

**ANNUAL UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF CONTACT, REFERRAL AND
ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN'S SERVICES – OUTCOME OF INSPECTION**

SUMMARY REPORT**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee of the outcome of the Ofsted unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Children's Services which took place during January 2010.

Summary

2. The inspection identified no areas for priority action but highlighted areas for development. These areas were known to the service and are subject of current work (review of domestic abuse service and capacity issues). The issues regarding home visits and parental consents, we are seeking additional information from expert sources, as the comments from Ofsted appear to be contrary to other guidance received. A permanent team manager has now been appointed and the action plan responding to the issues will be progressed by that manager. The Ofsted Report is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) The members of the Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

None

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S17 Crime and Disorder	Effective arrangements for contact, referral and assessments may have an effect on crime and disorder
Health and Well Being	Effective arrangements for contact, referral and assessment have a direct impact on health and well being
Sustainability	Not applicable
Diversity	Safeguarding issues affect all groups
Wards Affected	All wards
Groups Affected	All groups
Budget and Policy Framework	No immediate impact
Efficiency	There are no implications for efficiency
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Child protection is linked to the 'Safer' theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. Ofsted letter attached as **Appendix 1**

Outcome of Consultation

5. Not applicable