



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 5 February 2009

Subject: Request for Scrutiny – Annual Performance Assessment

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A request for scrutiny has been received from the Executive Board.

1.2 At the Executive Board meeting on 14 January, Members considered the Children's Services Annual Performance Assessment 2008. As a result of the discussion, the Executive Board resolved

"That the report be received, that the actions proposed in sections 4 to 9 thereof be approved, that, in addition the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) be requested to monitor progress and that progress reports be brought to this Board on a quarterly basis."

1.3 A copy of the report to the Executive Board is attached.

1.4 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that "where the Executive or Council resolves to recommend that an Inquiry should be undertaken into a particular matter, the Proper Officer shall add this recommendation to the agenda for the next Ordinary Meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Board. Where a Scrutiny Board decides not to undertake an Inquiry recommended by the Executive or Council, the reasons for the decision will be minuted by the Scrutiny Board."

2.0 OPTIONS FOR INVESTIGATIONS AND INQUIRIES

2.1 The Scrutiny Board is required to consider whether an Inquiry into this matter is appropriate and if so, what form that Inquiry shall take.

- 2.2 When deciding whether the Board will pursue a request for Scrutiny, it is important for Members to consider the request in the context of the Board's terms of reference, its existing Work Programme and commitments.
- 2.3 In particular, the Scrutiny Board has already agreed to undertake work on safeguarding, through two separate working groups. Broader monitoring of progress could perhaps be sensibly coordinated with the Board's existing quarterly cycle of performance monitoring and progress tracking items. The next reports in this cycle are due to come to the Board's meeting in April.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Board is asked to consider the request for Scrutiny and to consider whether further investigation is to be undertaken.

Background papers

Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules
Executive Board minutes – 14 January 2009