

# Children & Families Inspection feedback

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

# Background

- Last Joint Area Review – 2006
- Safeguarding and Looked After Children- separate judgements
- 1<sup>st</sup> and last Safeguarding / Looked After Children inspection
- New inspection regime being piloted

# Judgement

- Adequate across safeguarding and looked after children
- Some good judgements in Looked After Children, including capacity to improve

# Key Messages

## Positive

- Children are protected and are safe
- Child Protection thresholds are appropriate
- “Has improved service provision from a low base..”
- Improvements in recruitment and retention of staff
- Corporate parenting and Care in Action
- Good LAC strategy and Safeguarding Action plan

# Key Messages

## Positive

- Role of Advanced Practitioner
- Staff morale
- Managers are accessible with sufficient oversight
- Partnerships with Child Abuse Investigation Team, Freeman Centre

# Observations

- Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessments are low and limited health engagement
- Query around early intervention
- Auditing-in place but not yet sufficiently well developed. Links to quality improvement
- Timescales-S47 to conference
- Service reductions

# Areas for improvement

- Links between strategies, plans and performance management
- Strategic articulation of vision
- Service user views
- Health of LAC - inadequate (immediate)

# Areas for improvement

- Assessments
  - Variable quality
  - Not taking account of family history
  - Limited contingency planning for LAC
- Child Protection / Child in Need plans are not sufficiently SMART
- Supervision of staff - quality is too variable (immediate)



# Areas for improvement

- Pathway plans
- Placement stability
- Adoption and permanency
- Safe recruitment

# Overall

- Developing from a low base
- On a journey but have further to go
- Many of the issues were known
- Next steps-
  - immediates under way already
  - An accelerated comprehensive programme of improvements
  - Action plan