

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7th JANUARY 2014

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN &
YOUNGER ADULTS**

**INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY
ASSURANCE SYSTEM**

1. Purpose of the Report

To approve the establishment of an integrated performance management and quality assurance system in Children and Younger Adults which will require a subsequent review of management arrangements, subject to Cabinet approval and consultation with staff and trade unions.

2. Information and Analysis

2.1 A review of the current processes for quality assurance has been necessary to address the following issues:

- To strengthen our service planning, quality assurance and performance management functions to support the department to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people and families.
- To demonstrate an improvement in the experience of children and young people using our services and the impact of the services we deliver as described in the revised Ofsted framework
- To achieve efficiencies in this area of work while increasing capacity to deliver statutory guidance including that for local authorities and independent reviewing officers on care planning and reviewing arrangements for looked after children

2.2 Proposed System

The proposal is to establish an integrated approach to performance management and quality assurance which:

- Supports the delivery of improved outcomes for children, young people and families
- Recognises that those delivering services are best placed to assure their quality and manage performance
- Is able to systematically demonstrate the impact of our services on these outcomes in a way that is consistent with Ofsted requirements
- Has the views of children, young people and families at its centre
- Is integrated with our strategic planning
- Meets statutory requirements
- Is value for money

Please see attached diagram.

2.3 Implications for existing functions

The restructuring in the Commissioning and Performance team earlier in 2013 established a post of Head of Information, Planning, Performance and Quality Assurance and the intention is that this post will manage the functions required to deliver the proposed system.

The functions will consist of a revised quality assurance structure and a revised participation structure.

2.4 Quality Assurance

The quality assurance team will deliver a core offer which will include:

- Facilitation of both internal and external peer challenge and accreditation for quality standards
- Robust auditing of casework to inform and improve practice across all services.
- Provide support and challenge to practitioners and managers to ensure consistency and quality of practice.
- Bring together a range of information and data to support effective self-evaluation, self-reflection, planning and review at a local level.

2.5 Participation

In order to ensure that the views of children, young people and families are informing all of our activities, we will support the delivery of four key areas of participation:

- Youth Scrutiny and participation in strategic decision making via the Youth Council
- Co-production and the delivery of service change
- Children's Rights and ensuring that we are engaging with all of our most vulnerable children
- Delivering the new statutory guidance for local authorities and independent reviewing officers on care planning and reviewing arrangements for looked after children

4. **Financial Considerations**

It is intended that the subsequent re-structuring that will be required to deliver the proposed system will achieve financial savings. These savings will be quantified as part of the re-structuring proposal.

5. **Legal and Human Rights Considerations**

None.

6. **Equality of Opportunity Considerations**

Under this Act, local authorities are under a legal duty to pay "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality with regard to race, disability and gender, including gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion and beliefs.

7. **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:- prevention of crime & disorder; health, environmental, property and transport considerations.

9. **Key Decision**

No

10. **Strategic Director's Recommendation**

That the Cabinet Member approves the establishment of an integrated performance management and quality assurance system in Children and Younger Adults.

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

