Review of children with disabilities who are looked after

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To brief Members on the outcome of a review of all disabled children who are cared for under section 20 provision of the Children Act (1989).

2.0 Issues for Scrutiny

2.1 The report has been referred by the Corporate Parenting Board for Scrutiny to look at and compare to the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group – Transitions in Care (2014).

2.2 Scrutiny to note the report.

2.3 Scrutiny to respond to the Corporate Parenting Board with any recommendations for further work to support disabled children and young people who are looked after.

3.0 Background

3.1 Section 20 of the Children Act (1989), places a duty on local authorities to provide accommodation for ‘children in need’. This accommodation—either in foster care, residential care or a kinship placement—can be long- or short-term, and does not involve the courts. The parent retains full parental responsibility.

3.2 In 2016, Children’s Services conducted a review of all cases relating to disabled children who are looked after under section 20. A report was presented to the Corporate Parenting Board in May.

3.3 The Corporate Parenting Board noted a crossover to findings of a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Transitions in Care from January 2014, and referred the paper to Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Advisory Board.

3.4 The Transitions in Care Task Group was set up in 2013 to look at arrangements for the transition process for young people with complex...
needs, when they move from being supported by Children’s Services to Adult Social Care.

3.5 The recommendations included a need for clear transition pathways (R1), that joint commissioning should be subject to an agreed protocol (R3), and that there is a dedicated transition worker in Adult and Local Services that is appointed to each area of the county (R4).

3.6 The Children with Disabilities Report in May 2016 included three recommendations that cross over with the recommendations from the Scrutiny Task Group on Transitions into Care:

- A protocol to be devised for staff regarding Deprivation of Liberty;
- Transition planning for children to begin at 14.5 years of age;
- The transition Policy and Protocol needs to be revised and launched across Children’s Services and Adult Social Care.

3.7 Members are asked to review both the Scrutiny Task Group report from 2014, and the Children with Disabilities Report from 2016, and to ascertain whether the recommendations in both reports are being implemented, and if the second report raises issues that need addressing in addition to the original Scrutiny report.

Joel Rasbash Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor, on behalf of Corporate Parenting Board
1.7.2016

Appendices


Previous Relevant Council or Executive Decisions [including Local Committees]

*List here any previous relevant decisions.
*If none, state “No previous relevant decisions”.

Please ensure that every part of this section where there is an asterisk* is completed in accordance with the instructions before sending the report to Member Services, following which please delete this sentence.
Background Papers

*List here any papers relied on to a significant extent in preparing the report, and delete the next line.
*If none, state “No background papers” and delete the line above.

Contact:  *Author of report, telephone number and e-mail address.