



<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Joint Meeting of Corporate Parenting Advisory Group and Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 6 March 2014</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Quality Assurance Report</b>
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<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	<b>Lisa Redfern</b> Director, Children's Services (Acting)
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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Myra O'Farrell</b> Assistant Director, Quality Assurance
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>Report for Non Key Decision:</b>
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## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

### 1.1 Quality Assurance

The purpose of this report is to brief Corporate Parenting and Children's safeguarding Policy and Practice members on quality assurance in relation to our progress against performance data and audit activity. In other words 'how well we know ourselves'. Areas for consideration in this report are:

### 1.2 Audits

Two areas were undertaken this month. Domestic abuse and s.47/strategy meetings, discussions to assess quality and attendance to ensure compliance with *Working Together 2013*:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00213160/working-together-to-safeguard-children> .

### 1.3 Domestic Abuse Audit

18 cases were audited for the audit. The methodology included tracking each case from the point of entry into the service via the screening and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) processes currently in place.



**Highlights included:**

- The Audit highlighted good information sharing between agencies on 74% of cases;
- Consideration of risk was evidenced at an early stage on 72% of cases; however, this indicated that approximately 25% of cases audited did not meet the above requirement;
- 67% evidenced management direction on cases;
- In 80% (8:10) protection plans were considered to be clear and to provide direction to both victim and perpetrator of what actions were needed to reduce risks and improve the safety of the child;
- 90% plans included actions that supported as well as monitored. Tasks were realistic and achievable in 89% of those cases;
- A small cohort of children became subject to Children in Need (CIN) plans. These were primarily step down plans from Child protection. Auditors noted that where the plans included the perpetrator 75% saw those plans being effective. However, auditors noted a lack of services/resources for perpetrators currently in Haringey. Auditors recommended that this be taken forward to support both children subject to child protection plans and children subject to CIN plans;
- Systems to develop genograms and multi-agency chronologies to be developed. These are being developed currently to support the realignment of the MASH;
- Auditors highlighted the quality of referrals being received from agencies referring in needed to be improved, therefore recommended that training be offered to them to address. The training officer for the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) is due in March 2014 when this will be addressed. Auditors also noted that training on direct work with young children who experience domestic abuse should occur to develop a confident workforce in this area of work, to enable their voice to be distinctly heard;
- Findings also highlighted a lack of evidence being present to demonstrate research influencing practice and decision making. This is being addressed through a number of mediums. The Principal Social Worker highlights specific training such as Domestic Violence (DV) and tools to support practice as part of his role. OFSTED preparation focus groups are currently on offer to staff to enable them to know what to focus in preparing for inspection.
- Review pathways to refer to other forums such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) for CYPS as these appear to be high; and
- Supervision of all staff to occur as per the supervision policy on a monthly basis.

All of the above have now been developed into an action plan with the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator leading on this for CYPS. There will be another audit using the same parameters as before to assess progress against the actions above later in the year.



**1.4 Section 47 / Quality of strategy meetings/discussions to ensure compliance with *Working Together 2013***

The methodology of this audit links to an agreement at the Quality Assurance sub group of the HSCB for all agencies to audit the same number of cases and the same cases from each perspective and discuss the findings alongside the development of an action plan. Five cases were selected. The number is small on this occasion as the purpose was to ensure quality was assessed rather than quantity.

**1.5 Planning and preparation for Inspection**

To support a co-ordinated approach to audit activity the audit programme for the year has been developed and is aligned with the needs of the organisation in preparation with OFSTED readiness and performance data. This will be reviewed on a three monthly basis through the Quality Assurance Board to ensure alignment remains.

**1.6 Data for Safeguarding and Looked after Children**

The number of children subject to a child protection plan in January was 184. However this number is rising and as of week beginning 10 ~February 2014 this had risen to 192. This has increased since early January from 164-192 and is an increase of nearly 30 children. This appears rapid but reflects the population size and the apparent low numbers previously and the high numbers for LAC. The use of the child protection plan being used to protect children in the community is welcome.

The number of Looked after Children as also increased but at a slower rate and as of 10 February 2014 the number was 533. There are some anomalies with the looked after data as there appear to be a number of children being placed away from their home for short periods and then placed back. Data to date indicates that the police service appears to be undertaking Police Powers of Protection orders which last for 72 hours and have a stipulated placement for the child, thus tying up placements for that period. Further investigation is required to understand what is occurring behind this data, this is being managed through the audit programme that will audit this area later in the year.

40 Young people will cease to Looked After by June 2014 as they will by then have reached their 18th birthday.

The quality of child protection plans and LAC care plans is the current focus of activity as part of the process of 'knowing ourselves' as part of our preparation for inspection in the short term and improving practice in the medium and long term. Audit activity is being organised to assess the quality of care plans by the end of February / beginning of March 2014.

**2. Actions from Previous meetings**



**Haringey** Council

## 2.1 Updated LADO Report

Independent reviewing officers (IROs) should report on whether young people know about their rights and entitlements. IRO managers should include this in their annual report to the Corporate Parenting Board.