

SCRUTINY COMMENTS

Domiciliary Care and Short Breaks Services for Children with Disabilities

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee met on 01 December 2017 and considered a report concerning the Domiciliary Care and Short Breaks Services for Children with Disabilities. The Committee supported the recommendations included in the report and highlighted the need to ensure a consistency of service across Lincolnshire.

The Committee agreed to pass on the following comments to the Executive Councillor as part of her consideration of this item.

- The Committee highlighted the need to develop greater interest in the market in order to resolve the issues encountered with recruitment and retention of carers across Lincolnshire. The Committee also highlighted that on many occasions Children's Services competed with Adult Services for the same pool of staff. Officers highlighted that many local authorities faced very similar local pressures in respect of recruitment in their localities as a result from competition from other employers. It was confirmed that work was being undertaken with providers to develop a wider range of skills and interest within the market.
- A member of the Committee highlighted the reducing annual value of these contracts and queried whether this had led to a reduction in overall quality. Officers confirmed that service feedback remained very positive, and while there had been some missed appointments overall quality of care was good with training provided to staff also being very positive.
- A member of the Committee queried the level of uptake of direct payments by service users within this area. Officers confirmed that around 110 families out of 250 took direct payments, however it was reported that these families often also encountered the same issues with recruitment and retention of carers.