

PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL

18 April 2013

OFSTED CHILD PROTECTION ACTION PLAN

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 This report provides the Panel with the Action Plan setting out how the areas of improvement identified in the Ofsted inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children will be addressed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Scrutiny Panel notes the Ofsted Child Protection Action Plan.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The last meeting of the Scrutiny Panel noted the Ofsted Inspection and agreed that a report detailing the Action Plan be presented to the next meeting.

- 3.2 Areas for improvement

The actions required to improve the quality of help and protection given to children and young people in Rutland set out in the Ofsted report are as follows:

Immediately:

- Ensure that decision making regarding new referrals is consistent and robust, clearly and fully recorded and subject to regular management overview
- Ensure that all children in need cases have a clear plan focused on addressing their assessed needs and that the progress and appropriateness of the plan is regularly reviewed
- Ensure that management case discussions clearly record any decisions made and, where relevant, timescales for agreed actions.

Within three months:

- Establish robust processes for cases moving between support provided under the common assessment framework (CAF) and targeted social care interventions, including clear and well recorded access to social work advice and expertise
- Improve the consistency and quality of work undertaken under the CAF
- Ensure that Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board provides effective scrutiny and challenge of the progress of work being undertaken to improve early help services in Rutland
- Undertake a safeguarding audit of open disabled children's cases and review the arrangements for management oversight of this work.

Within six months:

- Ensure performance management and quality assurance arrangements include a clear and consistent focus on service quality and that progress in key areas of improvement is regularly evaluated
- Establish arrangements to strengthen the influence of the experiences and views of children and their families in the development of child protection and children in need services.

3.3 The Action Plan attached sets out how the improvements will be made.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	Low	The actions are achievable within the timescales.
Viability	Low	There is the capacity and capability to implement the required improvements.
Finance	Low	The improvements can be made within existing resources
Profile	Medium	If the actions are not addressed this could attract significant attention.
Equality and Diversity	Low	Both reports address the needs of vulnerable children, young people and families.

Background Papers
None

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