

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2006/2007 REPORT NO. 187

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet
13 December 2006

REPORT OF:

Director of Education, Children's
Services and Leisure

Contact officer and telephone number:
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Agenda - Part: 1	Item: 13
Subject: 2006 Annual Performance Assessment of Services for Children and Young People in Enfield	
Wards:	All
Cabinet Member consulted:	Cllr Glynis Vince

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2006 Annual Performance Assessment of Services for Children and Young People, carried out by OFSTED and CSCI, provides strategic performance information about improvements since the Joint Area Review. All services and our capacity to improve have been judged as 'Good' and there has been overall good progress since the Joint Area Review.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the outcomes of the Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in Enfield.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of children's services takes place regularly, except in the year when a Joint Area Review (JAR) is scheduled. Our first APA took place in July, following the JAR report which was published in January 2006. The inspectors took into account our self assessment, updated performance data and the outcomes of a small number of interviews. In contrast to the JAR, the APA was more narrowly based on services provided by the Council and involved much less fieldwork.
- 3.2 Following JAR a detailed action plan had been promptly agreed and implemented: a monitoring report was available to the inspectors. Whilst most grades in the original JAR report were 3 (Good – A service that consistently delivers above the minimum requirements for users), we were graded as 2 (Adequate – A service that delivers only minimum requirements for users) for 'Enjoy and Achieve' and 'Achieve Economic Well-being'. The attached APA letter (see appendix A) now describes services in these areas, and all others, as 3 - Good. The capacity to

improve also continues to be good. This represents an improvement in services to local children and young people.

3.3 The letter refers to aspects of our work which continue to be challenging. These objectives will be reiterated in the departmental and service plans:

- The educational performance of care leavers and looked after children at GCSE needs to improve;
- We need to set and monitor action-plan timescales clearly (Children and Young People's Plan);
- Further work is needed to improve interpreting facilities (health related information);
- Recruitment and retention of permanent social work staff, although much improved, needs continued attention;
- Planned work to deliver a consistent multi-agency approach to CRB checks needs to be completed;
- The need remains to make progress on our longer term objectives to improve recreational and leisure facilities for children and young people;
- Delivery of the aims of the 14-19 strategy will need continued attention.

3.4 A press release was issued to coincide with the formal publication of the letter on 1 November. The next APA is expected to take place in September 2007.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

This letter provides important evidence about the performance of Council services.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

None

6.2 Legal Implications

None

6.3 Property Implications

None

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This report provides strategic performance information.

8. PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST

High quality education and lifelong learning.
Quality health and care services.

Background Papers

Appendix A – Ofsted/CSCI letter to the Director of ECSL dated 1 November 06.