

County Council Meeting – 13 December 2011

Statement / Updates by Cabinet Members

Ofsted Annual Assessment of Children's Services; published November 2011

Ofsted continues to have a statutory responsibility to provide an annual performance rating for Children's Services for each local authority.

The Children's Services assessment covers all aspects of a local authority's responsibilities for children, including safeguarding, education and services for young people.

1. Ofsted guidance published in April 2011 explains that the annual assessment of Children's Services is derived from the performance profile of both the quality of services, and the outcomes for children and young people in each local area. This performance profile 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, together with data from relevant indicators.
2. In reaching the assessment of Children's Services, Ofsted took account of all inspected and regulated services for children and young people, arrangements for making sure children are safe and stay safe, and performance against a range of measures. Most weight was given to the outcomes of Ofsted's inspections and regulatory visits.

For 2011 Ofsted has assessed Surrey as performing well (a rating of 3 on a scale of 1 to 4, where 4 is best) and sustains the improvements of last year.

In its annual report Ofsted said that:

- **Children's Services in Surrey County Council perform well, and almost all children's services, settings and institutions inspected by Ofsted are good or outstanding.**
- **Surrey is good at keeping children and young people safe.**
- **Most primary schools and education in early years settings are good or outstanding.**
- **Most secondary schools are good or outstanding.**
- **All arrangements for adoption and fostering are good or outstanding.**
- **The majority of early years and childcare is good or outstanding.**
- **All children's homes remain good or outstanding.**

The Children, Schools and Families Directorate has worked hard to help provide Surrey children with the best possible start in life, and the Annual Inspection Report shows that we are getting it right in many ways.

The success is testament to the dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism of our staff, of whom we are very proud. However, we are not complacent. We are determined to make further progress for the benefit of children and young people in Surrey.

Mary Angell
Cabinet Member for Children and Families
13 December 2011