

## Update on Action plan- Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Report

<b>Scrutiny Committee: Children &amp; Young People</b>  <b>Date of meeting 15/08/13</b>  <b>Report: Children in Care Placement Strategy</b>		<b>Cabinet Member: Cllr. Paul Watling</b>  <b>Response prepared by (Karen Perry AD Safeguarding Children):</b>	
Scrutiny Recommendation	Response and summary of action being taken to implement, or reason for rejection	Date by which action will be taken	Person responsible for action (name and title)
<b>1. Members' responsibility as Corporate Parents</b>  That the Council holds regular briefings (annual or biannual) for all elected members on their responsibilities as Corporate Parents <b>and that Councillors' attendance or non-attendance at these briefings is published on the Council's website on an annual basis.</b>	Accepted.  In March the Cross Party Corporate Parenting Group agreed an approach to corporate parenting training for members which recognises the need for training/briefing according to roles. It is hoped that all members will access the basic awareness training which will, in due course, be delivered via e-learning. The first basic awareness briefing was held on March 25 <sup>th</sup> 2013.	March 2013 and ongoing	Karen Perry AD Children's Safeguarding
<b>2. Quality Assurance of Systems and Processes</b>  a) That the system for recording and monitoring visits and outcomes is reviewed, and a new framework developed which is more robust but simpler to use and more effective for monitoring the progress of the children and young people.  b) The Council should review its current systems	Accepted  New template for recording visits has been piloted, staff more consistently aware of requirements for recording – improvement will be monitored via case file audits  Red Amber Green (RAG) system for rating care plans by Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) has been reviewed.	June 2013   June 2013	Karen Perry AD Children's Safeguarding   Jo Britton Service Delivery Manager Safeguarding Advisory Service



<p><i>being acted on and outcomes are improving. Advanced Practitioners should also observe newer qualified social worker visits.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The systems and processes implemented will continue to be monitored by scrutiny.</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Advanced Social Work Practitioners and managers observe social workers in action and reflect with the workers on their practice.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Childrens Social Care Service Delivery Managers (Angela Yapp, Maria White and Diane Partridge)</p>
<p><b>3. The Role and Independence of the Independent Reviewing Officers</b></p> <p>a) That the current review of the IRO service should consider the management arrangements and the option of moving the service into the Scrutiny Team, consistent with scrutiny's role in providing objective review and challenge.</p> <p>b) That the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report is presented at a joint meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and the LSCB as a matter of routine, with an interim 6 monthly report provided to the Scrutiny Committee. This should include information about the outcomes of quality assurance audits in relation to the organisation, conduct and recording of reviews.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted. A better option to achieve independence of the IRO service whilst providing support from officers with a focus on children is by moving reporting arrangements into Education and Skills (Achieved)</p> <p>Accepted</p>	<p>Implementation 02/07/13</p> <p>From 2013-14</p>	<p>Assistant Directors Karen Perry and Jim Collins</p> <p>As above</p>
<p><b>4. West Midlands Framework Contracts for Residential and Agency Foster Care and the Jigsaw contract</b></p> <p>a) That the rationale for the number of providers on the framework contracts is reviewed to establish whether more favourable contracts could be negotiated by working with a smaller number of quality providers when the contracts are re-tendered.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted Experience prior to the current regional arrangements being put in place (which have saved over £100k p.a.) suggest that prices would be higher if we procured alone. We will review all options for procurement at the end of the current contract period. There is also a regional commissioning project to commence shortly:</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Viv Mckay Service Delivery Manager Commissioning (Children and Families and Transport)</p>

<p>b) Within 6 months of the Jigsaw contract being awarded and started, officer's report to the CYP Scrutiny Committee on how it is delivering better outcomes for children in care and offering better value for money.</p> <p>c) That there is an officer at the Council responsible for proactively monitoring Ofsted and other agency inspection reports of providers used by the Council to help build intelligence which can inform future placement decisions.</p>	<p>Building on learning from existing projects the region seeks to carry out an investigation into the fair pricing of the core components and additional elements that make up children's residential and fostering care placements</p> <p>Accepted The contract was successfully re-tendered with a more flexible and outcome focussed service specification and the contract awarded to Bettercare Keys. The contractor has accepted our block and spot contract terms within the tendered cost envelope and considerable financial savings will be made as a result. The new contract commences on 1st August 2013</p> <p>Accepted The Commissioning Team continually monitor quality of residential care provision, including monitoring OFSTED reports. It is our intention to ensure that all residential placements are assessed by OFSTED as good or better</p>	<p>April 14</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>As above</p>
<p><b>5. Financial Management and Reporting (the Dashboard)</b></p> <p>a) That the cost of internal care reported on the Children in Care Performance Dashboard is a true cost i.e. it includes the cost of the carers' fees and allowances, the Family Placement social worker and other associated costs.</p> <p>b) That each element is shown separately so there</p>	<p>Accepted The methodology for calculation is being reviewed by IEWM "critical friend" who are reviewing the family placement service.</p> <p>Partially Accepted This level of detail to be provided to Scrutiny</p>	<p>June 2013</p> <p>June 2013</p>	<p>Service Delivery Manager Children in Care and Family Placement (Angela Yapp)</p> <p>As above</p>

<p>is transparency in how the figures are calculated and confidence that they are accurate.</p>	<p>once to confirm the methodology and then applied as a single figure</p>		
<p><b>6. Care of children placed by other authorities in Telford and Wrekin</b></p> <p>a) That the Council works with the Police to accurately identify the location of all the external children's homes in Telford &amp; Wrekin.</p> <p>b) The Council organises a provider conference - similar to the one held by Shropshire Council - within the next 12 months. This would encourage co-operation between police and providers, and the Council should give all providers information about support services they could access to help the children in their care.</p>	<p>Accepted Information is being released direct to police from Ofsted and the local authority works closely with the police where any issues are best tackled jointly</p> <p>Accepted Planning is underway stages of this and date has been put back from Sept to October to ensure it is achieved in the most effective way</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>October 2013</p>	<p>as appropriate</p> <p>Viv Mckay Service Delivery Manager Commissioning (Children and Families and Transport)</p>