

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	8th September, 2010
3.	Title:	Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. **Summary**

The Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children took place between 19th - 30th July, 2010. The final report from Ofsted has been received at the time of writing but this is under strict embargo until 27th August when it will be published on the Ofsted website.

6. **Recommendations**

That Cabinet receives this report and notes the key recommendations to be implemented.

7. **Proposals and Details**

The Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children took place between 19th - 30th July, 2010. The final report from Ofsted has been received at the time of writing but this is under strict embargo until 27th August when it will be published on the Ofsted website.

The Inspection was very positive and this has resulted in an overall rating of Adequate with some elements rated as Good. The key recommendations for Safeguarding are:

For Immediate:

- Ensure that all recording, including assessments, recording of meetings and within case files, incorporates up-to-date and key information and identifies risk and protective factors.
- Improve the effectiveness of strategy discussions and child protection plans and the active review of these by core groups and child protection reviews, and the quality of recording, including details on what action is to be taken.

For Next Three Months:

- NHS Rotherham and Rotherham Foundation NHST should ensure that within A&E services there is access to suitably trained and qualified children's nursing staff when children and young people are seen in the department.
- NHS Rotherham should ensure that A&E staff at Rotherham Foundation NHS Trust have access to and use the electronic System 1, to ensure that children and young people can be easily identified if they are already known to social care services.
- Improve the quality of social care supervision so that staff receive the right level of challenge, development and support.
- Ensure that the workforce training and development plan clearly identifies how it will meet the development needs of all staff.
- Update the protocol for children missing from home, care and education to reflect the new national guidance.

The key recommendations for Looked After Children are:

For Immediate:

- Strengthen the role of the virtual head by ensuring that the work of the School Improvement and Effectiveness team is more focused on supporting and challenging schools to improve the attainment of looked after children.

- Develop the independent visiting service to ensure that all eligible children are able to have access to an independent visitor.

For Next Three Months:

- Strengthen the capacity of the independent reviewing officer service to ensure that all children and young people are effectively supported in making a contribution to their care plans and that care plans are robustly challenged.

An Action Plan is being produced and will be monitored closely to ensure full completion in timescale and that full compliance is achieved. All actions are already in train as these were picked up in our self-assessment prior to inspection.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications to the report but the Safeguarding and Looked After Children budgets are already under pressure.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is a real possibility of an unannounced Contact, Referral and Assessment Inspection before December. We must ensure that we are in the best possible position and implementation of the recommendations will mitigate the risks associated with this.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The results feed into the Annual Children's rating which is due to be announced in November.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The report has not been shared due to being under strict embargo.

Contact Name: Julie Westwood, Director of Resources, Planning and Performance
Children and Young People's Services
Telephone: 01709 822678
Email: julie.westwood@rotherham.gov.uk