

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 8th November 2012

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into Safeguarding Children – Private Care Homes

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. At its meeting on the 20th of June 2012, the Scrutiny Board resolved to undertake an Inquiry into Private Care Homes as there was considerable concern about how, as a local authority, Leeds keeps children and young people safe and ensures that the most vulnerable are protected, particularly those who are placed in private care homes from outside the authority area. The Scrutiny Board has completed its inquiry and the draft inquiry report is attached.
2. Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 13.2 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised".
3. Any advice received will be reported at the Board's meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its report.
4. Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations within three months.

Recommendations

5. Members are asked to consider and agree the Board's report following its inquiry into Safeguarding Children – Private Care Homes.

Background documents

6. None used¹

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.