

By: Graham Badman, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education Directorate
Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills, CFE
Chris Wells, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Educational Achievement, CFE

To: Cabinet – 17 December 2007

Subject: RESULTS OF ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES FOR 2006/07

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report summarises the outcomes of the 2006/07 Annual Performance of Children's Services undertaken by OfSTED and the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Introduction

1. It is a statutory requirement to report the results of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) to the first Cabinet meeting following their publication at the end of November and also to share these with partners and make them available on the website.

Results

2. (1) The APA letter is attached as Appendix 1 and Kent's grades demonstrate continued high performance with scores of 3 out of 4 for current performance on Children's Services and Children's Social Care and a maximum 4 out of 4 for Capacity to Improve. Overall the scores are the same as last year's assessment with all five "Every Child Matters" outcomes rated as "good". This is also reflected in an analysis of strengths and areas for development, in the text of the letter with approximately 6 strengths and positive comments for every concern raised. These areas were identified in Kent's self evaluation and are continuing priorities for action in the Children and Young Peoples Plan, LAA, 2010 targets and internal business plans.

(2) A comparison with the results for the 126 Authorities published so far places Kent in the top quartile based on the overall score for Children's Services and Capacity for Improvement, with only 11 scoring more highly than Kent. Results for the remaining Authorities are dependent on completion of Joint Area Reviews and the outcome of appeal procedures.

Links to the Joint Area Review

3. This year the Annual Performance Assessment acts as a “risk assessment” for the Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children’s Services which is taking place in tandem with the Corporate Assessment. Two of the areas for development identified in the APA letter (teenage pregnancy and participation and attainment up to the age of 19) are being investigated in the JAR alongside the core areas of Safeguarding, Looked After Children, Children and Young People with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities and Service Management and Capacity to Improve. The outcomes of this will be reported in June 2008 and will feed into next year’s APA and CPA assessments. A briefing note on this process is attached.

Recommendations

4. Cabinet is asked TO NOTE the 2006/7 results of the APA of Children’s Services.

Chris Carter
Head of Planning and Performance CFE
Tel: (01622) 694986

Background Documents:

None