

Report to: Cabinet
Children and Young People's Panel

Date: 22 January 2009
15 January 2009

Subject: Outcome of Ofsted Annual Performance Assessment
2008 for Wigan

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

Contact officer: Nick Hudson 01942 486000

Purpose / summary: To inform the Cabinet and the Children and Young People's Panel of the outcomes of Ofsted's 2008 Annual Performance Assessment for Wigan

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:

Recommendation / decision: That Cabinet/Panel note the content of this report.

The decision will be made as a result of this report and will be published within 48 hours

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		x
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	x

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
15 Jan 09		22 Jan 09	

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

Proper Officer



Date

2nd January 2009

Background:

1.1 Ofsted carried 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. The assessment covered:

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

1.2 In addition to our own self assessment, Ofsted considered a wide range of statistical data and other evidence. This was primarily a desk top exercise, but there was a one-day visit by inspectors to Wigan on 9 October. The final APA judgements were published on 17 December and the full APA letter can be found on the internet at:

[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/\(id\)/4720/\(as\)/APA/apa_2008_359.pdf](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/4720/(as)/APA/apa_2008_359.pdf)

1.3 The following table sets out the grades awarded to Wigan for performance in 2008.

Assessment judgement area	APA grade
Overall effectiveness of children's services	3
Being healthy	3
Staying safe	3
Enjoying and achieving	3
Making a positive contribution	3
Achieving economic well-being	3
Capacity to improve, including the management of services for children and young people	3

Inspectors made judgements based on the following scale: 4: outstanding/excellent; 3: good; 2: adequate; 1: inadequate

This represents good performance across the board, and an improvement on 2007, when the grade for Staying Safe was 2 (adequate).

1.4 In the detail of the letter, the APA confirms our local self assessment that services for children and young people are good, but that there are areas for improvement. The judgements confirm that the priorities contained in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and Local Area Agreement are appropriate:

"The ambitions of the council and the partnership are very challenging and priorities are sharply focused on weaker areas of performance. Children's services are a key priority for the council and the children and young people's plan is closely aligned with the Local Area Agreement"

1.5 The strengths identified by Ofsted heavily outnumber the weaknesses/areas for improvement. Nevertheless it is important to note that for the next year, Ofsted listed the following improvement areas, which will be addressed in the next 12 months, within the priorities and key changes of the CYPP 2008-11.

- Despite a marked improvement in 2007/8, teenage conception rates remain well above similar councils and the national average.
- One looked after child in four does not have an annual health assessment.
- Despite improvements this year, the number of core assessments completed within 35 days is below similar areas.
- Although training in the use of the common assessment framework is widely available, a low number were completed in 2007/08.
- Despite overall standards remaining average or above, results in English at Key Stages 1 and 3 fell for the second year running.
- Re-offending rates have increased and are higher than comparable areas and nationally.
- Despite an improvement in the last year, twice as many young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities than nationally are not in employment, education and training.
- Not all action has resulted in secure and notable improvement in outcomes; for example, teenage pregnancy, timeliness of core assessments and attainment in English.

Conclusion:

2.1 The APA shows that outcomes and services for children and young people in Wigan are good, and that priorities set in the LAA and CYPP are appropriate. Nevertheless, there are detailed recommendations for action in the short term that will be addressed in the next 12 months.