

Summary of the assurance provided by external inspection that safeguarding practice in Brighton and Hove is effective

Ofsted Annual Performance Assessment:

Safeguarding and child protection services provided or commissioned by the CYPT were judged to be adequate by the Joint Area review in 2006 and improved to good in Ofsted's Annual Performance Assessment (APA) in 2007 and 2008.

In 2008 Ofsted found that in respect of Staying Safe:

'The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good. The council's analysis of its strengths and areas for development for this outcome area is consistent with the evidence.

The CYPT's major strengths were:

- Initial and core assessments of children in need are completed in a timely fashion.
- The LSCB works effectively at both a strategic and operational level to ensure children and young people are safeguarded.
- A range of new, targeted family support strategies and services offering early intervention and support, are beginning to have a good impact on improving outcomes for children and their families.
- Multi-agency Area Panels provide good managerial support and oversight of a range of work with children and young people at high risk in various circumstances.

Ofsted also identified the following important weaknesses and areas for development:

- The common assessment framework for children and young people with additional needs was not being used with all age groups by the required date of March 2008.
- The proportion of reviews of looked after children completed on time has fallen.

Better Standards for Health:

All NHS Trusts complete an annual Self Assessment for Standards for Better Health returns to the Healthcare Commission. For 2007/8 all NHS Trusts in Brighton and Hove reported themselves to be compliant with Core Standard 2 Safeguarding Children.

Also during 2007/8 the Safeguarding Advisor from the Department of H undertook, on behalf of the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority and independent review of NHS Trusts Safeguarding arrangements across the region. Brighton and Hove were classified as green and as having robust arrangements in place.

