October area committee meeting. This is attached as Appendix B to this report.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Not applicable to this report.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The inclusion of this item is in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part 4, Area Committee Procedure Rules.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risk management issues relating to this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The Area Committee is being provided with a copy of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) report on Independent Children's homes and a briefing note on cluster funding arrangements in accordance with the resolution at the September area committee.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to note the content of the briefing note on cluster funding and the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) report on Independent Children's homes.

7 Background documents

7.1 Minutes of the Outer North East Area Committee, September 10th 2012.