

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

CABINET

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE 2008**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the main points of the Annual Performance Assessment of Children and Young People's Service in North Lincolnshire 2008.
- 1.2 The overall judgement of performance achieved this year is the same as the previous year. Ofsted has judged Children and Young People's Service to be delivering good outcomes for the children and young people of North Lincolnshire with good capacity for improvement.
- 1.3 To ask that Cabinet notes the achievements of the staff in the Children and Young People's Service.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) is judged and inspected by Ofsted. Every year, Ofsted makes a judgement on all CYPS in England and makes these judgements publicly available. The judgements are based on a range of performance indicators, inspections and visits relating to activity during the previous year. The full Annual Performance Assessment (APA) report is available in the group offices.
- 2.2 Inspectors make judgements based on the following scale: 4 – outstanding/excellent; 3 – good; 2 – adequate; and 1 – inadequate.
- 2.3 The following table sets out the gradings awarded by Ofsted in 2008.

Assessment judgement area	APA Grade 2008
Overall effectiveness of children's services	3
Being Healthy	2
Staying Safe	3
Enjoying and achieving	3
Making a positive contribution	3
Achieving economic well-being	3
Capacity to improve, including the management of services	3

- 2.4 The inspectors' evaluation report, published on 17 December 2008, lists key strengths and areas for improvement. The strengths considerably outweigh the areas for improvement. Key conclusions as follows:

Overall effectiveness

North Lincolnshire Council delivers services for children and young people that are consistently above minimum requirements for users.

The council's capacity to improve, including its management of services, is good and the council has made good progress in responding to the recommendations made in the previous APA and the recent JAR.

Being Healthy

There is strong commitment to, and the involvement of schools in, the Healthy Schools Programme.

Health services for looked after children are very good, and the substance misuse service for young people is performing well.

Staying Safe

Good performance management arrangements in children's social care have supported the strong performance in the area of staying safe.

Timely completion of initial and core assessments, review of child protection conferences and statutory reviews of looked after children's care plans are all very good when compared to similar councils and national averages.

The number of looked after children with three or more placements in a year, has halved; there are low number of looked after children; low numbers of children on the Child Protection Register and strong support for families within the children in need system.

The rate of children placed for adoption and special guardianship from the looked after system and the speed with which these placement are made is now very good.

Enjoying and Achieving

A significant development since last year is the 14 to 19 collaboration between schools, colleges and other significant partners.

The pace of progress has been good in most areas, for example in raising the attainment of children and young people, especially at Key Stage 4.

Attendance continues to improve, including for looked after children.

Making a Positive Contribution

There is good partnership working to support young people at risk of offending behaviour, leading to a reduction in the number of first time entrants; and the proportion of juveniles engaged with the Youth Offending Team, who are in employment, education or training is 90%, the highest in the region.

There has been good work to increase and develop consultation with, and the participation of, young people with learning difficulties or disabilities in decisions about their lives and to improve transition arrangements from children's to adult services.

Achieving an Economic Well Being

Significantly more young people than previously, including those from vulnerable groups, continue into employment, education or training after the age of 16.

Good increase in the number of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities entering further education.

Capacity to Improve

Improvements in the educational outcomes for children and young people, including vulnerable groups, are evident and in some respects improvement is at a faster rate than that found in similar councils and nationally.

The Children and Young People's Plan builds on previous strengths and sets out clearly how improvements against each outcome area are to be achieved. Priorities are clear, with regular measurable targets to check the impacts of actions and the progress being made.

2.5 Key areas for improvement are concentrated in areas that we need to work jointly with other partners in order to attain improved performance. Actions to focus on will be addressed within the Children's Trust, as follows:

- Reduce teenage conception rates and accelerate the development of a comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).
- Improve the proportion of mother initiating breast feeding
- Reduce the percentage of mothers known to be smoking during pregnancy

2.6 Overall the APA is positive. Other areas highlighted for improvement focus on process and work to address these has begun and is progressing. Already 90% of the Youth Offending Service improvement action plan has been completed, data analysis of educational attainment amongst black and ethnic minority children has improved and the availability of apprenticeships for children with learning difficulties and disabilities has been addressed in revisions of the 14 to 19 strategy.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 None - for information only

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 None – for information only

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial implications – None arising from this report.

5.2 Other implications arising from the action plans will be reported through democratic processes.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Statutory implications – the inspectors found that the Council were meeting their duties in all statutory areas of responsibility.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Cabinet endorses the Ofsted report.

8.2 That Cabinet notes the achievement of Children and Young People's Service and recognises the dedication of staff to service users.

SERVICE DIRECTOR: CHILDREN, STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Date: December 2008

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: APA letter