

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	20 September 2010
Report of:	Children and Families Scrutiny Committee
Subject/Title:	Review of Residential Provision
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Hilda Gaddum

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

(a) That the report be received and the Children and Families Portfolio Holder undertake to come back to the next (or subsequent) meeting of Cabinet with a formal response to each recommendation.

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.

3.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 Not known at this stage.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 To be reported upon in the formal response to the report by the Portfolio Holder.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 To be reported upon in the formal response to the report by the Portfolio Holder.

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 Children and Families Scrutiny Committee commends to Cabinet. Recommendations 12, 13 and 14 are for the Council's Corporate Parenting Board to consider. Recommendation 23 is for the Children and Families Committee to implement.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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