

CABINET

8 APRIL 2014

SUFFICIENCY REPORT 2013-2015: ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mike O'Brien, Children's Services (Lead Member)

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults Services

Author: Helen Jones, Assistant Director Partnership Commissioning

Summary

This addendum report provides details of the outcome of consideration of this matter by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1.1 This report and the Medway Sufficiency Report were submitted to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 March 2014. The Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning presented the report and advised that the Sufficiency Report would be refreshed annually in light of the Council's understanding of needs and current provision. It was noted that the strategy took into consideration the co-ordination of a range of services, and includes a clear focus on supporting families to stay together, minimising the need for children to come into care, or supporting their timely return to their families, where it is safe to do so.

1.2 The Committee then asked a number of questions and commented on the report:

Definition of 'unsuitable accommodation,' (page 11 of the Sufficiency Report 2013-15, footnote 2.) The Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning advised that there are few occasions when children may have to be placed in short term 'unsuitable accommodation' such as bed and breakfast or an out of area placement, if, for example a crisis occurred late in the day and no other suitable placements were available.

Target of increasing foster placements from 218 to 240, (page 17, paragraph 6.1.) The Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning confirmed that this was a recruitment target that would be met through a combination of in house and Independent Foster Agency (IFA) placements.

7.3 The Committee noted the report and recommended that it be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

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