

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 8</b>
<b>10 JUNE 2013</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Solicitor to the Council

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### CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on the work of the Children's Services Improvement Programme Scrutiny Task and Finish Group and to seek the Committee's approval to continue with the group for 2013/14.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee note the progress made to date by the Task and Finish Group.
- 2.2 That the Committee agree to continue with the group for the 2013/14 municipal year.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Children's Services Improvement Programme Scrutiny Task and Finish Group was established by the Committee in November 2011. The purpose of the Group was to oversee the implementation of the Improvement Plan for Children's Services.

- 4.2 The current membership of the Group is:

- Councillor Day (Chair)
- Councillor Harper
- Councillor Saltmarsh
- Councillor Shabbir
- Councillor Shaheed
- Alistair Kingsley

- 4.3 The work of the Group has been undertaken through the following activities:

- Attending facilitated meetings with social care teams
- Observation through office visits and panel activities
- Presentation of anonymised recent case examples by social workers
- Direct contact with Foster Carer Support Groups
- Assessing and validating relevant performance data
- Participation in Children's Social Care training courses
- Gaining an overview of Children's Social Care Quality Assurance work

- 4.4 The Group has met on 11 occasions. Meetings have covered a wide area of issues, including:

- Analysis of Re-referral Rates
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Update
- Children Missing from Home and Care

- Commissioning Intentions
- Director's Report
- External Improvement Board Risk Register
- Implementation of Access to Resource Panels
- Liquidlogic Implementation
- Multi-Agency Support Groups
- Peer Safeguarding Healthcheck
- Performance Reports
- Quality Assurance
- Senior Managers Case File Audit
- Supervision Audit
- Workforce Strategy

4.5 A key part of the Group's work has been to undertake visits to a number of the social care teams. These have included:

- Adoption
- Cherry Lodge
- Children's Integrated Disability Service
- Clare Lodge
- Direct Intervention Service
- Education for Children in Care
- Family Support
- Fostering
- Integrated Safeguarding
- Looked After Children
- Referral and Assessment
- The Manor
- Youth Offending Service

4.6 It is now proposed that the Group continues for another year to provide effective scrutiny to ensure that the good work around the improvement of Children's Services is sustained.

## 5. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

5.1 None