

PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL

21st February 2013

OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILD PROTECTION/SAFEGUARDING ASSURANCE VISIT

Report of the Strategic Director for People

STRATEGIC AIM:	Creating a Brighter Future for All Meeting the Health and Wellbeing Needs of the Community
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report sets out the findings of the Ofsted inspection of the arrangements for the protection of children and of the Safeguarding Assurance Visit (SAV).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Scrutiny Panel considers the findings of the Ofsted inspection and the SAV.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

OFSTED INSPECTION

- 3.1** The unannounced Ofsted inspection took place between 7th and 16th January 2013. The inspection of the arrangements for the protection of children considers key aspects of a child's journey through the child protection system, focusing on the experiences of the child or young person, and the effectiveness of the help and protection that they are offered. It does not include any inspection of looked after children. This inspection is part of the national programme which commenced in June 2012.
- 3.2** Inspectors scrutinised case files, observed practice and discussed the help and protection given to these children and young people with social workers, managers, elected members and other professionals, including the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The inspection team also analysed data, reports and management information.
- 3.3** The inspection makes judgements under 4 headings:
- The effectiveness of the help and protection provided to children, young people, families and carers
 - The quality of practice
 - Leadership and governance

- Overall effectiveness

- 3.4 There are 4 possible judgements: outstanding, good, adequate and inadequate.
- 3.5 The active and visible leadership and commitment from elected members is a key component in the leadership and governance judgement. Elected members are expected to champion the needs of children and young people and respond proactively to their needs.
- 3.6 At the time of writing, the report has not been published. The findings are embargoed until the publication date of 15 February 2013 and the report will be forwarded to members of the panel when available.
- 3.7 The findings of the report will be presented to the panel.

4. SAFEGUARDING ASSURANCE VISIT

- 4.1 The SAV is an integral component of the East Midlands Sector-Led Improvement Programme for Children’s Services. These are unannounced visits that take place every 18 months to provide support and challenge to each local authority in the leadership and management of their safeguarding practice. A team consisting of a lead Assistant Director (AD) and a safeguarding expert from another authority within the region, supported by another AD who provides a quality assurance function, visit an authority for one day. Prior to the visit, the lead AD discusses the key themes for enquiry with the local authority’s AD: the key themes are informed by the local authority’s self-assessment. In our case, we had identified our key theme as the interface between the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Children’s Social Care. The SAV also considered the quality of assessments and planning.
- 4.2 Rutland’s SAV was completed on 14 December 2012. The report is supplied to the authority as Confidential, but it is considered acceptable for publication and is attached as appendix 1. Importantly, no children were identified as being left at risk. The report outlines some good practice and some areas for consideration.
- 4.3 Whilst the SAV was only a one day visit, so was to some extent limited in what could be achieved, and whilst there were “no surprises” in the report, it provided some useful preparation for the Ofsted visit and the report complements Ofsted’s findings.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	Low	The Ofsted report sets out which areas for improvement should be addressed immediately, within 3 months and within 6 months. An action plan will set out how these improvements will be achieved. The actions arising out of the SAV will also be reflected in this action plan.
Viability	Low	We have the capacity and capability to implement the required improvements.
Finance	Low	The improvements can be made within existing resources

Profile	Medium	The Ofsted report could attract local and national interest
Equality and Diversity	Low	Both reports address the needs of vulnerable children, young people and families.

Background Papers

Safeguarding Assurance Visit report
Ofsted Inspection of child protection report

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A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.