

REPORT OF THE
Cabinet / Leader
PART II

199. SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

1. At its meeting on 5 February 2016, Cabinet were given an update on safeguarding children in Hampshire.

2. Members recalled that Ofsted had carried out an inspection of Hampshire Children's Services' safeguarding practice and associated arrangements for children in care and adoption services under their new, explicitly tougher, Single Inspection Framework in March 2014. The outcome of that inspection was that the local authority's performance was assessed as being 'good' with 'outstanding' leadership and management and adoption services.

3. As part of the national picture, Cabinet were made aware of the response following Serious Case Reviews undertaken in Rotherham and Oxfordshire, which included:

- A new whistleblowing national portal
- A national task force to offer expertise for areas which are 'struggling'
- An extension of the 'wilful neglect' law to children's social care, education and elected members
- Enhanced status of Child Sexual Exploitation as a 'national threat'
- Additional support to survivors groups (£7m)

4. Members also noted that locally, Hampshire Children's Services had been successful in a bid to the Department for Education for its Innovation Programme. The purpose of this Programme was to transform children's social care in Hampshire in order to safely reduce the demand for high cost, complex placements for children in care through creating the conditions for more interventionist and change-oriented social work practice with families as well as ensuring that earlier help was available for families in local areas. The Programme has seven inter-related elements:

- Family Intervention Teams
- Volunteers
- Social work and personal assistants
- An edge of care support service
- Willow Team
- Social work surgeries
- Partnership for excellence

5. The programme, which builds upon the proven track record of the County Council in delivering high quality services for vulnerable children, is now in full implementation mode, with staff having been recruited or seconded into the relevant roles.

6. Cabinet noted the positive progress and continued consistently high performance with regards to safeguarding children in Hampshire and welcomed future

reports on an annual basis. Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Safeguarding Update (search item reference 7306)

COUNCILLOR ROY PERRY
Leader of the Council