

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

18 OCTOBER 2016

ITEM NO 13 - NO CONFIDENCE IN COUNCILLOR JAN GAVIN

Councillor Duveen to move:

This Council accepts the recent OFSTED report on Children's Services in Reading and undertakes to follow its recommendations fully.

This Council recognises that prior to this report Children's Services in Reading have been in disarray and children being cared for by the Council have been let down.

This Council also notes that the recovery from the dire state that the service was in has been led by new officers and is currently tackling the shortcomings and improving the service to supported children to good effect.

The OFSTED report criticised, in particular, the Managing Director of RBC, the senior officers who worked in Children's Services and the 'Political Leadership'.

The Council notes that:

- the Managing Director has resigned.
- that the officers who were directly involved in the governance of Children's Services over the last few years have all resigned and have been replaced.
- that the third party involved in the governance of Children's Services and specifically criticised in the report, the Political Leadership, has yet to accept its responsibilities in running a failed service.

This Council believes that it is not right that senior officers accepted their responsibilities for past failures but Lead Councillors carry on as though nothing has happened. The Lead Councillor for Children's Services should also shoulder the blame for several years of neglect that has provided poor quality care for some of the young people that this Council was looking after.

Given the findings of the OFSTED report this Council calls on Cllr Jan Gavin to accept responsibility for past failures and to resign her post as Lead Councillor.