

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director Children & Learning

to
Cabinet
on
6th November 2012

Report prepared by: Sue Cook, Corporate Director Children &
Learning

Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services Action Plan

Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee
Executive Councillor: Councillor James Courtenay

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the action plan arising from the announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services in June 2012 for Cabinet approval.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Cabinet endorse the action plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The report to Cabinet on the 4th of September 2012 'Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services' detailed the background and the findings of the joint Ofsted and CQC Inspection in June 2012. Both service areas were judged good overall with five areas judged as outstanding.
- 3.2 There were 7 recommendations made where inspectors felt development could be implemented to improve our safeguarding of children in respect of services for looked after children. The report specified timescales for completion.
- 3.3 Since the inspection report was received officers have been developing this action plan to ensure that the areas for development identified are adequately addressed.
- 3.4 The action plan attached as Appendix 1 reports progress to 22nd October 2012 owing to the report deadlines for publication of Cabinet Reports.

4. Other options

- 4.1 There needs to be an action plan to monitor the delivery and impact of improvement activity. Actions can be amended or added as identified by Cabinet.

5. Summary recommendations

- 5.1 That Cabinet approve the action plan and identify any additional requirements.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities
This action plan will contribute to the corporate priority to improve outcomes for vulnerable children.
- 6.2 Financial Implications
The action plan will be delivered within existing resources across the Council and partners.
- 6.3 Legal Implications
None
- 6.4 People Implications
None
- 6.5 Property Implications
None.
- 6.6 Consultation
Consultation was undertaken at Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee on 17th September 2012 and the Committee supported the plan. Consultation has also been undertaken across partners and this action plan was approved by the Success for All Children Group on 23rd August 2012.
- 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications
This plan will ensure we focus attention on those areas that will most address the needs of our most disadvantaged children.
- 6.8 Risk Assessment
The risk of not delivering this action plan is that performance will not be improved further
- 6.9 Value for Money
These actions will further improve performance at no additional cost.
- 6.10 Community Safety and Environmental impacts
None

7. Background papers

- 7.1 Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services – 4th September 2012 <http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 - Action Plan

8.2 Appendix 2 - Report of Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services