

**TO: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
18 JANUARY 2012**

**REPORT ON THE ANNUAL OFSTED ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN
BRACKNELL FOREST 2011**

Director of Children, Young People and Learning

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the Annual Ofsted Assessment of Children's Services.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Annual Assessment by Ofsted is noted.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In November Ofsted published an annual assessment of all Children's Services. These reports are based on the outcomes of a range of Ofsted regulated services for children and young people, coupled with judgements on the end of key stage performance tests for that year. The evidence includes the outcomes of childminder, schools and children's centre Ofsted inspections and any other inspections or regulatory processes relating to services for children and young people in Bracknell Forest.
- 3.2 The report includes an overall assessment grade on a four point scale.

4	3	2	1
Performs excellently	Performs well	Performs adequately	Performs poorly

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There are no alternatives.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The letter reporting the Ofsted assessment is attached as an appendix. The overall judgement is that our services perform well and they have been graded as a 3. There are many areas of strength identified in the report and the areas for development are already included in our Joint Strategic Plan for Children and Young People.

National context

- 5.2 The annual children's services assessment this year found that overall 28 authorities are performing excellently, 71 are performing well, 33 are providing adequate

Unrestricted

services and, similar to the previous year, 15 authorities are performing poorly. The outcomes for 5 authorities are not being published yet as further inspections are due to take place.

- 5.3 The following table provides a breakdown of the number of authorities achieving each grade in the 2011 children's services assessments:

Children's services assessments 2011	Number	Percentage
Performs excellently	28	18%
Performs well	71	41%
Performs adequately	33	22%
Performs poorly	15	10%
Judgements to be finalised	5	3%
Total	152	100%

Within each level there will be differing standards of provision. For example, an assessment of 'performs excellently' does not mean all aspects of provision are outstanding. Similarly, an assessment of 'performs poorly' does not mean there are no adequate or even good aspects.

Five of the Berkshire Local Authorities achieved 'performs well' in the Children's Services Assessment 2011. Slough was 'performs poorly' due to an inadequate judgement on their Safeguarding and Looked After Inspection, this was for safeguarding which becomes a limiting judgement.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Borough solicitor has been consulted about the contents of this report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from reporting the outcome from the Ofsted review.

Contact for further information

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