

ASSEMBLY

30 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Title: Child Protection Practices and Policies in Schools	For Decision
<p>Summary: The Children's Services Select Committee (CSSC) has completed its in-depth review of child protection practices and policies in schools. The Select Committee's final report is attached at Appendix A.</p> <p>The Select Committee met between 13 July 2010 and 9 February 2011 to gather evidence through reports, presentations and site visits. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part C, Section D, paragraph 7, the final report setting out the Select Committee's findings and recommendations was agreed by the Children's Services Select Committee on 1 March 2011 and submitted to Cabinet on 15 March 2011 for information and comment. Cabinet generally welcomed the report but wished to make a number of comments, and these are set out in Appendix B. Cabinet also requested a response from the Director of Children's Services to the recommendations of the Select Committee, and this is attached at Appendix C.</p> <p>In relation to the recommendations adopted by Assembly, the Children's Services Select Committee will then ask service providers to respond with detailed comments, including impacts, risk and timescales, and provide an implementation action plan.</p> <p>At six monthly intervals a report from the service providers setting out the progress of the implementation plan will be presented to the Children's Services Select Committee for monitoring purposes until all recommendations have been addressed to its satisfaction.</p> <p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Recommendation The Assembly is recommended to adopt the Children's Services Select Committee's recommendations as set out in the report.</p>	
<p>Reason To assist the Council to achieve the Community Priority "Inspired and Successful".</p>	
<p>Comments of the Chief Financial Officer It is envisaged that recommendations adopted within this report can be contained within existing council wide budgets and resources.</p>	
<p>Comments of the Legal Partner There are no specific legal implications arising from this report</p>	
<p>Risk Management This review helps to inform and support the mitigation already planned and in place in respect of Corporate Risk 01.</p>	

Customer Impact

This review considered current child protection practices and policies in schools and makes recommendations for improvements in the systems and processes. By its very nature, the review focused on the needs of vulnerable children and young people, who may fall within a number of equalities groups. Consideration was given to matters relating to particular groups, such as the implications of female genital mutilation.

The Select Committee heard from the BAD Youth Forum in order to hear the views of young people on these matters.

The Committee will ask that progress against the recommendations be reported back in six months where particular consideration will be given to ensure that a range of different equality groups have benefited.

The Committee has also noted that there is scope for further scrutiny consideration of cultural and religious implications on child protection policies and practices within schools: this will be considered when developing the Select Committee's work programme for 2011/12.

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