

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
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Report of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

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CHILDREN’S IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME TASK AND FINISH GROUP FINAL REPORT

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To accept and endorse the findings of the Children’s Improvement Programme Scrutiny Task and Finish Group which are within the attached report at Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations within the final report (attached at Appendix 1) are listed below:

- 2.1
- Recommendation 1
Continue Councillor visits to Children’s Services departments across PCC on a regular basis to continue to get first hand validation on progress and issues remaining. This also has a positive impact on staff morale and hopefully provides reassurance that their opinions are genuinely important. The invitation should be extended to Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
 - Recommendation 2
To continue to receive a progress report on the Improvement Programme at each meeting of the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee - this to include a detailed section on progress being made with the Liquidlogic system.
 - Recommendation 3
Circulate an electronic copy of the monthly monitoring report to members of the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee each month so that individual questions can be raised on a 1:1 basis electronically with the relevant officer. This is to be extended to Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
 - Recommendation 4
To consider Children’s Services as a possible candidate for a Scrutiny in a day event. What the department covers, all of the feeder agencies, the challenges (Adoption vs Fostering, Child Protection, Looked after Children etc, social worker recruitment).
 - Recommendation 5
The Scrutiny Committee to hold a review meeting in 6 months where the committee can have a single agenda topic to review progress on the Children’s Services Improvement Programme.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Safeguarding is a key component of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council’s Single Delivery Plan.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Children's Services Improvement Programme Scrutiny Task and Finish Group was established by the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 14 November 2011. The purpose of the Group was to oversee the implementation of the Improvement Plan for Children's Services.

5. KEY ISSUES

Any issues identified can be found in the attached report along with any conclusions and recommendations.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Continued scrutiny of safeguarding across Peterborough City Council and within communities.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 N/A

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Recommendations to be implemented.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1
- Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding: Peterborough 6th September 2011
 - Ofsted Unannounced Inspection of contact referral and assessment arrangements 3rd March 2011
 - Ofsted Safeguarding and Looked after Children Inspection: Peterborough 21st May 2010
 - Ofsted Local Authority Arrangements for the Protection of Children: inspection report 8 March 2013

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix 1 - A Report from the Children's Services Improvement Programme Scrutiny Task and Finish Group