

PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL

26 January 2012

OUTCOME OF TWO OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF RUTLAND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Report of the Strategic Director for People

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| STRATEGIC AIM: | Creating a safer community Promoting health and wellbeing |
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report gives a summary of the OFSTED inspection of the Rutland Fostering Services in August 2011 and the OFSTED inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services in October 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Scrutiny Panel note the contents of both inspection reports and agree the direction of travel in relation to the response.**

3 OFSTED INSPECTION OF THE RUTLAND FOSTERING SERVICE

- 3.1 The Inspection of Fostering Service was carried out over a period of a week and the judgement was that the Service is outstanding in all areas. The inspector was particularly impressed by the child centred focus, effective management and decision making, robust recruitment and training of carers, careful matching of placements and high levels of support with resultant low level of placement disruptions. The report noted a high degree of integration with partners and high expectations across the service which contributed to outstanding outcomes for children across all the five outcomes, Being Healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution and Economic well-being. There were two recommendations related to changes needed in the fostering panel minutes template and additions to the Children's Guide, these changes have now been made.

4. OFSTED INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SERVICES

- 4.1 The Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services took place over a two week period, four inspectors from Ofsted and one from the Care Quality Commission undertook the inspection which also included partners such as health and the police. The judgements for services to Looked After children builds on the outcome of the Fostering Inspection that the Looked After Service is in a strong position and well managed with good provision and strong ambition and priority given to Looked After Children by the Council. The judgements in relation to Safeguarding rate the Service as adequate with good features. This reflects the improved position

of the Service and noted the robust response made to address the concerns raised by the inspection safeguarding held in May. There were many positive features in the report such as the safety of children in all settings, the effectiveness of the LSCB, the contribution of health partners, and good partnership working across agencies.

The report makes a number of recommendations and a timeline that must be met (please see attached appendix A) and these will be included in the appropriate work plans across the teams.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Following the Safeguarding unannounced inspection earlier in the year capacity within the teams has been increased resulting in significant additional costs. (Additional staff - 3 social workers and 1 principal social worker). A growth bid was agreed following the unannounced inspection in May 2011 by the Director of People and Chief Executive, in year, to respond to the urgent staffing situation.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

| RISK | IMPACT | COMMENTS |
|------------------------|--------|---|
| Time | Medium | The recommendations arising from the SLAC inspection will be challenging given the number and timescale. |
| Viability | Low | With the additional resources already made available we believe it will be possible to meet the recommendations within the timeline |
| Finance | High | Growth in year was agreed to increase staffing establishment as outlined above |
| Profile | High | Child protection and properly caring for our looked after children is challenging and can have a significant impact on the council |
| Equality and Diversity | Medium | It is important that we ensure that vulnerable children in Rutland are not further disadvantaged by our actions. |

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