

BEST VALUE REVIEWS UPDATE

Report By: Head of Business Services

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

1. To report on the progress with current Best Value Reviews.

Financial Implications

2. None identified.

Background

3. The Committee has received a number of update reports on current Best Value review work. There are currently three Best Value reviews ongoing and the purpose of this report is to update the Committee on current progress.

Physical Disability (Lead officer Carole Protherough –Locality Team Manager)

4. The Stage 1 report was presented to this Committee on 8th April 2004. The Stage 2 report was completed in the summer and discussed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, who supported progression to Stage 3 of the review. The final report will be submitted to the December meeting of this Committee.
5. The review team, representing a wide range of stakeholders continues to meet regularly. There continues to be a core of actively involved members, including service user representation and elected Members. Current work taking place includes the following:
 - Consultation - a report on the results of the consultation exercise has been completed.
 - Benchmarking – a benchmarking exercise has been carried out with comparable authorities.
 - Newsletter – a newsletter has been produced to provide people who have been involved in the initial stages of consultation with information on progress.
 - Options Appraisal – the outcomes of consultation and benchmarking will inform the options appraisal, which will take place in the Autumn.

Private Sector Housing (Lead officer – Denise Bradley-Lloyd – Private Sector Housing Manager)

6. The Stage 3 report has been subject to some delay. Some additional staffing resource has now been identified: the lead officer is currently in the process of re-engaging with the Best Value Review team members and an awayday is planned to focus direction in taking this forward. The timetable plans for completion and reporting to this Committee in the April – June 2005 period.

Adoption and Fostering (Lead officer – Jon Dudley – Children Services Manager)

7. The Committee received an update report on 8th April 2004. The report advised of the inspection of the Fostering Service by the National Care Standards Commission (now the Commission for Social Care Inspection) which had taken place in March 2004. The timescale for the completion of the Best Value review of Adoption and Fostering was brought into line with the requirement to produce an action plan in response to the inspection. This is subject to a separate report on this agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified