

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES & TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
6 JANUARY 2014	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an updated position statement on the progress and sustainability of social care performance as reported to the Department for Education (DfE). This report was presented to CMT and the External Improvement Board on 10 December 2013, and submitted to the DfE on 18 December 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the progress made with continued improvement.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy identifies "Improving Health" and "Supporting Vulnerable People" as priorities. Improvement in Children's Social Care is key to the delivery of these priorities.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 An updated report to Scrutiny Committee which was sent to the Department for Education as the last position statement following coming out of intervention in June 2013.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Highlights

- Performance being sustained in social care across a range of indicators
- Impressive early intervention and prevention delivery
- Timescales of initial and core assessments on target
- Numbers of Looked After Children on target coupled with an increase in in-house foster care provision
- Difficulty recruiting experienced Team Managers and a recent churn of agency staff leaving to go to other more lucrative employment

- 5.2 The full report is attached at appendix 1.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The cost of the improvement programme can be met from within existing budgets. Resources are available to secure improvement in the immediate and longer term.

- 6.2 The Secretary of State has the power to issue a statutory notice if he is not satisfied that sufficient progress is being made.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Partner agencies, parents and children will be involved in the improvement activity.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 This Committee will continue to receive a regular update on progress and the Task and Finish Group will meet quarterly to support the improvement.

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. DCS Progress report to DfE December 2013