



<b>Briefing for:</b>	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
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<b>Title:</b>	DISABLED CHILDREN AUDIT
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Hilary Corrick, Independent Member
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<b>Date:</b>	19th April 2012
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**1. Background information**

The Committee met with the Head of Service, Children and Young People with Disabilities and Additional Needs, Phil Di Leo, in July 2011. She described the systems in place in Haringey to protect and safeguard children and young people with disabilities and additional needs. The Committee discussed the possibility of auditing referrals to the safeguarding service of children with additional needs especially those who fall below the threshold for services from the team for disabled children.

I met with Phil DiLeo and her deputy, Jeannette Brand, and we discussed their internal audit programme and the role of an independent audit.

**2. Current audit programme**

The Disabled Children Policy and Practice Review Group are carrying out a multi-agency review of an individual child. This will look at the assessments made, the services provided and the timescales for all services involved with the chosen case. The review involves the young person's school, health and social care services completing the audit tool independently. This will provide information about gaps, overlaps and possible efficiencies. There will be feedback from the child, if appropriate, and family on their experience of the services they have received. This review is due to be reported to the Disabled Children Policy and Practice Review Group in May.



**Haringey** Council

There is also a plan to audit in partnership with the Domestic Violence Coordinator, Deirdre Cregan, all recent cases of domestic violence referred to the Disabled Children's Team and the First Response service, where the family includes a child known to the Disabled Children's Team. This will be completed by the end of July.

**3. Proposed additional audit**

The head of Service proposes to explore with her colleague from the health therapy service, an audit of all children who give cause for concern to the health visiting service but do not meet the threshold for child protection planning, where domestic violence is thought to be a feature within the family and one of the children is thought to have additional needs which do not meet the threshold for services from the Disabled Children's Team. These children would be cross referenced with referrals to First Response. An audit would look in detail at those children to see whether adequate consideration had been given to the additional needs of those children. At the moment these children fall below the radar of the Disabled Children's team and there might well be a role for training and support to social workers in other teams.

**4. A report to this Committee**

It is proposed to report on all three of these pieces of work to the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Advisory Committee in September 2012 if this Committee agrees.