

Committee:	Cabinet
Date:	8 June 2005
Title of report:	Commission for Social Care Inspection Report
By:	Director of Children's Services
Purpose of report:	To advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the Commission for Social Care Inspection of local children's services

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. note the outcome of the Commission for Social Care Inspection of local children's services to be presented to the Cabinet on 8 June 2005;**
 - 2. endorse the Action Plan in response to the report of the Commission for Social Care Inspection; and**
 - 3. agree that the implementation of the action plan should be monitored by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee every six months**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Implementing the recommendations in the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) report regarding young carers, equalities, disabled children and kinship carers will have budget implications for future years. These budget pressures will be addressed during the Reconciling Policy and Resources process for 2006/7.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Between 14 and 25 February 2005 local social care services for children were inspected by inspectors from CSCI. It was part of a national programme of inspections using agreed standards and criteria. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Council's services for children and families in three major areas:

- the provision of family support services;
- services to children looked after (including those leaving care); and
- child protection services.

2.2 As part of the inspection, CSCI also evaluated the Council's response to the Victoria Climbié Inquiry (VCI), published in January 2003. This additional inspection activity focused on particular aspects of professional practice, management and governance, and assessed the extent to which national recommendations had been incorporated into local practice.

2.3 The inspection process was a positive experience for all involved and initial feedback to the County Council has been good. The CSCI report has been sent as a confidential document to Members prior to this meeting. It is embargoed until it is presented to the Cabinet.

2.4 An important part of the inspection process is in developing and improving services in response to the findings of the inspection team. Attached as Appendix 1 is an action plan in response to the recommendations made as a result of the inspection.

3. Conclusion and reason for recommendations

3.1 The inspection of local children's services by CSCI provides a welcome opportunity to improve services within East Sussex. As important as the inspection process is the response to the recommendations made by CSCI inspectors. It is important, therefore, that the action plan in response to the inspection should be endorsed by the Cabinet and a review and monitoring process established.

DENISE STOKOE

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Inspection of Children's Services East Sussex County Council February 2005 Commission for Social Care Inspection – embargoed report until 8/6/05