

CABINET

21 DECEMBER 2010

CHILDREN'S SERVICES ASSESSMENT 2010 – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Les Wicks, Children's Services

Report from: Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults

Author: Sally Morris, Assistant Director. Commissioning and Strategy
Teri Reynolds, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Summary

To report on the discussion at the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 December 2010 on the Children's Services Assessment 2010.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 14 December 2010 to consider the Children's Services Assessment for 2010.
- 1.2 The Assistant Director, Commissioning and Strategy explained to the committee that the judgement for Medway by Ofsted, which was 'performing well', was an improvement on the previous year, where the service was judged as adequate. She highlighted the areas where Ofsted indicated good performance or where progress had been made. She also indicated those areas requiring improvement, as outlined in the report, and explained that actions plans would be developed to address those areas.
- 1.3 Members thanked the Director and staff for achieving the improved Ofsted judgement and raised concerns about future provision of sure start centres, childminding, performance in English and mathematics and sports provision.
- 1.4 In response, the Director stated that nursery and early years provision had demonstrated a positive impact on children's abilities and life chances and Medway had incorporated all but one of its sure start children's centres in schools to enable them to be more sustainable. In relation to child minding, strategically the council focussed efforts on groups who care for a number of children, however, did offer support for child minders, although take up was often low. In relation to performance, governing bodies needed to be clear of their role and teachers needed to grasp how a subject is progressed through

a student's education. The Council did provide training support for teachers but was likely to move to a position of commissioning or signposting to courses. In relation to sport the Director referred to the Schools Sports Partnerships, which were based at Greenacre and the Howard schools. Funding for these partnerships was currently uncertain but if no central funding was provided for these then Medway schools may consider commissioning some of the services the partnerships provide.

Lead officer contact

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Background Papers:

“Children’s Services Assessment 2010” Report to the Children and Young People
Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 December 2010