

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 1 APRIL 2014**

Councillors Browne, Corrick, Hare, Scott and Stewart (Chair)

Apologies Councillor Adamou

Also Present: Councillor Waters, Myra O'Farrell, Nasima Patel, Richard Hutton, Margaret Gallagher, Ayshe Simsek

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
TEX191.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Adamou and Lisa Redfern.	Clerk
TEX192.	URGENT BUSINESS There were no items of urgent business put forward.	
TEX193.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest put forward.	
TEX194.	MINUTES Agreed adding to TEX185, penultimate paragraph, <i>recording the reasons for stepping down a Section 47 investigation.</i> The rest of the minutes were approved as an accurate record.	Clerk
TEX195.	MATTERS ARISING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to add a presentation of the quality assurance audit programme to the meeting on the 14th July. • Agreed that the clerk, Independent Member and Interim Assistant Director for Quality Assurance meet with the new Chair of the Committee in June 2014, to compile the agenda plan of items for 2014/15. • Noted that false allegations made to the LADO are recorded as not substantiated by all parties and kept a log of. 	Clerk Clerk/ HC/AD QA All to note
TEX196.	PERFORMANCE The Committee received a presentation about the new performance scorecard and were informed that information was being collated on a	

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weekly basis to allow managers to drive service improvement and in turn create better outcomes for children and families. The new performance governance cycle was outlined and covers a four week time line, starting with weekly meetings for Heads of Service to consider performance, in relation to contacts, referrals, assessments, child protection, children with disabilities, looked after children, care leavers and organisational effectiveness. The performance team are piloting a daily scorecard as a 10 week trial. The purpose being to support managers being more effective.

This is followed by monthly Performance call over meetings with the Director where managers were accountable for taking forward actions to rectify underperformance. This followed by the Quality Assurance Board meeting to agree areas of audit, monitoring of previous actions from audits and changes to policy and practice, and the final meeting in the cycle is the OFSTED preparation Board.

The Committee were advised that there was no change to the actual performance indicators that were being considered but instead information was being collated on a weekly basis and informing monthly reports. The weekly reporting would allow for managers comments to feed into the performance commentary and give Members a closer understanding of how managers were addressing issues.

In terms of the contextual aspect of the data being collated, this feeds into the Quality Assurance Board which then assesses whether the audit programme already in place needs to reprioritise the audit programme to ensure that if concerns are arising from performance data that the context are more fully understood. .

The Quality Assurance Board is also responsible for ensuring that the actions arising from the audit findings were taken forward and implemented. This Board would also be responsible for signing off policies and procedures.

It was clarified that the OFSTED preparation Board was short term and was established to ensure that staff were ready for an inspection, in the near future, which would be unannounced.

Following questions about the performance reporting the following information was received by the Committee:

- The weekly scorecard enables managers to drill down, into ground level activities, to understand where improvements are required; allows particular themes to be identified and if issues are pertinent to particular teams. This will then allow an assessment of the remedy for the underperformance i.e. training capability procedures; changes in procedure/policy .The weekly data enables managers to identify developing themes and issues early to prevent drift and delay with regard to timeliness of work.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that the arrows, used in the scorecard, indicate the direction of performance in comparison to the previous month. • There was no current national data to compare Haringey's vacancy rates and sickness rates and this collated data would be applicable only to Haringey. • Input from social workers onto Framework I is collated into a data base and a computer programme would generate the performance data for the weekly and monthly scorecard. <p>The Committee noted the performance scorecard and presentation.</p>	
TEX197.	FOLLOW UP LADO REPORT	
	This would come forward to the next meeting in July.	Clerk
TEX198.	UPDATE FROM THE OFFICER PERFORMANCE GROUP	
	Details of the work of the officer performance group included in the presentation of the performance report at TEX 196.	
TEX199.	ANY NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
	There were no new items of business.	
TEX200.	OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN SUBJECT TO CHILD PROTECTION PLANS	
	<p>In the context of reducing trends in the number of children on a child protection plans and decreasing number of children becoming looked after, the Independent Member had been asked by the Committee to investigate the outcomes for children that had been on child protection plans.</p> <p>The Independent Member also advised the Committee that OFSTED will likely be considering the performance against actions in child protection plans and she further advised that the local authority had a good record of making visits to children on CP plans and they did more than the minimum required.</p> <p>Members noted that the Independent Member had examined the case files of a sample of all the children who had ceased to be subject to a child protection plan in January 2014 and this had involved 26 children in 17 families. The Independent Member had looked at what the situation was for the child at the point of the of the initial Child Protection Conference[ICPC] , the debate within that conference and what planned outcomes could be deduced from the initial child protection plan The Independent Member then looked at the child's situation at the end of the plan.</p>	

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In hindsight, the Independent Member felt it would have been better to have audited a sample of child protection cases from the previous 6 months to get a fuller understanding of the longer term outcomes achieved for the children.

Whilst considering these findings, the Committee were asked by the Head of Safeguarding and Support and the Cabinet Member for Children to keep in mind that the service will deal with over 400 cases a month and the sample of cases looked at by the Independent Member was meant to be a spot light on practice. These were qualitative findings which will not provide an overall indication of where improvements are needed or identify trends that indicate where shifts in policy or practice are needed to meet particular issues [i.e. Domestic Violence and increase in cases concerning emotional abuse] which the fuller performance report provides to Members and which the Quality Board will consider and take actions on accordingly.

The Independent Member provided an exempt summary of the cases she had looked at to provide Members with an idea of the complexity and range of situations that will cause a child to become subject to plan. Some suggestions/ actions were put forward to the Children's service arising from this qualitative audit.

- Examining alternative ways, such as providing external role models, to enable children/ young people in families, at an early stage, to report sexual abuse as currently the child protection system is very evidenced based or will rely on the child/young person reporting this abuse.
- Where there is a family of children subject to a child protection plan, ensuring in supervision meetings, that there is separate focus on each individual child and their needs. This was already being taken forward by the Quality Assurance Board.

It was further recommended to Members and officers by the Independent Member to:

- Commission a further look at this cohort a year on (excluding the cases that had moved out of the area) to see the longer term outcomes
- Review data following publication of 2013/14 CiN census data in September to January 2015 , to pay particular attention to rate of current, starting and ceasing Child Protection Plans, visits timescales , repeat CPP, proportion closed soon after ending child protection plans.
- Ensure that there are strategies to consider the individual needs of children, especially where there is an age gap, within child protection process.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support developments of parenting courses for young, vulnerable parents in pregnancy and while their babies are under a year. • Ensure the availability of individual and group work for very vulnerable children over 5 to develop keep safe strategies, emotional capacity and resilience. <p>There was a brief discussion about a particular case, where the legal adviser and the new Interim Head of Service considered the Independent Member had misrepresented the legal position when the case was closed. On subsequent reflection, she was happy to concede this point and apologised for any additional work caused.</p>	
TEX201.	MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC	
	The press and public were excluded from the meeting.	
TEX202.	OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN SUBJECT TO CHILD PROTECTION PLANS As per item	
TEX203.	NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT BUSINESS	
	None	
TEX204.	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING	
	14 th July 2014 7.00pm.	

Cllr James Stewart

Chair