

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b><i>THE OUTCOMES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN</i></b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b><i>ALL</i></b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b><i>MEMBERS OF THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN TASK &amp; FINISH GROUP</i></b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides background information regarding the Final Report of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Review.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 At the meeting of the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012, Members discussed the possibility of commencing an in-depth Scrutiny Review regarding the outcomes for Looked After Children in the Borough. An in-depth Scrutiny Review had been previously undertaken regarding the Outcomes for Children in Foster Care. A report of the work done by a Members' working group was produced in April 2008. By November 2012, Members agreed that it was appropriate to undertake a review on the related topic of the 'Outcomes for Looked After Children'.

2.2 Members agreed that a Task & Finish Group should be formed to undertake the detailed work. The members of that group were:

- Councillor Wendy Clements (Chair)
- Councillor Walter Smith
- Councillor Pat Williams

2.3 On the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013, a further meeting of the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved the Scope for the Review.

### 3.0 EVIDENCE GATHERING

3.1 The Task & Finish Group Members commenced by meeting with groups of children in care and with care leavers. Further meetings have been held with foster carers and with a whole range of officers responsible for service delivery. In addition, two visits to schools were arranged. The Panel members express their thanks to all those who have assisted the review by so readily giving their time, experience and suggestions.

3.2 The Final Report, 'The Outcomes for Looked After Children' is attached for consideration by the Committee.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) Members are requested to support the contents and recommendations of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Review;
- (2) The Looked After Children Scrutiny Report will be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting;
- (3) An update report regarding the progress being made towards the implementation of the recommendations will be presented to the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee in approximately one year (that is, September 2014).

#### **Report of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Task & Finish Group Members:**

**Cllr Wendy Clements (Chair)**  
**Cllr Walter Smith**  
**Cllr Pat Williams**

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