

Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Children's Services Risks and Priorities

Priorities

- ❖ Prioritise improving attainment in schools below the floor target
- ❖ Keeping children and young people safe and healthy
- ❖ Manage our current budget and deliver further savings (in 11/12) whilst determining appropriate 'invest to save' opportunities and achieve effective commissioning and procurement of services
- ❖ Maintain positive outcomes from inspections
- ❖ Production of a coherent 'early help' strategy including delivery of the Think Family pilot
- ❖ Achieving best value high quality services within a continuous improvement culture
- ❖ Develop a 0-25 children with disabilities integrated service
- ❖ Maintain effective partnership arrangements including exploring joint funding opportunities
- ❖ Developing the 14 – 19 offer to enable young people to aspire

Risks

- ❖ Child death or serious injury and increase in young people with compromised lifestyles and outcomes (including mental health, drug and alcohol abuse etc)
- ❖ Demands for social care services continuing to exceed resources

- ❖ Pressure on placements and on (CIOC) and children subject to CP plans (leading to budget pressure)
- ❖ Challenges of recruiting to and retaining qualified posts with experienced staff (particularly social work)
- ❖ Inspection outcome resulting in 'inadequate' judgement
- ❖ Failure to meet income targets for childcare (leading to budget pressures) (Early Years)
- ❖ Growth in Academies and Free Schools and associated resource implications (for schools and LA)
- ❖ Continued increase in Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) and YOT numbers and the impact of changes to Connexions service