

## Responses to scrutiny comments/recommendations from RPPR 2016/17

### Children's Services

Scrutiny comment / suggestion / recommendation at Dec 2016 RPPR Board	Response
<p>The Board considered that no actions which impact on educational standards or the vulnerable are desirable and should be avoided wherever possible. The Board therefore wished to acknowledge the hard work of officers in finding innovative ways to identify savings that have minimum negative impact.</p> <p>However, the Board remained concerned that the proposed mitigations may not be sufficient and that continued year on year savings will impact negatively on educational attainment outcomes and our ability to support vulnerable young people in the longer-term.</p>	<p>The Equality Impact Assessments for the savings proposals will identify any potential negative impacts and possible mitigations. Performance outcomes will continue to be monitored closely.</p>
<p>It was notable that we seem satisfied when we achieve the national average for many performance indicators; there is an associated feeling that we are “paddling hard to stand still” at our current performance levels. However, we question whether national average performance is a sufficiently high target to aim for in many areas of Children's Services. The Board therefore requested that it is made clear to Cabinet that Members are not satisfied that such significant savings are required and that Members' genuine concerns about their impact is acknowledged and carefully considered.</p>	<p>In many areas performance is good and above national performance levels as recognised in our most recent inspections. However there are some areas where performance does require improvement. We acknowledge the challenge of sustaining and improving performance within a context of diminishing resources.</p> <p>To help us achieve the best possible performance within the resources we have available we will remain committed to an Early Help service which will enable us to provide support to the most vulnerable children and young people at an earlier stage, before they get into difficulties which require social care interventions. In this way we aim to achieve better outcomes.</p> <p>Another overriding principle in all our work is to work with the right children, families and settings, in the right way for the right amount of time, targeting our resources carefully to bring about the changes needed.</p>