

## CITY OF PLYMOUTH

**Subject:** Annual Children's Services Assessment. Report by Ofsted

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 18 January 2011

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Mrs Watkins

**CMT Member:** Director of Services for Children and Young People

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**Ref:**

**Key Decision:** No

**Part:** I

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### Executive Summary:

The 2009/10 overall rating for Children's Services in Plymouth is Grade 3, Performs Well. This means we are consistently exceeding minimum requirements for people. The assessment includes findings from across Ofsted's inspection and regulation of services and settings for which the local authority has strategic or operational responsibilities, either alone or in partnership with others as well as data from relevant indicators.

In December 2010, Ofsted published Children's Services ratings for all English councils with Social Services responsibilities. The possible ratings are:

Grade 1	-	Performing Poorly
Grade 2	-	Performing Adequately
Grade 3	-	Performing Well
Grade 4	-	Performing Excellently

The document considers a range of outcomes for children and young people as well as written assessment about leadership and partnership working.

The attached Ofsted report outlines our key strengths as follows:

1. The majority of services, settings and institutions inspected are good or better
2. Provision for safeguarding and for children in care is much improved over recent years and is good overall
3. Performance measures show that a very large majority of outcomes for children and young people are broadly average or better

4. Good encouragement and support to children to lead healthy lives
5. Collaborative working between the main agencies is good
6. Good progress has been made in identifying problems early and providing support before they become serious
7. Good arrangements are in place within the very large majority of services to seek children and young people's views and involve them in decision making
8. Outstanding leadership at senior level, both from politicians and managers
9. Strong performance management processes well suited to ensuring that the improvements made are sustained

The key areas requiring further development:

1. Improve the quality of pupil referral units
2. improve the proportion of young people achieving a qualification equivalent to two good A levels by the age of 19

The Ofsted report has been discussed by the Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust Executive including senior leaders from Plymouth City Council, Health, Police and the Voluntary and Community Sector. The areas for further development are already being reflected in the development of the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14.

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**Corporate Plan 2010-2013 as amended by the four new priorities for the City And Council:**

The Corporate Plan 2010/13 has four new priorities for the City and Council. The four priorities are Delivering Growth, Raising Aspiration, Reducing In-Equalities and Value for Communities. The letter confirms these areas for improvement.

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**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land**

This letter and feedback from the announced inspection confirm that partnership arrangements are strong and are delivering good outcomes for children and young people. The changing policy and economic environment could undermine the ongoing support provided by the Council and its partners. Open discussions about the impacts and strong commissioning arrangements help to mitigate that risk.

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**Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.**

Not applicable

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**Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:**

Cabinet is requested to note the covering report from Plymouth City Council officers and the main report from Ofsted.

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**Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:**

Not applicable

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**Background papers:**

Ofsted letter.

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**Sign off:**

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Originating SMT Member: Bronwen Lacey											