

Title of Report:	Report & Action Plan of the Annual Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral & Assessment Arrangements within West Berkshire
Report to be considered by:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	31 March 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	EX2206

Purpose of Report: To present the findings to the Executive of the recent unannounced inspection of the authority's Contact, Referral and Assessment arrangements.

Recommended Action: To note the report and agree the action plan.

Reason for decision to be taken: Statutory requirement

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: Unannounced inspection of safeguarding services in West Berkshire, November 2010

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Plan Themes:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPT11 - Protecting Vulnerable People
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPT16 - Excellent Performance Management
The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Plan Priorities and Themes by:	

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Gordon Lundie - Tel (01488) 73350
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Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	20 January 2011

Contact Officer Details	
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Implications

Policy: none
Financial: none
Personnel: none
Legal/Procurement: none
Property: none
Risk Management: none
Equalities Impact Assessment: Report for information only and therefore no EIA required..

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary and report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An unannounced Ofsted inspection of West Berkshire Council's Children's Services contact, referral and assessment arrangements was carried out on 16th and 17th November 2010. The previous unannounced inspection was carried out on the 12th and 13th January 2010.
- 1.2 The inspectors spend two days considering a range of evidence as to the quality and effectiveness and impact of the service, including reading case records, supervision files and observing and interviewing a range of staff.
- 1.3 The findings were published in a report on 15th Dec 2010 (see attached Appendices A) and will contribute to the annual review of the performance of the authority's children's services, for which Ofsted will award a rating later in the year.

2. Proposals - findings

- 2.1 The Inspectors found that the area of priority action identified in January had been fully addressed and the previous areas of development with one exception.
- 2.2 The findings overall were very positive with three areas of strength, many areas of good practise that meet requirements and some areas for development.
- 2.3 One of the areas of strength, recognised by the inspectors, was the effective delivery of early intervention services, including good use of the CAF and our Locality Network system. West Berkshire was nationally praised for this in the December edition of the publication "Children and Young People Now"

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The findings of the report were accepted by Children's Services.
- 3.2 The Referral and Assessment Team Action Plan has been revised to address the areas for development that have been identified (see appendices B)

Appendices

Appendix A – Report of Inspection Findings of the Unannounced Inspection November 2010

Appendix B - Referral and Assessment Team Inspection Action Plan

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: Not consulted

Officers Consulted: Children's services management team 11th Jan 2011 , Corporate Board

Trade Union: Not consulted