



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
19 JUNE 2013**

**SUBJECT: THEMATIC REVIEW – THE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS
OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Committee to scrutinise a report on a thematic review and approve the follow-up action plan.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III D (3) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council in respect of looked after children and young people leaving care.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:
 - scrutinises and notes the contents of the thematic review report (APPENDIX 1); and
 - approves the plan to address the follow-up actions required (APPENDIX 2).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At a meeting on 12 December 2012, the Children and Young People's Services Committee scrutinised and endorsed the department's plans for self-evaluation, including thematic reviews (paragraph 10 of the minute refers).
- 3.2 The Continuous Improvement Team (including Peer Reviewers) undertook the first of the planned thematic reviews into 'The Attainment and Achievements of Looked After Children' in February 2013.
- 3.3 The report on the outcomes of the review, including areas for improvement are contained in **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.4 Following consultations within their respective sections the Heads of Integrated Children's Services and Schools and Curriculum Development

have prepared an action plan to address the areas for improvement. This is contained in **APPENDIX 2**.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The contents of this report relate to SOA Priority 2 'Ambitious and confident children and young people' and the Education and Social Care Priority of 'Improving learning and attainment'.

(b) Policy and Legal

The contents of this report relate to Guidance to the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 'Children who are looked after should have the same educational opportunities as all other children for education, including further and higher education, and access to other opportunities for development' and the Education (Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2009 which deems that 'all looked after children have additional support needs unless the education authority determines that they do not require additional support to benefit from school education'.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

(d) Risk implications

Failure to act on the points for improvement contained in the report may result in some looked after children being disadvantaged in terms of educational outcomes.

(e) Staffing implications

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities

The proposed actions will assist the Moray Council in meeting its public sector equality duty of having due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity for children with additional support needs.

(h) Consultations

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care); members of the Education and Social Care Senior Management Team; Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant; Margaret Forrest, Legal Services Manager; Katrina McGillivray, Senior Human Resources Adviser; and Don Toonen, Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted on this report and agree with the sections of the report relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 That the Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report and approves the plan to address the areas for improvement.**

Author of Report: Paul Watson, Continuous Improvement Team Manager

Background Papers:

Ref: