

## **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2008**

### **Summary**

1. This report is presented to Executive Member and Advisory Panel to brief them on the outcome of York's Annual Performance Assessment for 2008.

### **Background**

2. To clarify, the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) is the nationally determined Ofsted process by which a judgement is made on the quality of local children and young people's services. The judgement formed contributes to the overall council rating each year. Through the APA process authorities receive a judgement on each of the 5 Outcomes, the contribution of the council's children's services in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people and finally the council's capacity to improve its services for children and young people
3. In April 2007 Ofsted announced changes to the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) process with a removal of the separate self-evaluation documentation and an opportunity of a refresh of the statutory Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) being used to inform the APA discussion. As a result York produced such a refresh document in June 2007. For 2008 the expectation on the authority was somewhat different given that we had been through the major Joint Area Review process in the same year. However, we still took the opportunity to produce an additional insert for our refreshed plan which was submitted to Ofsted in June 2008.

### **Consultation**

4. As part of the APA process there was considerable consultation activity. Ofsted were armed with feedback from key organisations eg Government Office, National Strategies, Youth Justice Board etc. In addition they had undertaken Tellus surveys. Tellus is an on-line survey that gathers the views of children and young people. Until recently, the Tellus survey has been part of the joint area review process. However, in 2007, Ofsted extended to an enhanced Tellus survey as part of the annual performance assessment. The

survey asks children and young people questions about their satisfaction with services (including aspects of their school life) and questions relating to the five Every Child Matters outcomes, including issues like healthy eating, participation in positive activities and safety. Ofsted believe the survey can offer statistically representative data, national benchmarks and statistical neighbour comparisons that other isolated local and/or qualitative approaches may not provide.

## **Options**

5. This is not a paper which is able to provide members with specific options.

## **Analysis**

6. The December 2008 APA formal letter of feedback is attached at Annex 1. This represents a further improvement from last year and is the best possible result an authority can achieve. The performance was only matched by 2 other authorities in the country. Nationally, the 2008 APA has seen some reductions in overall performance and attached at Annex 2 is a copy of a press release from Ofsted describing overall changes. The performance feedback received will ensure the best possible contribution from this area of activity to the overall performance rating of the council. Staff within the service, across partners and young people themselves should be congratulated for their success in improving outcomes for the children and young people of York. The few areas for improvement identified have either been already resolved or will be included in service plan priorities for 2009.

## **Corporate Priorities**

10. The feedback from the APA provides strong evidence of progress against corporate priorities as detailed in the corporate strategy. Specifically the feedback demonstrates progress to
  - Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city
  - Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services
  - Improve leadership at all levels to provide clear, consistent direction to the organisation
  - Improve the way the council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York
  - Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects

## **Implications**

11. Given the briefing nature of this report it does not carry specific financial, HR, equalities, legal, crime and disorder, IT or property implications.

## Risk Management

12. Poor or deteriorating assessed performance as part of an inspection process carries with it considerable risks. It undermines the confidence of local people in accessing services or seeking advice, it demoralises the workforce and makes recruitment an even greater challenge and it weakens the overall reputation of the council.

## Recommendations

13. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to note and comment on the outcome of the 2008 Annual Performance Assessment of children and young peoples services in York.

Reason: To inform Members of the outcome of the Annual Performance Assessment.

## Contact Details

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**Report Approved**

**Date** 16 December 2008

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** N/A

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background Papers:** None

## Annexes

**Annex 1: APA letter 2008**

**Annex 2: Ofsted Press Release 16 December 2008**