

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE PANEL  
MONDAY, 27 JULY 2009**

Councillors Davies, Jones (Chair), Mallett and Oatway

Also Present: Sylvia Chew, Hilary Corrick, Mark Gurrey.

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>	<b>ACTON BY</b>
CSPPP21	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
CSPPP22	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
CSPPP23	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
CSPPP24	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2009 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
CSPPP25	<p><b>TRAINING SESSION</b></p> <p>The Chair advised the Panel that in relation to progress with obtaining Criminal Records Bureau checks for Panel members, efforts to fast track the process had not been possible. The Assistant Chief Executive (People &amp; Organisational Development) had provided interim authorisation for the Panel to undertake audits of case files in lieu of receiving their CRB checks.</p> <p>The independent member of the Panel and the Interim Head of Service (Referral &amp; Assessment) provided members with an overview of Referral and Assessment (R&amp;A) systems and procedures and the operation of the service at Haringey.</p> <p>The Framework-I computer system is used at Haringey to manage the range of contacts received daily by the service and to facilitate the filtering process determining the appropriate outcome for each contact. Service standards require that decisions are made by a manager in regards to contacts within 24 hours of receipt, with performance against this target currently being achieved.</p> <p>Threshold judgements are used to determine whether contacts are designated as requiring no further action or progress to become social service referrals or referred to other agencies to action as appropriate</p>	

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<p>such as health visitors, schools etc. A new threshold document was currently being developed based on pan-London adopted thresholds centred around 4 levels of intervention, with the draft to be endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in September. The document would then be disseminated to relevant agencies and form the basis of future training.</p>	
<p>Contacts determined as requiring further action are designated as referrals, with those of an urgent basis relating to child protection concerns referred immediately to the Police Child Abuse and Investigation Team and a strategy meeting held. For referrals of a less urgent nature but where further information gathering was required, an initial assessment considering issues such as the needs of the child, home environment etc should be carried out by a manager within 7 working days. The Panel were advised that currently this target is not being achieved at Haringey, with cases currently subject to a waiting system due to the ongoing impact of a historical backlog of referrals on service performance. Recruitment and retention issues in the R&amp;A service have also impacted on performance although six newly qualified social workers have been assigned to help reduce the backlog. Confirmation was provided that the cases on the waiting list were subject to review and re-audit by the Interim Head of Service on a fortnightly basis.</p>	
<p>The Panel were advised that current contact levels have seen a 90% increase since April 2009 from 2007/08 levels to around 291-376 a week and that a relatively low level of contacts received become referrals. The Panel requested that further information be received to a future meeting summarising the source of contacts notified to the service to assess any potential areas of over or under-referring. The Panel were advised that work was being undertaken with the Police to encourage a more integrated approach between the Public Protection desk and the council in relation to contacts, as Police notifications constituted the majority of daily contacts received by the council, with all cases with reference to children forwarded to the R&amp;A service without initial screening.</p>	<p>AD S/guarding</p>
<p>In response to concerns regarding the low level of contacts on the designated day originating from health services, confirmation was provided that typically greater level of daily contacts were received from hospitals, GPs and health visitors. Work was being undertaken to improve engagement of GPs with child protection including the reformatting of assessment forms and considering approaches with the Lead GP for Haringey. The Panel requested information on GP attendance at child protection training and conferences and agreed to raise as a matter of concern the issue of mandatory child protection training for GPs with the Cabinet.</p>	<p>AD S/guarding/ Chair</p>
<p>The Panel considered the ethnic breakdown of contacts received on the designated day and the predominance from the black British group. The Panel requested that the September meeting receive further information analysing the impact of ethnicity on contacts, referrals, initial assessments and child protection plans to the service based around a</p>	<p>Head Service (R &amp; A)</p>

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	<p>monthly sampling exercise. The Panel also requested a further breakdown of figures under the black British category and comparative borough ethnicity data so any cultural and language barriers potentially impacting on safeguarding could be identified.</p> <p>The Panel were advised that domestic violence remained the single most significant issue impacting on the wellbeing of children and that work was being undertaken examining responses to domestic violence and exploring opportunities for intervention at an earlier stage. Domestic violence was suggested as a future agenda item for the Panel.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Panel receive a copy of the new safeguarding threshold document following endorsement by the LSCB.</li> <li>• That the September meeting of the Panel receive a breakdown of ethnicity in relation to contacts, referrals, initial assessments and child protection plans based on a monthly sample.</li> </ul>	<p>Head Service (R &amp; A)</p> <p>AD S/guarding</p> <p>Head Service (R &amp; A)</p>
<p><b>CSPPP26</b></p>	<p><b>REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE CONTACTS</b></p> <p>The Panel considered audit summaries of contacts received to the R&amp;A service on a designated day.</p>	
<p><b>CSPPP27</b></p>	<p><b>CASE FILE QUALITY AUDITING</b></p> <p>The Panel considered eight referrals selected by the Chair and independent member from the contacts received to the R&amp;A service on the designated day. The selection process had particularly focused on referrals relating to children under five and concerns related to neglect.</p> <p>Each referral was considered on an individual basis, with five selected to be tracked onwards by the Panel to monitor progress. It was suggested that chronologies and/or summaries and key documents such as initial assessments be produced for the more complex cases to keep the level of detail to a manageable level for the Panel.</p> <p>Officers also suggested that the Panel underwent a demonstration session on the Framework-I system and proposed that the next meeting of the Panel be held in a suitable location to allow members to follow progress of the selected cases on screen using Framework-I.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That five referrals selected from those contacts received on the designated day be tracked by the Panel on an on-going basis.</li> <li>• That the agenda for the September meeting of the Panel include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short training session on initial assessments delivered by Hilary Corrick</li> <li>○ Progress updates against the five referrals through consideration of summaries, chronologies and/or key</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Head Service (R &amp; A)/ AD S/guarding</p> <p>Head Service (R &amp; A)/ AD S/guarding Hilary Corrick</p> <p>Head</p>

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	documents circulated in advance of the meeting and via an onscreen demonstration of the Framework-I system at the meeting.	Service (R & A)/ AD S/guard
<b>CSPPP28</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>  There were no items of further business.	

Cllr Emma Jones

Chair