

# Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Date: Thursday 21 November 2013

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich

## Supplementary Agenda 2

### 2. Minutes

Amendment to Page A3 and addition of Appendix 3

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**For further details and general enquiries about this Agenda  
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5.1 The Public Questions for the meeting are attached at Appendix 3.

## **6. Local Member Issues/Member Questions**

6.1 There were no local Member issues or Member questions.

## **7. Cabinet Member Feedback**

### **7.1 Safeguarding**

The Cabinet Member noted that he was pleased to see that the Panel papers were giving more in depth information about the department and how it was meeting the current Ofsted challenges. Norfolk County Council (NCC) was in regular communication with Ofsted, including through the Improvement Board. The authority was making appointments to managerial and social work positions.

The Interim Director of Children's Services noted that the Improvement Plan had been refreshed, incorporating four delivery plans. This would allow scrutiny to be planned into the Panel's timetable, giving sharper and more focused areas of enquiry for Members. A revised approach to communication had been implemented, including a weekly bulletin (Improving Times) which would be emailed out to members of the Panel as well as departmental staff. This would include a link where further information could be requested, as well as departmental key contact details.

The Children's Social Care Directions Notice had been received in draft from the Department of Education, and a meeting had been requested by NCC to look at this in more detail. It was anticipated that more clarity on the forward direction and timescales involved would be received by the end of November.

## **8. Children's Services Integrated Performance and Finance Monitoring Report for 2013-2014**

8.1 The annexed report (item 9) by the Interim Director of Children's Services was received. The report provided an update on performance and finance monitoring information based on the County Council's performance monitoring framework for the 2013/14 financial year. The Finance Business Partner noted that the number of Looked After Children (LAC) had increased since the end of August, placing an additional pressure on the budget. The Planning, Performance and Partnership Manager reported that work was underway to ensure that performance information was up to date and accurate; this would be reported in more depth at the next meeting. It was noted that although the agenda suggested that the paper was in draft, it was in fact the final report.

8.2 During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The former Schools Contingency Fund, renamed the School Central Spend, had seen changes to the way that the money was delegated to schools, with some being retained by the Local Authority. Part of this fund was a contingency. The Dedicated Schools Grant was ring fenced, with any under spend being reallocated to schools in the next financial year.
- Activities underway to address the high number of LAC included ensuring

## 7.1 Two Questions from Robert Fenton:

7.1.1 *How many schools are currently in each of the Local authority categories (split by primary/secondary)?*

### Answer from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

	Primary	Secondary
A - Schools of Concern	62	12
D - temp schools of concern	9	0
B - schools	64	14
C - schools	38	3
E - schools	164	17
F - schools	24	5

This includes Academies and the Free school.

7.1.2 *What percentage of schools are currently in each Ofsted Category, nationally and locally?*

### Answer from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

*(Latest published figures – as at June 2013)*

	Primary		Secondary	
	Norfolk	National	Norfolk	National
Grade 1 (Outstanding)	10 %	18%	12%	24%
Grade 2 (Good)	56%	60%	49%	50%
Grade 3 ( Requiring Improvement, Old Satisfactory)	25%	19%	27%	11%
Grade 4 (serious Weaknesses, Notice to Improve, Special Measures)	3%	2%	12%	5%

## 7.2 Question from Teresa Fenton:

**7.2.1** *Children's services target is for Norfolk schools to "compare favourably" with National results by 2015. Specifically, how close, in percentage terms, is "compare favourably"?*

**Answer from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel:**

We aim to be within 2% of the national average. Our ambition is for all Norfolk schools to be at least good and that our percentage of outstanding schools improves sharply by 8% in primary schools and 12% in secondary schools.