

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 February 2011

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF DARLINGTON CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Children and Young People's Scrutiny of the outcome of the annual assessment of Children's Services in 2010 by Ofsted.

Summary

2. Each year, under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Ofsted publish a summary of inspection judgements carried out in the preceding 12 months in each local authority area and provide a letter summarising the inspection judgements and other related data.
3. The list of inspected services includes those managed by the local authority and those run by private, voluntary and independent providers. The inspected services include education settings, childcare and arrangements for looked after children.
4. The Ofsted judgement of services provided within the local authority area was that the services were performing adequately. The text of the letter then notes that 'national performance measures show the very large majority of outcomes are in line with or above the averages for England or for similar areas' and that 'outcomes for children and young people are improving in Darlington'. Services for looked after children were graded as 'good' overall and services for safeguarding children were also graded as 'good' overall.
5. Ofsted grade each block of inspected services either as outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate. The Ofsted grades for Darlington local authority services for each block in 2009 and 2010 are set out, below:

Service area – local authority provision	2009 Ofsted Judgement	2010 Ofsted judgement
Nursery and early years foundation stage	Outstanding	Outstanding
Primary schools	Good	Outstanding
Secondary schools	Good	Good
Special school	Good	Outstanding
School sixth form	Outstanding	Outstanding
Special school sixth form	Good	Outstanding
Adoption Service	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Fostering Service	Good	Good
Children's Homes	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
PRU	Inadequate	Inadequate

6. Other services graded by Ofsted, and which contribute to the overall judgement of the local authority, include childminders, non-domestic childcare, St Aidan's Academy, Darlington

College, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form, private children's homes, private fostering and adoption.

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee:-
- (a) consider the Annual Assessment Letter for 2010
 - (b) note that Tim Loughton, the Minister of State, has written to Ofsted to inform them that he is bringing forward legislation to end the annual assessment of children's services because 'it adds little to the understanding of children's services in an area over and above the individual inspections which underlie it'. A further annual assessment may be made depending on the timing of any legislative changes.

Murray Rose
Director of People

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Murray Rose: Extension 2099

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific Crime and Disorder issues contained within this report.
Health and Well Being	Improvements to the areas identified for development within the Annual Assessment will have a positive impact on Health & Well Being
Carbon Impact	There are no specific carbon impact issues contained within this report.
Diversity	Improvements to the areas identified within the Annual Assessment will have a positive impact on children and young people from vulnerable groups.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	This does not represent a change to the Council's budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a Key Decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Improvements to the areas identified within the Annual Assessment will have a positive impact on the Aspiring theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
Efficiency	There are no specific efficiency issues contained within this report.