

Title of Report:	Castle Gate Statement of Purpose
Report to be considered by:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	EX2296

Purpose of Report: To present Members with a copy of the Castle Gate's annual revision of its Statement of Purpose as required by the Children's Homes Regulations 2001.

Recommended Action: To agree the revised Statement of Purpose.

Reason for decision to be taken: To comply with the Children's Homes Regulations 2001.

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: The Castle Gate Short Break Service Statement of Purpose 2011/12.

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Plan Priority:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPP1 – Support our communities through the economic downturn – to alleviate the impact on different communities and individuals who find themselves out of work and/or disadvantaged
The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Plan Themes:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPT11 - Protecting Vulnerable People
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPT13 - Value for Money
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPT14 - Effective People
The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Plan Priorities and Themes by: working in partnership with parents, carers and other professionals to provide a stimulating and supportive environment which promotes independence	

Portfolio Member Details	
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Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	18 June 2011

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Implications

Policy: None

Financial: None

Personnel: None

Legal/Procurement: The Care Standards Act 2000 and the National Minimum Standards and the Children's Home Regulations 2001 require that a residential home have a statement of purpose that is reviewed and agreed annually by elected members

Property: None

Risk Management: None

Equalities Impact Assessment: See attached

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 Castle Gate is a respite centre for young people with disabilities and their families. It provides short breaks for young people who have learning and/or physical disabilities and are living at home with their family; many of the young people also present challenging behaviour. The Castle Gate service is subject to external regulation and is required to produce a Statement of Purpose to the council's Executive Committee on an annual basis. This paper introduces the Statement of Purpose and explains the changes since last year.

2. The Castle Gate Short Break Service

2.1 The Castle Gate is a registered respite unit for six children and young people, two of whom can be under eight years of age. It offers overnight care, day care, after school care and support groups, mostly on a planned basis. It is jointly funded by Berkshire West PCT and West Berkshire Council, and is managed by the Children and Young People's Directorate within West Berkshire Council.

2.2 The Castle Gate service aims to provide the highest quality of care to children and Young People which is tailored to individual need. The service seeks to work in partnership with parents, carers and other professionals to provide a stimulating and supportive environment which promotes independence.

2.3 The Statement of Purpose is little changed from that approved by members last year. There are a few changes to note. Castle Gate Service is subject to external registration and inspection by Ofsted. Two unannounced inspections have taken place in 2010/11, both with the overall quality rating of Good. Ofsted commented that 'the well managed staff team work hard to ensure that children and young people have a good time whilst staying at the home.' Improvements include the introduction of communication passports containing key information that travel with the child to each setting, and regular consultation events with families.

2.4 Monthly unannounced visits continue to be undertaken to check on different aspects of the care provided and to talk to the children, young people and staff on duty. In West Berkshire this is done by a senior council officer and a Councillor.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The revised Statement of Purpose reflects the changes and improvements in the past year and updates key information.

Appendices

Appendix A – Castle Gate Statement of Purpose
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: Not consulted

Officers Consulted: Rachel Palin, Lorna Hunt, Caroline Simmonds, Juliet Penley,
Denise Cooke, Sue Adamantos, Corporate Board

Trade Union: Not consulted