

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 12 June 2008

Subject: Annual Performance Assessment 2008

Report of: Director of Children and Young People's Services

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Purpose / summary: To inform Cabinet of the Ofsted Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of services for children and young people in Wigan for 2008, and to seek approval of proposed self assessment grades.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:

Recommendation / decision: That Cabinet approves or amends the proposed self assessment gradings for APA in 2008.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 12 June 2008

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	None arising from this report
Staffing:	None arising from this report
Policy:	None arising from this report
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	No
Wards affected:	All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **Yes**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	X
Discussion leading to a decision	X
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	X
Discussion	
Decision	
Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
		12 June 2008	

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer



Date

29th May 2008

Background

Ofsted will carry out a further Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of Children's Services in Wigan in 2008. This will be the last APA before the introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. This year, Ofsted has once again asked for a self assessment (or a review of the Children and Young People's Plan) to be submitted by 26 June, with self-assessed gradings for:

- Overall effectiveness of Children's Services
- Capacity to Improve
- Each of the 5 "Every Child Matters" outcomes (Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution, Achieve Economic Wellbeing)

In addition to our self assessment, Ofsted will be considering a wide range of statistical data and other evidence. This is primarily a desk top exercise, but there may be a one-day visit by inspectors to Wigan in the early autumn. The final APA judgements will be published on 17 December.

Last year's published grades were:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Overall effectiveness of Children's Services | 3 (good) |
| • Capacity to Improve | 3 (good) |
| • Be Healthy | 3 (good) |
| • Stay Safe | 2 (adequate) |
| • Enjoy and Achieve | 3 (good) |
| • Make a Positive Contribution | 3 (good) |
| • Achieve Economic Wellbeing | 3 (good) |

Having reviewed the available data, and assessed progress since last year, we propose that 2008 self assessment grades should be as follows:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • Overall effectiveness of Children's Services | 3 (good) |
| • Capacity to Improve | 4 (outstanding) |
| • Be Healthy | 3 (good) |
| • Stay Safe | 3 (good) |
| • Enjoy and Achieve | 3 (good) |
| • Make a Positive Contribution | 3 (good) |
| • Achieve Economic Wellbeing | 3 (good) |

The evidence for proposing these improved grades is that, especially in stay safe, we are able to demonstrate clear progress on most indicators. This includes substantial progress in performance on timeliness of initial assessments, and on number and timeliness of core assessments, which were poor in 2007, and central to last year's assessment for this outcome of "adequate".

The rationale for proposing a grade of "outstanding" for capacity to improve is that there is clear evidence of improvement in 2007-08, and personnel and infrastructure changes have been made or are in progress to ensure an effective response to future opportunities and challenges.

If agreed by Ofsted, this would represent a return to the grades (4 for Capacity to Improve, 3 for Stay Safe) given by inspectors in the 2006 Joint Area Review.

Recommendation

That Cabinet approves or amends the proposed self assessment gradings for APA in 2008.