



Haringey Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee

THURSDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 2011 at 19:30 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Amin, Corrick, Davies, Hare, Rice and Stewart

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of late items of urgent business. Late items will be considered under the agenda item they appear. New items will be dealt with at Item 11 below.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is being considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of the consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest.

4. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 8)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September and the minutes of the Joint meeting of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee with the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee held on the 11 October 2011 – **To follow.**

5. SAFEGUARDING DISABLED CHILDREN IN HARINGEY (PAGES 9 - 14)

This is a briefing paper from the Head of Services to Children & Young People with Additional Needs & Disabilities responding to the Committee's previous queries about safeguarding of disabled children in Haringey.

6. BEST PRACTICE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORK

This will be a presentation from Deirdre Cregan (Domestic Violence Co-ordinator) and Michelle Robson (Senior Practitioner for Domestic Violence).

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item as it contains exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972(as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985): paras 1&2: namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

8. AUDIT OF REFERRALS OF UNDER 2 YEAR OLDS WHERE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WAS A FEATURE (PAGES 15 - 24)

A programme of audits has been established by the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee in order to monitor good practice and performance in Children's Social Care, and identify areas of good practice and areas of improvement. The Independent Member of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee was asked to examine case referrals, in a particular month, involving 2 years olds where domestic violence was a feature.

9. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted under item 2 above.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting is on the 12 December 2011.

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26 October 2011

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MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2011

Councillors Amin, Corrick, Davies, Hare, Rice and Stewart

Apologies None

Also Present: Marion Wheeler, Karen Baggaley, Sarah Peel

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
CSPAP C12	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were noted from Sylvia Chew.</p>	
CSPAP C13	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business put forward to the Committee.</p>	
CSPAP C14	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest put forward by Members of the Committee.</p>	
CSPAP C15	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 28th July were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.</p>	
CSPAP C16	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
CSPAP C17	<p>OVERVIEW AND UPDATE ON THE SAFEGUARDING PLAN</p> <p>The Committee considered the Safeguarding and Looked after Children Plan which picked up the issues arising from the January Ofsted inspection of the Safeguarding service. Ofsted had described the service as "adequate with good prospects for improvement". The enclosed plan being considered by Members had been updated in August with information on the progress of developments and responses to the inspection.</p> <p>Members were asked to particularly note the attention being given by the</p>	

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Safeguarding service to managing risk, domestic violence, quality assurance and workforce development.

In relation to action 1.7, Members queried the number of children with disabilities subject to child protection plans. There was concern that the action being undertaken did not match the recommendation. Members asked for comparisons between the numbers of disabled children subject to care plans in similar demographic boroughs. It was noted that in Hackney there were no children with a disability, subject to a protection plan. However, in the London Borough of Richmond, which had a dissimilar demographic to Haringey, there were higher numbers.

When considering action 1.2, the system for attendance at child protection review medicals reviewed and attendance monitored, the Committee noted there was an agreed protocol in place for paediatricians to check Framework 1 and communicate with the Social Worker to ensure that these appointments were kept to. There had previously been a significant number of children not attending appointments which had been dramatically reduced following the implementation of this protocol. These figures could be further shared with Members of the Committee to help understand the impact of this protocol if requested.

The Committee discussed the effectiveness of strategy meetings. There were best practice standards for attendance at strategy meetings which involved having a considered and planned response to these meetings. Currently Social Workers were ensuring that key agency and partner representation at these meetings. The Independent Member advised that it was also important to ensure that there was wide representation at the meeting involving, for the example, the immediate referrer and not contacting them after Strategy discussions. The service usually had 20 cases a week which required a strategy meeting and getting key people from the agencies together could sometimes cause delays. The service recognised that there was a need to look at how to get people together from the key agencies in contact with the child expediently and ensure that they were able to provide constructive contributions. This did not necessarily always mean that a meeting was the best vehicle to enable this. There were other ways of collating key information which could be through phone conferences and individual calls to collate a wide intelligence about the situation of the child. To further enable this could mean redefining strategy meetings as strategy discussions.

In relation to action 3, on establishing mechanisms to ensure that midwives, adult services and voluntary agencies were engaged with the CAF, there was interest by the Committee in looking at the areas not on track for this action. It would be useful to find out how many CAF's were being completed by Health agencies and if there was a potential training need. It would further be useful to find out the type of representatives from agencies and public bodies participating in CAF training to understand if there was a link to the current progress of this action.

MW

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	<p>The Safeguarding Champion scheme was explained to the Committee. This involved high level managers in the Council gaining more understanding of how frontline Children's services worked through the offer of various participation exercises. The attention given by managers to this scheme had been good but there was a need to review how the scheme had worked with consideration to how engagement by senior managers could be sustained. Officers were currently considering whether the scheme should continue.</p> <p>The intentions behind child champion scheme were described to the Committee. This scheme was aimed at getting an understanding of the child's sense of family life and this could be achieved through speaking to the child with their youth worker, mentor or teacher. Social Workers felt that they should have the skills to gain this information first hand from the child and asked to be assisted in this through a toolkit. Group Practitioners were now looking at how they could compile this. Proposals were due at the Best Practice Committee, a sub body of the LSCB, and this information could also be shared with this Committee if wanted.</p> <p>Members noted that, following questions at the last meeting on the current practices being followed in the supervision policy, there was an update to be sent by Rachel Oakley, Head of Safeguarding, Quality Assurance & Practice Development, to Members of the Committee. Members were assured that there was constant attention being given to supervision and support. Members asked about alternative ways of analysing the quality of supervision, other than completing standard audits. The Committee were advised that this could be done through checking case recordings to understand the quality of the discussion around the case between the Social Worker and their manager. The Safeguarding service was already encouraging Social Workers to add narratives to the case work files to enable this analysis.</p> <p>Regarding Action 36, developing and monitoring outcomes for children who have experienced Early Years services but are not subject to a child protection plan, it was not clear to the Committee how the action would be completed. The Committee suggested that it would be useful to find out if children, that were from defined vulnerable groups and accessing early years service, were seeing an improvement in their development. It would be useful to find out if there was a tracking system that could provide information on children's development.</p>	MW
<p>CSPAP C18</p>	<p>OVERVIEW OF THE SAFEGUARDING PLANNING AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK</p> <p>Sarah Peel, LSCB Business Manager, attended the Committee on behalf of the LSCB board to discuss the work and role of the Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LSCB). The annual report of the LSCB was due to be considered at their meeting in October and following</p>	

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	<p>ratification it would be published on their website. Sarah Peel agreed to circulate this to Members of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee for reading when published.</p> <p>Sarah Peel, LSCB Business Manager, continued to set out the role of the LSCB and explain that it provides policies, guidance and protocols which underpin partnership work on safeguarding. The LSCB are signed up to Pan London safeguarding arrangements. The LSCB ensure that these agreed safeguarding practices are understood through guidance which is issued. The Committee further learned what is crucial in LSCB partnership relationship is that each agency understand their safeguarding role in relation to others. An example of a protocol currently being worked was enabling Mental Health services to record on case files whether a user had any children. Then also enabling this information to be passed to Children's services. This action where necessary would help build a profile of a child's family life.</p> <p>The strategic role of the of the LSCB was monitoring, along with training and evaluation of monitoring of LSCB member roles. This would be further elucidated upon in the LCSB's annual report. The structure and sub groups of the LSCB were visually set out for Member consideration. Each of the sub groups role and purpose was explained to Committee Members. The Chair remarked on the number of different partner representatives on the LSCB Board which made the meetings quite large. The LSCB Business Manager explained that attending the meeting was a key part of a partner's accountability in relation to safeguarding. When considering the number of sub groups the LSCB had, that teachers had welcomed the establishment of the Health and Education forums as they allowed them to communicate more directly with health colleagues.</p> <p>Information was provided to Committee Members about when a Serious Case Review was completed, by whom and how the findings were then reviewed by Ofsted. The Munro report was advocating unpicking the organisational context for each individual agency or body connected to the case to understand the actions taken by their representatives. Haringey LSCB was part of a pilot project considering this and information on this could be provided to the members of the Committee. The Committee and attendees discussed their experiences of Serious Case Review and usually how their findings were similar. They discussed: whether there was a systemic method to incorporating the findings of a review into everyday practices, finding ways to assist Social Workers with managing and dealing with the bombardment of information that needs to be acted upon on a daily basis, further focussing on the certain stages of a child's development that will make them more vulnerable.</p> <p>The Committee thanked Sarah Peel, LSCB Business Manager for the helpful information provided which had assisted with the Committee's understanding around the safeguarding context in Haringey.</p>	SP
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CSPAP C19	<p>DISCUSSION ON THE SAFEGUARDING CONTEXT IN HARINGEY</p> <p>Agenda compilation error – Please see information above which was part of this item.</p>	
CSPAP C20	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>The press and public were excluded from the meeting for consideration the items below as they contained exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985): paras 1 & 2: namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</p>	
CSPAP C21	<p>AUDIT OF REFERRALS TO THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM</p> <p>A programme of audits had been established by the Committee in order to monitor practice and performance in Children's Social Care, and identify areas of good practice and areas for improvement. An audit of new referrals between July the 12th and 19th 2011 had been examined by the Independent Member with involvement from Cllr Amin, a Member of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee.</p> <p>The Committee thanked the Independent Member and Cllr Amin for their work which provided a key insight into the current work in Safeguarding team.</p>	
CSPAP C22	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>None</p>	
CSPAP C 23	<p>DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEXT JOINT MEETING WITH THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Committee noted that the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee had suggested that a report on children missing from home and from care could be considered. The Chair recommended that items</p>	All to

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	6 and 10 could be considered at the joint meeting . It was agreed that any further suggestions for items to be considered at this joint meeting could be put forward to the clerk.	note
CSPAP C24	ANY OTHER BUSINESS The Committee noted that the next meeting was to be held on the 03 November 2011, the Independent Member was due to carry out a domestic violence related audit that would focus around under two year olds living in households where domestic violence was a feature.	HC

Cllr Reg Rice

Chair

1. Safeguarding Disabled children in Haringey

- The Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities (AND) Service operates a single point of entry to the service through the Disabled children's team. Any potential safeguarding issues are identified at referral source when Social workers skilled to investigate abuse of Disabled children complete their enquiries, through the Child protection conference process or through the care proceedings process if required.
- Other contacts are discussed at the Service's multi agency Early Support meeting which is the process to identify issues early on, to share information across services, plan interventions across agencies and to identify the lead professional and Team around the child at this stage. The agreement to commission assessments can be made at this stage.
- The Disabled children's team comprises of a stable team of Qualified Social workers, and trainees who can access communication tools to support their work, can navigate the health, and education services around the Disabled child and who are well networked. The Social workers work closely with the component parts of the AND service to ensure that information is shared and children safeguarded. Supervision occurs on a regular basis.
- There are good working relationships developed between First Response and the Disabled children's team with joint assessments being agreed.
- LSCB Promoting the Safety of Disabled children training is delivered twice per year by the Deputy Head of Service for children with Additional Needs and Disabilities and the Head of Service for the First Response Team. Bespoke training has also been delivered to Family link carers, Special School Governors, and the staff at The Vale Special School.
- The Direct payment scheme for children is being audited and the contract has been amended to ensure greater safeguarding measures are in place for Disabled children.
- All the Special Schools have a Multi-disciplinary team meeting to which a Team manager from the Disabled children's team attends to discuss potential safeguarding issues relating to Disabled children – these meetings are usually on a fortnightly basis.
- Close working relationships with wide range of health professionals and lead Specialist health service manager attends AND management meetings.
- As a response to the DfE guidance on Safeguarding Disabled children dated July 2009, the Disabled Children's Team (DCT) adapted an already existing multi-disciplinary group in order to consider the specific issues relating to Safeguarding Disabled children. The reporting line to

the LSCB is through the LSCB Quality Assurance sub group. The Disabled children's policy and practice review group meets on a 6 weekly cycle which fits in with the QA subgroup meeting cycle.

Membership includes key agencies such as Children's social care, Health, Police, Education, SEN, Ed Psychology, Legal, Voluntary service, Learning Difficulties partnership, children's centres, Special Schools, out of borough Special Schools, Consultant Psychiatrist for learning Difficulties CAMHS, LADO, CPA.

The outcome of this group has been:

- Updated LSCB leaflet for parents about safeguarding Disabled children
- Have developed good practice examples of policies from the Special Schools, voluntary organisations and out of borough special schools which include specifically in relation to Disabled children, administration of medication policy, guidelines for working with pupils of the opposite sex, guidelines for good practice in providing intimate care and safe use of images policy. These have all been forwarded to LADO for oversight.
- Communication strategies, packs and training have been offered across the service to ensure effective communication with Disabled children. As a consequence each worker in the DCT, Family link and each Early Support worker in the service has a communication pack to work with Disabled children to ensure effective communication and to support S47 enquiries. Communication strategies have also been shared with Health professionals for use in child medicals.
- Presentation re. child death process
- LADO presentation re. Professional allegations. The discussion also included discussion relating to faith groups looking at issue of healing and children branded as witches.
- Developing and using a Disabled Children Panel for interviews.
- Single point of entry for AND service, building the picture of the child.
- Agreeing criteria for DCT.
- Case discussions and lessons learnt across services.
- Discussions from a Legal perspective of the rarity and complexity of issuing an application to court which requires the child to have surgery.
- Presentations re. Disability Hate Crime and developing the role of the group to monitor reporting of bullying of Disabled children.

- Feedback from children and young people on their short break services and on their individual plans through Children in care reviews and Annual reviews of their statements.

2. Actions with reference to the low numbers of Disabled children subject to a plan in Haringey.
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- Work has commenced on the Statistical analysis of the demographics of the children who become subject to CP Plan in Haringey, the decision making and which also includes consideration of data relating to the numbers of Disabled children subject to a plan in neighbouring boroughs / statistical partners.

Further examination of the following areas is planned:

1. To establish how many CAF referrals had Disabled child mentioned –
Examine what we know about the children – End of March figures
2. Audit Disabled children subject to plans in DCT – understand the social story. Examine why these children became subject to plans.
3. Audit the S47s in DCT over last two months – understand decision making – ICPC or not?
4. Examine the impact of Care Proceedings on figures.
5. Examine the impact of MDTs on outcomes for children. To be discussed at next Disabled children's policy and practice review group in November – with a Child Protection Advisor identified to attend future meetings.
6. Understand other borough's threshold for a service from DCT –
7. Examine the statistics for Disabled young people who become involved as Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults (SOVA) – consider their thresholds.
8. Understand the outcomes of children who became subject to Police Protection Orders – what was known about the children before and outcome after.
9. Consider the increased vulnerabilities of those Disabled children who are home educated.

10. Examine the role of the police in discussions re. thresholds / Initial Child Protection Conference or not.
11. To devise a threshold criteria – continuum of need that would consider the specific vulnerabilities of Disabled children, specific indicators and behaviours which would be used across settings to agree safeguarding thresholds for Disabled children which would take into account complex situations.
12. Disabled children to feed views into above exercise (point 11).

Please see below for further details of statistics relating to London Boroughs and their Disabled child population subject to plans in March 2011.

London Borough	Disabled Children subject to plan	Non Disabled children subject to plan	Percentage of children this represents.
Richmond	2	45	4.4%
Southwark	11	296	3.7%
Lewisham	7	225	3.1%
Westminster	9	300	3%
Hammersmith and Fulham	4	163	2.5%
Haringey	5	294?	1.7%
Islington	2	115	1.7%
Ealing	5	313	1.5%
Barnet	0	140	0%

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
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