Report to:	Scrutiny Committee		
Date:	31 January 2008		
Report of:	Director of Children's Services	**Report No:**	11
Contact Officer:	Margaret Asquith	**Tele No:**	(33) 2010
Report Title:	**Joint Area Review**		
Confidential / Non Confidential:	(***Non-Confidential***) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public		
Purpose:	To report the JAR recommendations and outcomes to Scrutiny Committee members		
Recommendations:	The Committee is asked to note the report		
Decision:			
Background Doc(s):	Ofsted report – Joint Area Review, Bolton Children's Services		

Summary: *(on its own page with background docs)*	This report outlines the Joint Area Review (JAR) of Bolton's Children's Services

Introduction

The Joint Area Review of Children's Services in Bolton was carried out between June and September 2007, the final report was published on 21st December 2007. This report highlights the areas of investigation and the judgements made into these areas.

Summary

All Joint Area Reviews carry out investigations into:

- Safeguarding
- Children Looked After
- Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

In addition the inspection team decided to investigate:

- 14-19 strategy
- Sexual health outcomes
- Community cohesion

Judgements against each area of investigation can be any one of the following:

- inadequate
- adequate
- good
- outstanding

Outcomes

The judgements for Bolton's Children's Services are as follows:

1. Safeguarding - good
2. Looked After Children – adequate
3. Learning disabilities/disabilities – good
4. 14-19 – adequate
5. community cohesion – good
6. sexual health outcomes – good

In addition to the areas of investigation, the JAR also made a judgement on the management of services for children and young people and capacity to improve, which concluded this was good.

The detail of the judgements is contained in the full report which is attached at appendix 1.

Conclusion

The Joint Area Review contributed to the Councils corporate assessment process.

The Director of Children's Services is required by DCSF to report the outcome of the Joint Area Review to the Council's Executive and also to produce an action plan for the areas highlighted by the review, which will also be reported to the Executive.

Equality Impact Assessment

This report does not require an EIA as it does not seek a policy decision from the Formal Executive Member.