

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	24 April 2015
Subject:	Annual Review of Children's Centres

Summary:

This report gives an overview of the work of Children's Centres in Lincolnshire highlighting the impact that has been achieved on delivering improved outcomes for children and their families as well as identifying the areas for development to ensure that children and families receive the best service possible.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to comment on the contents of the report and make any further recommendations as they see fit for the continued development of Children's Centres in Lincolnshire.

1. Background

An analysis of the Children's Centres' activity over the last year shows that 2013/14 has been a good year for Lincolnshire Children's Centres with a substantial increase in registrations and engagement with families and three Ofsted inspections - all achieving 'Good' in all areas. Other areas that show good achievements are: the Early Years Foundation Stage Profiles, early education for 2yrs old least disadvantaged, quality improvement, the development of the advisory boards and the contract management.

The review of the year has helped us to identify areas for improvement such as health outcomes (breastfeeding, obesity) and also the need to continue and diversify programmes that aim to break the link between disadvantage and low achievement.

2. Conclusion

The overview of Children's Centres would indicate that children are accessing a quality early years provision in Lincolnshire Children Centres; this contributes to their readiness for school and adult life.

A number of priority areas have been identified such as the use of data and feedback from families to improve services; tracking of progress and impact; to develop closer links with midwifery and health visiting colleagues whilst focusing on improving health outcomes; to further develop the engagement of volunteers and support employability prospects.

The centres will also build on the successes in registering and engaging, and continue to implement effective universal and targeted approaches that will make a sustained difference to young children’s outcomes and ensure that no child is left behind.

We strive to deliver a quality service and believe in continuing improvement, and will therefore continue with our Quality Improvement programme by implementing Peer Reviews, Mock Inspections and Mystery Visits.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children’s Centre Review Report

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Cornelia Andrecut, who can be contacted on 01522555020 or cornelia.andrecut@lincolnshire.gov.uk.