

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
<b>16 MARCH 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

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

**Contact Officer – John Richards**

**Contact Details - (01733) 863600- or email [john.richards@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:john.richards@peterborough.gov.uk)**

### **PROGRESS ON THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO'S FOR THE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the progress made of the portfolio's for the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University and Cabinet Member for Children's Services since they attended the committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the content of this report and make any appropriate recommendations which members would like the portfolio holders to address.

#### **3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

- 3.1 One the priorities contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy is Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities, which is within the remit of this Committee.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Councillor Scott, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009 shared the children's trust core values suggesting that these should be understood by scrutiny committee members so that future reports and actions could be judged against such values.

She also shared the components of effective corporate parenting. A number of key national indicators were shared. Members asked for these to be compared to relative position of Peterborough's children's services. These have been sent previously to members but are reproduced in appendix 1.

The budget position in children's services remains on target for break even.

The principal action in respect of corporate parenting was to ensure that the pledge for children in care which was being developed jointly between the corporate parenting group, young people from the children in care council and officers was ready for the March Scrutiny Committee for subsequent roll out to and sign up by the whole of Peterborough City Council. This pledge is the subject of a separate report to this scrutiny committee.

As members will be aware, the children's trust has been subject to an Ofsted inspection on safeguarding arrangements and children in care. This inspection started on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and will be concluded on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. The outcome of the inspection will be the subject of a report to the next Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Holdich, the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and the University focussed his presentation on progress in delivering the 14 – 19 agenda in Peterborough. The principal concern of the Committee was the situation regarding children not in employment, education or training (NEET). The latest available data at the meeting was the October figure which showed that 9.5% were NEET. This equated to 569 young people. The National Indicator takes as its measurement, the average NEET figure over November, December and January. The NEET figure for Peterborough which will be reported for the year is 8.8%. Although this is an improvement on last year, despite the economic turndown, it was 1.3% (63 young people) shy of our target of 7.5%.

The latest position with regard to apprenticeships being offered in Peterborough City Council is that work involving HR and the Unions to agree pay scales and terms and conditions is still on-going. Some possible apprenticeship opportunities have been identified in Children's Services, subject to clarification as to whether these opportunities need to be in addition to existing posts.

## **5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 5.1 Presentation to Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009

## Appendix 1

### The Current position in respect of the 11 key safeguarding indicators

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current Position against Target at Peterborough</b>	<b>Benchmarking group</b>
Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessments	<b>54%</b>	<b>68.1%</b>
Initial assessments completed in timescales	<b>73%</b>	<b>73.8%</b>
Core assessments completed in timescales	<b>74%</b>	<b>83.5%</b>
Children Looked After rate per 10,000 population	<b>80</b>	<b>72</b>
% of children in care with 3 or more placements	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
% of children looked after for more than 2.5 years, living in same placement for 2 years or placed for adoption	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>70.2%</b>
% of reviews of children looked after in statutory time scales	<b>98%</b>	<b>94.7%</b>
% Stability of Looked after children adopted	<b>63%</b>	<b>76.7%</b>
% Child protection plans reviewed on time	<b>100%</b>	<b>99.9%</b>
% Child protection plans 2 <sup>nd</sup> registration	<b>9%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
% Child protection plans lasting 2 or more years	<b>0%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

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