

PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL

21 February 2013

Children's Centres OFSTED Inspection

Report of the Strategic Director for People

STRATEGIC AIM:	Creating a Brighter Future for All
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 OFSTED INSPECTION OF VISIONS CHILDREN'S CENTRES

The Inspection of Visions Community and Children's Centre was carried out over two days (7th/8th November 2012) by three Inspectors and the service has been judged Satisfactory in all areas. The centre's capacity for sustained improvement is also satisfactory leading to satisfactory overall effectiveness. Inspectors noted that friendly staff have built high levels of trust with families and, as a result, families feel well supported, especially when they are experiencing a difficulty in their lives. Parents told inspectors that they value the services and support the centre provides.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Scrutiny Panel note the contents of the report

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 In preparation for the Ofsted Inspection, a mock inspection was carried out in July 2012 with the findings and recommendations formalised in the "Review of Vision's Children's Centre report (7th August 2012). The report highlighted areas for development and was very beneficial with regards to evidencing a self assessment of strengths/ weaknesses and progress made.

3.2 The Inspection has identified three recommendations for further improvement;

- a. Work with partners, particularly the health service, to obtain relevant and up-to-date data which are clearly understood and analysed to increase the number of families using services and improve the outcomes for children, particularly those who are most in need of intervention and support.
- b. Improve the effectiveness of the Family First board in holding the centre to account for its services, by providing more challenge and evaluating whether services are making a real difference to families in the reach area.

- c. Develop the role of families in contributing to the governance of the centre so that more are systematically involved in making decisions and driving improvement.

Work has already taken place to address the main recommendations. A draft action plan to address the recommendations was presented to the Families First Board for comments on the 24th January 2013. The deadline is the 15th February at which point the action plan will be finalised and become live. The Action Plan can be provided to Scrutiny at a later date.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	L	The action plan will be delivered against within timescale (March 14)
Viability	L	The review completed in July ensured the Children’s Centres are well placed to undertake the work required.
Finance	L	Recommendations will be implemented within existing resources.
Profile	H	As a frontline service, it does have a high profile in the community.
Equality and Diversity	L	There is a specific focus within the action plan to identify and improve the “reach” to vulnerable families within the smaller villages.

Background Papers

Children’s Centre Draft Action Plan

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