

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23 AUGUST 2021**

SELF ASSESSMENT - OVERVIEW

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Scrutiny with the Annual Self- Assessment for Children's Services so that constructive 'critical friend' challenge takes place to drive improvement in public services.

Summary

2. Darlington Children's Services update each quarter an assessment of social work practice, inclusive of Early Help, based on changes in performance data. To bring the information into a stand-a-lone easy read document an annual self-assessment overview document is completed.
3. The self-assessment draws on existing documentation and activity and reflects the local authority's business for children's services. It identifies what leaders are doing to maintain or improve good practice for children and their families, demonstrating the effectiveness of our actions and address weaknesses in practice, with clear, appropriate plans to improve services.
4. The self-evaluation should answer 3 questions: 1) What do we know about the quality and impact of social work practice in our local authority? 2) How do we know it? and 3) What are our plans for the next 12 months to maintain or improve practice?
5. The self-assessment is used as part of Ofsted's ILACS Annual Engagement Meeting and plays an important role in their understanding of local authorities and how they work. It helps them see whether leaders and managers have a grip on practice and are taking suitable action.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that:
 - (a) The contents of the report are considered in terms of Children's Services role and functions and critical challenge is afforded to improve outcomes for children and their families.

**JAMES STROYAN
Group Director of People**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the completion of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Council's Crime and Disorder responsibilities
Health and Wellbeing	This report supports the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families in the borough.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	This report supports the Council's sustainability responsibilities
Diversity	This report supports the promotion of diversity
Wards Affected	This report supports performance improvement across all Wards
Groups Affected	This report supports performance improvement which benefits all groups
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	This report contributes to the Council Plan by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of key outcomes
Efficiency	There are no implications arising from this report.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report supports the health and wellbeing of Looked After Children and Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

See attached Self – Assessment Document