

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 7</b>
<b>17 NOVEMBER 2009</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services**

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### **OFSTED UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF CONTACT, REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES – UPDATED ACTION PLAN**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to share with Members for scrutiny, the updated action plan following Ofsted's unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment services.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the updated action plan to assess the extent to which it is being delivered effectively.

#### **3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

Keeping children safe is fundamental to the corporate plan, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. The action plan falls to the Staying Safe outcome.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

Following the death of Baby Peter in Haringey and Lord Laming's subsequent review, the Government introduced a new inspection regime. This included the introduction of unannounced inspections of contact, referral and assessment arrangements. These unannounced inspections started in June 2009. Peterborough Children's Services were inspected on 28 & 29 July. Peterborough was in the first 20 authorities to be inspected and second in the Eastern Region. The Ofsted letter outlining the findings of their inspection was published on 3 September 2009.

#### **5. KEY ISSUES**

Children's Services compiled an action plan to respond to Ofsted's letter which set out their findings. The plan responds to all the areas for development and priority action. Staff are currently working to the timescales indicated.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

The Ofsted letter demonstrated that Children's Services continue on their journey to excellence, but there were still areas which needed attention and development. I remain committed to making the necessary changes to ensure that we reach our goal to be a good service by September 2010.

#### **7. CONSULTATION**

The Ofsted letter and the action plan have been shared with the Children's Trust Partnership Board and the Safeguarding Children's Board.

**8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Members of Scrutiny are asked to assure themselves that the action proposed within the action plan is progressing smoothly.

**9. NEXT STEPS**

None proposed.

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 1) Children's Services Action Plan

**11. APPENDICES**

- 1) Children's Services Action Plan