

## **Ofsted Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements**

1. This report is to update members on the findings of the recent inspection which took place in July 2011.
2. All local authorities are subject to an annual inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment in children's services. This is a two day inspection when inspectors arrive unannounced and spend time with referral and assessment team staff to form a view about front-line practice and processes for children in need and who may need protection.
3. The inspection outcome was good as there were no priority actions identified and it acknowledged that the majority of the areas of development identified at the previous inspection in July 2010 have been addressed. It identified areas of strength and areas of practice that met requirements, with some areas for development. The full inspection report is included at appendix 1.
4. An action plan has been developed to address the areas for development. This is included as appendix 2.
5. The Referral and Assessment Teams have been reorganised in the last year, finally coming together as a single team based in Devizes in June 2011. The inspectors commented positively on this change. A briefing is included as appendix 3 to give the Committee an overview of the team's recent activity, improved performance and plans for the next few months.
6. The committee is asked to note:
  - The outcome of the inspection and content of the action plan,
  - The improved performance of the referral and assessment team in recent months.

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