

9 October 2012		ITEM 8
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Report on Adoption Inspection and Action Plan		
Report of: Roland Minto, Service Manager, Placements and Support		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Accountable Head of Service: Barbara Foster Head of Service Care and Targeted Outcomes		
Accountable Director: Jo Olsson, Director of Peoples Services		
This report is Public		
Purpose of Report: To report on the outcomes of the Ofsted Inspection of the Thurrock Adoption Service (February 2012) and to update members on the implementation of the action plan		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2012 Thurrock Adoption Service was inspected by Ofsted. The overall quality rating was Good. The report made a number of recommendations for future improvement. This report outlines the key findings and the actions undertaken in respect of the recommendations made.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 Committee are asked to note the content of the Report and the progress on implementation of the Action Plan**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1** The Adoption Service is subject to rigorous external inspection from Ofsted, the last inspection took place in February 2012. The previous overall judgement, achieved in January 2008, was Satisfactory. We were pleased therefore that our overall judgement this year was Good. To set this in context, Ofsted undertook 31 Local Authority Adoption Inspections between

October 2011 and March 2012. Of these 6 were judged as Outstanding, 15 as Good, 8 as Satisfactory, and 2 were judged Inadequate.

2.2 The full report is attached as Appendix 1. The Inspectors made a number of recommendations to improve the quality and standards of care, and an Action Plan has been developed to address these (Appendix 2). Progress in implementing the Action Plan is monitored by the Service Manager to ensure sustained improvements are made.

2.3 The inspection was conducted by two inspectors over five days.

3. KEY FINDINGS:

3.1 The report is broken down into the following individual judgement areas:

- Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe
- Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do
- Helping children make a positive contribution
- Organisation

Inspectors concluded that Thurrock should be judged as good against three of the four areas, and was satisfactory in respect of helping children make a positive contribution.

4. ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS:

4.1 Thurrock operates as part of a Consortium with Havering and Southend Councils, and some operational practices are dependent on joint working and cooperation between them. Havering and Southend also had their adoption inspection in the early part of 2012, and some recommendations need to be addressed as part of this cooperative working. These will be discussed within meetings of the Consortium Managers, and any additional responses required will be added to the Thurrock Action Plan.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

5.1 The work of the team is central to the provision offered to Thurrock's Looked After Children, and operates to deliver one of the key objectives of the Children and Young Peoples Plan, "Objective CYPP (PWN) 3.3. Deliver outstanding fostering, private fostering & adoption; develop & maintain excellent services for children in care".

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Michael Jones**
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There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

6.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Rachel Ogunrinde**
Telephone and email: **020 8227 5694**
rachel.ogunrinde@BDTlegal.org.uk

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report

6.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
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sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

The key equality implication arising is to note the Ofsted Recommendation to explore ways to widen the range of applicants to be adopters for Thurrock. This is addressed within the Action Plan.

6.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

None.

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Appendix 1 - Thurrock Council Adoption Service Report February 2012
- Appendix 2 - Action Plan in response to Adoption Inspection Report

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