

By: Jenny Whittle - Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Malcolm Newsam - Interim Director, Families and Social Care

To: Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 17 November 2011

Subject: **ANNUAL UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF CONTACT, REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

Informs Members of the findings of the recent Ofsted inspection.

1. (1) On the 11 and 12 October 2011, Ofsted undertook their latest unannounced inspection of the contact, referral and assessment arrangements in the Specialist Children's Service in Kent.

(2) This inspection notes the significant progress made since the last inspection. Inspectors found that the areas identified as requiring action in the previous inspections in August and in November 2010 have been tackled. The report also highlights areas where further development is needed. The summary of the Inspectors' findings are attached as Appendix A.

Recommendations

2. (1) The Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (a) NOTE the findings of the recent Ofsted inspection.
- (b) COMMENT ON the areas where further development is required.

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Background documents:

Appendix A: Ofsted letter, 9 Nov - Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Kent County Council children's services