

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 7 September 2010
Report of: Task/Finish Group
Subject/Title: Review of Residential Provision

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report encloses the final report of the Task/Finish Group who conducted a Scrutiny Review of Residential Provision.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 (a) the report of the Scrutiny Task/Finish Group be welcomed and supported;
- (b) the recommendations of the Group be endorsed, and referred to the Cabinet for consideration and necessary action, and that Cabinet be invited initially to comment on the details of the recommendations;
- (c) the response of Cabinet be considered by the Scrutiny Task/Finish Group in due course;
- (d) the Scrutiny Task/Finish Group be requested to keep progress under review, and to report further on the implementation of the Report's recommendations in 12 – 18 months time.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To progress the findings of the Scrutiny Review Task/Finish Group which are aimed at ensuring that residential provision in Cheshire East provides good standards of care for our Cared for Children and young people.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 Not known at this stage

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 Not known at this stage

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 Not known at this stage

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The Children and Families Scrutiny Committee on 6 July 2009 resolved to set up a Task/Finish Group to investigate current and future residential provision in Cheshire East.
- 10.2 The aim of the Scrutiny Review was to examine existing provision and make recommendations about future provision, to ensure the best care was available for the Borough's Cared for Children.
- 10.3 The Group held 5 meetings and examined a range of information including a review of residential provision conducted by an independent consultant, Jill Thorburn. This provided a good source of background information for members of the Group.
- 10.4 Members of the Group also went on visits to existing provision, including two new homes in the Borough that were on the verge of opening. Members were also able to visit some foster carers in their own home, who provided short break respite care for children with complex needs. Members were also privileged to meet some young people who were members of the Children in Care Council. These young people were articulate in their views about what children in care should expect and what should be expected of them. Their views helped inform this review.
- 10.5 The review has looked at physical buildings and considered various sources of information including statistical information such as numbers of Cared for Children and where they come from. However, when considering provision for the future, paramount in the Group's minds was what type of provision will provide the best care for the children of whom all members are Corporate Parents.
- 10.6 The final report lists a number of recommendations which the Task/Finish Group commends to the Committee. Members will note that the recommendations contained in the Executive summary do not accord with those in the body of the report. This is because the Executive summary contains a number of alterations resulting from discussions held between the Chairman of this committee, the Head of Children and Family Services and Chairman of the Task and Finish Group. The Chairman will take Members through the changes at the meeting.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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