

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	23rd November 2011
3.	Title:	OFSTED – Children’s Services Assessment 2011
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

The 2011 Children’s Services Assessment was published on 8th November 2011 which rated Rotherham Children and Young People’s Services as “Performs Adequately” the letter recognised a number of strengths and areas for further improvement. The Improvement Panel which was established to monitor the improvements following the Notice to Improve in 2009 will continue to monitor the implementation of the action plan.

6. Recommendations

- (i) That members receive this report and note the areas of strength and for development.
- (ii) That members approve that the Improvement Panel monitors the implementation of the action plan

7. Proposals and Details

The CSA letter published on the 8th November 2011 identifies a number of strengths :

- As a result of improvements made to safeguarding, including front-line arrangements, the service was removed from Government intervention in January 2011. The local authority continues to seek further improvement by, for example, inviting a peer challenge team of children's services experts to look at local safeguarding of children and young people.
- There has been an improvement in the overall quality of early years and childcare provision since the last assessment, helped particularly by the increased number of registered day-care providers who are good or better. Six of the eight children's centres inspected are good and one is outstanding. However, the number of good childminders has not improved significantly and this was an area for development in 2010.
- The local authority continues to have a very large majority of provision in nursery and primary schools that are good or better for children under the age of five. Over the last four years, achievement at the Early Years Foundation Stage has improved at almost twice the rate of improvement found nationally and results since the last assessment have continued this positive trend.
- The number of 16-year-olds who achieve five or more GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics continued to rise steadily until 2010 and is in line with similar areas and the national average. Provisional data for 2011 suggest this improvement has been maintained.
- The high quality authority provision in its special schools has been maintained and one of the three pupil referral units is now good, having previously been satisfactory. In 2010 all the local authority's children's homes were only adequate but this year three of the five homes are good which shows encouraging progress.
- There is almost no inadequate provision in the local authority and monitoring visits to schools that are, or have been, in an Ofsted category of concern show that the local authority provides effective and varied support which is helping to bring about good improvement.
- The recent inspection of youth offending services identified good outcomes in the key areas of performance inspected.

In the 2010 letter, strengths were not identified as an individual section however areas identified in the body of the letter included:

- 5 out of the 6 special schools outstanding
- The local adoption agency is good
- Recent data show improvements in the stability of placements for children in care and in the number of meetings to review plans for them.

- Children are generally safe within the community and the number of admissions to hospital because of deliberate or accidental injury has reduced more than the national figure
- Primary schools have maintained a good trend at improving how well children do at the end of their reception year at school.

The following table shows both sets of improvements for 2010 and 2011

2010 - key areas for further development	2011 - areas for further development
<p>Comment - Not an area for development on 2010 letter as this was an additional element in the new 2011 framework</p> <p>2010 35.8% (2009 results)</p>	<p>AFI (Area for Improvement)- Only a third of Early Years Foundation Stage children from low-income families show a good level of development compared to their peers. This is below the national average and the gap between these children and others in Rotherham has widened slightly this year. This is disappointing given the significant rise in standards overall at this age. However, recent provisional data from the local authority suggest that outcomes for this group of children have improved in 2011 and that the gap has narrowed.</p> <p>2011 33.7% (2010 results) The 2011 results show a slight reduction to 33.3% (unvalidated)</p>
<p>AFI - Improve the outcomes for the children at the end of primary school</p> <p>2010 68% (2009 results)</p> <p>Progression KS1 to KS2 Eng – 80% Maths – 77%</p>	<p>AFI - Educational standards reached by children at the age of 11 remain too low. They are well below similar areas and the national average, as are progression rates between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in English and mathematics. Provisional Key Stage 2 results for 2011 show that results improved only marginally.</p> <p>2011 66.5% (2010 results) 2011 results have improved to 69.3%</p> <p>Progression KS1 to KS2 Eng – 79% Maths – 78.3%</p> <p>2011 provisional results Eng – 80% Maths – 79%</p>
<p>AFI - Improve secondary schools so that more are good or better</p>	<p>AFI - The proportion of secondary schools and secondary school sixth forms that are good or better remains too</p>

<p>2010 53% secondary schools good or better 57% secondary sixth form good or better</p> <p>KS4 narrowing the gap 30.3% (2009 results)</p>	<p>low. At Key Stage 4, the gap in achievement between all pupils and those from low-income families is not reducing.</p> <p>2011 42% good or better (impacted by academies) 50% secondary sixth form good or better (impacted by academies)</p> <p>KS4 narrowing the gap 31% (2010 results) 2011 figures for narrowing the gap have not yet been released</p>
<p>Comment - Not an area for the development letter 2010, however comment made in the body of the report stating, although 19 year olds including those from low income families in Rotherham do not gain as many qualifications as they should, results continue to improve and are similar to those in other areas</p> <p>2010 40.1 % cf 49.4% nationally (2009 results)</p> <p>L3 narrowing the gap 23.1 % cf 24.6% (2009 results)</p>	<p>AFI - By the age of 19 too few young people achieve level 3 qualifications in comparison with the national average. Although the gaps in achievement by the age of 19 between all students and those young people from low income families have reduced over time, the trend is not consistent.</p> <p>2011 43.7% cf 52.1% nationally (2010 results) 2011 results have not yet been released</p> <p>L3 narrowing the gap 26.1% cf 24.2% (2010 results) 2011 results have not yet been released</p>
<p>AFI - Increase the Number of good childminders</p> <p>2010 53% of all child minders good or better</p>	<p>Comment – this element was referred to in the strengths element around early years stating that the number of “good” childminders has not improved significantly since 2010</p> <p>2011 56% of all child minders good or better, (however those inspected in 2010/11 found that 64.3% and in 2011/12 83.3% were good or better)</p>
<p>AFI - Maintain the momentum of improvement in social care services for children and young people, including the quality of children’s homes.</p> <p>2010</p>	<p>Comment - It is recognised that there have been improvements made to safeguarding including front line arrangements and that the quality of local children’s homes has improved.</p> <p>2011</p>

0% good or better	60% good or better (this is however increased since the profile was published and is now 80%)
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8. Finance

The Children and Young Peoples Services Budget continues to be a concern with a current projected overspend of £5.4m. Strategies are in place to deal with this as much as possible with budget action plan submitted to DLT on and regular basis, budget monitoring with budget holders continues and is scrutinised regularly. Invest to Save bids have been made to put in place measures to reduce costs in the longer term.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The OFSTED Children's Services Assessment continues to be an annual publication and is used as a key measure for the success of Children's Services, it no longer feeds into any corporate assessment but can be a trigger for intervention.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

In 2011 the OFSTED framework changed and introduced the narrowing the gap indicators which put in place additional requirements which were not there previously.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Children's Services Assessment Letter 2010
- Children's Services Assessment Letter 2011

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