

JOINT AREA REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Report By: **SUE FIENNES, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To advise on the latest position on progress with the JAR improvement Plan.

Financial Implications

2. The Directorate budget for 2006-07 has an allocation of £100 k. to contribute to improvement on safeguarding and funds have been secured to deliver further safeguarding checks.

Considerations

3. The attached revised Joint Area Review (JAR) improvement plan (Appendix 1) has now been accepted by Department for Education & Skills (DfES).
4. The DfES review is concluded and discussions are on-going between the Council and DfES about the proposals to ensure sustained improvement at the right pace. The DfES review report will go forward to the Minister for Children & Families with recommendations as to how to move forward.
5. There is a significant statement in the report which confirms the improvements and actions already completed:

“the key message ... is that the response to the JAR has been positive and services have improved as a result”.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Committee note the progress outlined in the report and request any further information to assist in measuring the outcomes outlined by the Committee on 31st May.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified.