
INQUIRY REPORT “OUT OF COUNTY PLACEMENTS”.- FURTHER RESPONSE
AND PROGRESS

Background

1. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee considered the Cabinet response to its inquiry “Out of County Placements” at its meeting on 11 December 2018. The Committee welcomed the Cabinet response and agreed to seek a progress report on the implementation of the accepted recommendations.
2. A copy of a more detailed response and actions against each of the recommendations is attached at **Appendix A**. In line with R10, a short briefing note is attached **Appendix B** providing members with background information on Signs of Safety. The response sets out the progress to date on implementing each of the recommendations together with details of the next steps to be taken in progressing the work.

Scope of Scrutiny

3. This report enables the Committee to review, assess and comment of the progress being made in addressing the recommendations as set out in the inquiry report.

Way Forward

4. Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families) and relevant officers from the Social Services directorate have been invited to present the directorate’s progress on the accepted recommendations (attached at **Appendix A**) and answer Members’ questions.

5. Members may also wish to review and assess the progress being made in addressing the recommendations copy attached at **Appendix A** and provide the Cabinet Member and Officers with their comments, concerns or advice.

Legal Implications

6. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

7. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Committee reviews the response attached at **Appendix A** together with the information presented at the meeting and provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and Director with any comments, concerns or recommendations
- Identify any possible areas for consideration in the development of the Committee's work programme for 2020-2021

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

4 March 2020