

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	17 January 2011
Report of:	Lorraine Butcher, Director of Children's Services
Subject/Title:	Children's Services – Annual Performance Rating
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Hilda Gaddum

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 On the 9 December 2010, OFSTED published the Annual Performance Ratings for all Children's Services Authorities in England. A copy of the Performance Rating for Cheshire East is attached at Appendix A.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report and the Annual Performance Rating of Children's Services in Cheshire East by OFSTED as 'performing well'.
- 2.2 To note the steps being taken by the Director of Children's Services to drive continued improvements in service delivery to children and families across the partnership of agencies comprising Cheshire East's Children's Trust.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To report to Cabinet the Annual Performance Rating for Children's Services in Cheshire East for 2010.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 N/A

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 N/A

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 Steps are being taken to continually drive improvements in service delivery as cost effectively as possible. Investment in the Service in 2009/10 has assisted in supporting the drive towards early intervention and targeted prevention with the intention of over time reducing the demand for statutory and costly interventions in families.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 N/A

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 N/A

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 Annually OFSTED publishes its rating of each Local Authority Children's Service based upon all inspected and regulated activity for children and arrangements for making sure children are safe and stay safe and performance against national measures. Attached at Appendix A is the formal notification by OFSTED of the Annual Performance Rating for Cheshire East for 2010.
- 10.2 The Rating continues to build upon the assessment of 'performing well' achieved in 2009. Progress in 2010 has been particularly pleasing taking place as it has against a backdrop of significant change in service structure post Local Government Review and specifically in the areas of statutory social care services for children. In this area a considerable emphasis has been placed upon stabilizing and strengthening service delivery to our most vulnerable children. Improving and strengthening safeguarding arrangements continues to be a priority focus of the work of the Service and with partner agencies through both the Children's Trust and Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Improvement planning is now beginning to embed across the partnership of agencies.
- 10.3 OFSTED identifies areas where further development is required. These are:
- Increase the number of secondary schools that are judged to be good or better
 - Improve attendance rates of those children and young people that are frequently absent from school; and
 - Improve achievements for young people aged 16 years and 19 years from low income families.

- 10.4 Additionally it is noted that there are areas for further development which arose from the unannounced inspection of the Local Authority's front-line child protection services previously reported to Cabinet.
- 10.5 The Senior Management Team of the Children and Families Directorate is currently reviewing its Service Plan. The areas identified by OFSTED in the Annual Rating and in individual inspections will be prioritized within the Plan.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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