

**Report of the Chief Officer (Democratic and Central Services)**

**Report to West Inner Area Committee**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Subject: Children's Services Cover Report**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Armley , Bramley and Stanningley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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. At the Area Committee meeting in March, Members requested that the Executive Member for Children's Services be invited to a future Area Committee meeting to discuss issues highlighted in the Children's Services Report.
2. Cllr Blake, Executive Member for Children's Services, Cllr Dowson, Lead Member for Children's Services and Paul Brennan, Deputy Director of Children's Services will attend this meeting.

**Recommendations**

3. The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of the March 20th Children's Service Report at Appendix 1 and discuss the issues raised at the last meeting with the Executive Member, Lead Member and Deputy Director.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report outlines the purpose of the discussion with the Executive Member for Children's Services, the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Deputy Director of Children's Services, and invites Members to discuss the issues raised at the Area Committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in relation to the six monthly Children's Services Performance Report.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 At the Area Committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Sue Rumbold, Chief Officer for Children's Services, presented a report highlighting performance in the Inner West area against a range of measures.
- 2.2 The statistics in the report highlighted a number of areas of concern where performance in the Inner West was below that of other comparable areas and clusters.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The Area Committee raised a number of points relating to information in the report including;
- Low attainment levels at Swallow Hill and the transfer to academy status,
  - Higher numbers of looked after children compared with the rest of the city,
  - Use of Common Assessment Framework systems, and the proportion of requests that meet the threshold for referral to the Children's Social Work service,
  - Attendance levels in primary and secondary being the lowest in the city, and
  - The role of clusters in the school performance agenda
- 3.2 The Chief Officer and Inner West Area Head of Targeted Services informed the Committee about a range of initiatives aimed at improving school performance, attendance and safeguarding.
- 3.3 The Chair of the Area Committee asked that the Executive Member for Children's Services be invited to the 26<sup>th</sup> June meeting to discuss the issues raised in the report.
- 3.4 Cllr Blake, the Executive Member for Children's Services will be attending the meeting along with Cllr Dowson, the Lead Member and Paul Brennan, the Deputy Director of Children's Services: Learning.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 This report provides Area Committee Members with the opportunity to discuss Children's Services with the department's Executive Member, Lead Member and Deputy Director.

## **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 Equality issues are implicit in the information provided in the Children's Services report. The differences shown illustrate different levels of need and of outcomes across the city. Additional equality analysis of the information provided is undertaken.

## **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

- 4.4 A significant proportion of the information included in the Children's Services report relates to the city priorities for children and young people and the outcomes contained in the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-15.

## **4.5 Resources and value for money**

- 4.5.1 There are no implications arising from this report in respect of resources or value for money.

## **4.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.6.1 There are no implications in this report.

## **4.7 Risk Management**

- 4.7.1 There are no implications in respect of risk management arising from this report.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 The Area Committee raised a number of issues relating to the performance data presented in the 20<sup>th</sup> March Children's Services report. They wished to explore the improvement strategy for the inner west with the Executive Member.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the March 20<sup>th</sup> Children's Service Report at Appendix 1 and discuss the issues raised at the last meeting with the Executive Member, Lead Member and Deputy Director.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 7.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.