



Haringey Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee

TUESDAY, 10TH JULY, 2012 at 19:30 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, LONDON N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Adamou, Allison, Corrick (Independent Member), Davies and Stewart (Chair)

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 below.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

- (i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and

- (ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Members' Register of Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interest are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct.

4. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 8)

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2012.

5. MATTERS ARISING

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE (PAGES 9 - 12)

To consider the terms of reference for the Committee for the Municipal year 2012/13 which were agreed by the Cabinet on the 12 June 2012.

7. PRESENTATION ON SAFEGUARDING AND SUPPORT

Members of the committee will receive a presentation a child's journey through the safeguarding structure.

8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - MAY 2012 DATA (PAGES 13 - 18)

Members will consider an update of Children and Families key safeguarding performance information at the end of May 2011.

9. SERVICE RESPONSE TO RECENT AUDIT ON CHILDREN WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO PLANNING FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. (PAGES 19 - 26)

This report is a discussion paper for the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee, following on from the audit carried out by the Independent Member Hilary Corrick and presented on the 19th April 2012.

10. PRESENTATION ON CHILD PROTECTION EVALUATION PILOT

The Head of Safeguarding, Quality Assurance & Practice Development will provide feedback on the consultation with parents about their experience of Child Protection Conferences.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any new items admitted at item 2 above.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There will be a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting for consideration of the following items as they contain 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.

13. PARENTS' VIEWS OF THE CHILD PROTECTION PROCESS (PAGES 27 - 28)

At their previous meeting in April, the committee were interested in getting feedback from parents about their experience with the Safeguarding and Support service. The Independent Member had recently completed an audit of cases where children were subject to child protection planning and has since contacted the parents of some of these children to discuss their experience of the service.

14. EXEMPT ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any new items of exempt business admitted at item 2 above.

15. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

17th September 2012 7.30pm.

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Head of Local Democracy and Member Services
5th Floor
River Park House
225 High Road
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MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**THURSDAY, 19 APRIL 2012**

Councillors Amin, Hare, Rice and Stewart

Apologies Councillor Davies

Also Present: Sylvia Chew, Iain Low, Hilary Corrick

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
CSPAP C58	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE(IF ANY) Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Matt Davies.	
CSPAP C59	URGENT BUSINESS The Chair agreed to accept a follow up report by the Head of First Response on cases examined by the Independent Member of the committee, involving children under 2 years old, referred to the First Response in July 2011 and where the primary concern was domestic violence.	
CSPAP C60	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest put forward.	
CSPAP C61	MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th January 2012 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting by the committee.	Clerk
CSPAP C62	MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.	
CSPAP C63	DISABLED CHILDREN AUDIT The committee had previously discussed the possibility of auditing referrals to the Safeguarding service of children with additional needs. They were particularly concerned about those who fell below the threshold for obtaining services from the disabled children's team. The Independent Member of the committee had since met with the Head Services to Children & Young People with the Additional Needs &	

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	<p>Disabilities to discuss the scope for a potential audit in this area. From this discussion the Independent member had learnt that there were three forthcoming audits concerning disabled children. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A learning audit focused on a specific child and the services received by the child and family. A report on these findings was due to be considered by the LSCB and its appropriate sub group in May 2012. • Examining all cases of Domestic Violence referred to First Response where the family includes a child known to the Disabled Children's Team. • A joint audit was to take place between the Additional Needs & Disabilities team and the health therapy service, of all children where Domestic Violence is thought to be a feature in the household, and where one of the children in the household is thought to have additional needs which do not meet the Disabled Children's Team thresholds. <p>It was proposed to the committee that they consider the findings of these three audits at their meeting in September. The committee could then decide whether the findings raise particular concerns which need to be explored further in an independent audit or whether they can make recommendations as a committee for changes in practice and policy.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the findings of the audits outlined above be considered at the committee meeting in September 2012.</p>	Clerk
<p>CPAPC 64</p>	<p>PROGRAMME OF AUDITS FOR 2012/13</p> <p>The Independent Member updated the committee on the compilation of the committee work plan for 2012/13. This would be informed by discussions with the LSCB manager and there would be further contact with the Head of First Response about the service audits occurring in the forthcoming year and which ones could be considered by the committee. The following topics were put forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of year Performance data for safeguarding in comparison to comparator borough and national data • Looking at how lessons can be learnt from Serious Case Reviews in particular looking at "looking at lessons learnt" a key section from the SCR on baby Peter and how we can show that the lessons have been integrated into the work of the service • Potentially considering service audits into cases involving: unborn 	

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	<p>babies, neglect referrals and re-referrals jointly with Children's Centres. (Subject to discussion with the Head of First Response)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the interface between Safeguarding and Adult services. In November considering cases subject to planning where a parent has substance misuse issues. • Exploring the interface between Mental Health services and Safeguarding services in cases which are subject to child protection planning. • A report on the work with families, who have no recourse to public funds. • A report on interface between Safeguarding and other key partner agencies which provides an understanding of their communication lines. <p>The Chair touched upon the current governance review which was considering the current role and functions of this committee. He indicated that discontinuation with devolution of its functions was a possibility. The Independent Member advised that the scrutiny function of this committee was still needed and if the committee was to be decommissioned it would be important for this function to be passed to the appropriate body. Committee Members commented on how they had found the detailed case analysis important to getting a real understanding of the work in safeguarding. They agreed that the Independent Member should highlight the key scrutiny functions of the committee to appropriate members and officers and continue working on the work programme as the chosen audits and focus areas could still be transferred to the appropriate children's body.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That a final work programme for Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee for 2012/13 be completed by the Independent Member and distributed to committee members for information.</p>	HC
<p>CPAPC 65</p>	<p>PROTOCOLS FOR RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE</p> <p>The Head of First Response shared with the committee the protocols used by Social Workers to aid working with young people that have been experiencing domestic violence. The protocols and links to relevant information and contact points were put in one place for Social Workers to access and use when dealing with cases involving young people and domestic violence. They further helped build awareness of the issue of domestic violence between young people. The need for the protocols</p>	

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	<p>had arisen following a past Ofsted inspection which had raised questions about how reports of violence were taken forward when reported by young people. The committee were interested in the details of this specific case and it led them to seeking an understanding about the level of focus a Social Worker has on young people and older children in a family where domestic violence is apparent and they are part of a plan.</p> <p>The committee wanted further assurance that the practices developed following the Ofsted inspection continued. The committee noted that the domestic violence co-ordinators, Deirdre Cregan and Michelle Robertson were currently undertaking training with council and partners on raising awareness of Domestic Violence and could provide this presentation to the committee. There were monthly workshops delivered to Social Workers to maintain the awareness of Domestic Violence issues. There was also the opportunity to complete service audits to monitor how Social Workers were dealing with reports of domestic violence amongst young people.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That Deirdre Cregan and Michelle Robson provide a presentation on the training activities being undertaken with partners and Social Workers regarding raising awareness of Domestic Violence to committee in July. ii. That the Head of First Response complete an audit on cases where domestic violence is reported to examine the focus of the Social Worker on the children in the family and whether it is equal for all ages. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>SC</p>
<p>CPAPC 66</p>	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>The press and public were excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item as it 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>	
<p>CPAPC 67</p>	<p>CHILDREN SUBJECT TO PLANNING</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. These audits had focused primarily on new referrals and children within the First Response service. Members previously wished to look more closely at</p>	

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those children who become subject to a child protection plan as the result of a Child Protection Conference. These children were involved with Children and Young People's Services for longer periods of time, generally, than those who have a brief, targeted intervention from First Response, and were dealt with by Social Workers within the Safeguarding Service.

Cases were chosen at random from Framework I to examine and the Independent Member remarked on the complexity of navigating cases on the framework I system; although this could have been a reflection of the density of the cases looked at. The Head of Safeguarding and Support explained that they were examining a windows based model of the Framework I system but there would be a cost to changing the view of cases on the system. Social Workers were experienced in the use of the system.

The case findings highlighted that there was a significant fall in the number of child protection cases open but they were still a high number. The cases examined were rightly found to require being subject to a protection plan after 18 months as there were longer term issues involved.

The committee considered the case study findings and asked whether a menu of intervention services or specialist services could have been provided at the start of some of the cases and if this could have had an impact. Also whether options such as adoption could have been considered earlier especially when children were young or babies and could be offered an alternative to staying in a family where their needs were not being met. In response, it was noted that the service were taking forward early intervention programmes with families but some families required the structure of being on the child protection plan as issues being faced could be long term and complex. The service would monitor and complete regular audits on long term child protection cases to check their progression.

The committee spoke about the need to find alternative solutions to helping families on long term plans and providing structure to their lives in a different way i.e. through helping them into work. The committee acknowledged that the Troubled Families project helped a small number of families and therefore this route could not always be used. One suggestion was to consider parents of children that were subject to long term planning, for participation in employment initiatives.

The committee were further interested in understanding how the issues raised by the Independent Member in the audit would be taken forward.

RESOLVED

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	<p>That the issues identified by the Independent Member identified such as the length of time that a child was known to the service before issues were brought to a multi agency forum, the length of time a child was subject to plan, the timeliness of proceedings, and the impact of intervention on family be responded to by the Head of Safeguarding and Support in a report to the next committee meeting.</p>	<p>IL</p>
<p>CPAPC 68</p>	<p>EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>The chair had agreed to accept this report as an item of urgent business as it was a follow up report by the Head of First Response on cases examined by the Independent member of the committee concerning a sample of children under the age two years old referred to the First Response team in July 2011 and where the primary concern was domestic violence.</p> <p>The committee noted that 58% of the cases audited by the Independent Member were now closed. The re-referral rate of these cases was considerably low but the committee were asked to note this with caution as this was unusual for cases involving domestic violence. A low number of these cases went to case conference reflecting the good follow up work achieved in the cases. Some of the cases had been open between 4 and 5 months and if they had remained open for longer there would have been a need to progress them to Child Protection conference for consideration.</p> <p>Generally there was a need to continue making use of the Voluntary Sector to provide ongoing support to the mothers. Social Workers would be seeking to work with outreach workers at the start of the referral and in tandem on the case to achieve longer term support for the mothers.</p> <p>The committee were interested in getting feedback from these mothers on their experience with the Safeguarding service. It was suggested that the Independent Member could contact some of the mothers involved in this recent case audit to gather this information which could be considered at the meeting in July 2012.</p> <p>The committee discussed the key role that Early Years Service had in early intervention, particularly children centres where children, subject to children in need plans, should be prioritised for places. This was seen as a key area for supporting families and stopping children becoming subject to protection plans and coming into care. The committee noted that the Safeguarding service was meeting with the Early Years on a regular basis to discuss places being made available for children in contact with the safeguarding service. It was felt that an assertive line should be taken, individually, with children's centres to ensure that their places were prioritised for children in need.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	<p>HC</p>

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	That Ros Cooke, Head of Early Years be invited to the committee meeting in July to discuss the support provided for children in need in Children's Centres.	RC/ Clerk
CPAPC 69	ANY OTHER BUSINESS NONE	

Cllr Reg Rice

Chair

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Report for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee	Item Number:	
Title:	Terms of reference		
Report Authorised by:			
Lead Officer:	Ayshe Simsek		
Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

To ratify the terms of reference agreed by Cabinet on 12th June 2012

2. Cabinet Member introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

To ratify the terms of reference

4. Other options considered

N/A

5. Background information

Provision exists in the Council Constitution for the Cabinet to establish advisory or consultative bodies the membership of which is not limited to Cabinet Members. The Joint Area Review report into Haringey's Children Services in 2009 identified the need to improve governance of safeguarding arrangements for children. This



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committee was formally established in July 2009, when it was also agreed that the terms of reference of this committee would be reviewed following the 2010 Local Elections.

Since its establishment there were further discussion highlighted the work of the committee and its alignment to the Cabinet as an advisory committee. Similarities of the committee's role to scrutiny and its position in the committee structure were discussed and it was felt that the committee was correctly aligned to the Cabinet as an Advisory Committee. The Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee was then established to work in parallel to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and had duties for overseeing the Council's responsibility for children in need, particularly focussing on safeguarding including children who would come into contact with safeguarding policies.

Members further agreed that the profile of the committee should be raised and there should be more awareness of the committee's work. This would be assisted by increasing officer attendance at meetings and by amending the constitution of the committee so that it was more in line with the arrangements for the Corporate Parenting Committee. This would involve:

- Increasing and defining the officer representatives to support the committee
- Compiling a twice yearly report to the Cabinet and to the Council annually

To further aid the parallel working of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee, joint meetings have taken place since 2011. Both committees have also wanted to share information on their continuing work on safeguarding and corporate parenting and both sets of committee members are being included in the email distribution list of the minutes from meetings.

The Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee has also continued undertaking detailed case scrutiny into chosen day to day safeguarding practices. Members would continue to receive key safeguarding data at meetings to scrutinize and training sessions on safeguarding processes would be maintained to ensure that the committee were fully aware of safeguarding practices being followed by the Council.

Following the Governance Review Delivery Group scoping study of Committees and Council Bodies outside of the Governance Review remit in April 2012, to ensure that these bodies are not duplicating work, where consideration was given to devolving the functions of this committee to Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was agreed that the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee should continue as advisory committees of the Cabinet until April 2013.



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Subsequently, in June 2012, the Children's safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee was formally established by the Cabinet with the following terms of reference and membership.

Children Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee

Membership

Councillors: Stewart (Chair)
 Davies
 Adamou
 Allison
 1 Labour position to be filled
Hilary Corrick (Non-Councillor Member - appointed by the Panel)

Quorum

The quorum will be two members.

The terms of reference are set out below:

- a. To examine and consider the effectiveness of the Council's policies and practice, relating to the safeguarding of children.
- b. To examine and consider the effectiveness of the arrangements for co-operation on child protection matters between partner agencies.
- c. To consider the Council's policies and performance relating to safeguarding through observing practice in Haringey and obtaining the views of key stakeholders (staff, families and children /young people) to attain a qualitative understanding of safeguarding practice.
- d. To make recommendations on these matters to the Cabinet or Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Director of Children and Young People's Service in taking forward improvements to safeguarding of children.
- e. The Chair will determine the Committee's procedures and the means for conveying the Committee's views to the Cabinet but, in the event of any dispute, the outcome will be determined by the majority vote of the Committee's membership with the Chair having a casting vote.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985



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Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report;

Report to the Cabinet on 24 February 2009 entitled Action Plan in Response to the Joint Area Review of Safeguarding in Haringey.

Report to the Cabinet on 21 July 2009 entitled Appointment of Cabinet Advisory Committees.

Report to Cabinet on 15 July 2010 entitled Appointment of Cabinet Committees.

Report to cabinet on 22 March 2011 entitled Reconstitution of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee.

Report to Cabinet on 12 June 2012 entitled Appointment of Cabinet Advisory Committees.

The background paper is located at River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, London N22 8HQ.

To inspect it or to discuss this report further, please contact Ayshe Simsek on 020 8489 2929.



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Report for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee 10 th July 2012	Item Number:	
Title:	Performance Management Data - Children and Families – May 2012 data		
Report Authorised by:	Marion Wheeler – Assistant Director Safeguarding		
Lead Officer:	Marion Wheeler – Assistant Director Safeguarding		
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:		

1. Describe the issue under consideration / Background

This scorecard is an update of Children and Families key safeguarding performance information at the end of May 2011. This committee will have a role in scrutinising and challenging this information and should further explanation or analysis be required this can be requested and provided through a process of exception reporting.

Haringey's Ofsted Statistical Neighbours group includes the following boroughs:

- Croydon
- Greenwich
- Hackney
- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Haringey
- Islington
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Southwark
- Waltham Forest
- Wandsworth

2. Recommendations - Contents to be noted

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1. Contacts, Referrals and Assessments

Description	Eng. - Average 2010/11	SN - Average 2010/11	2010/11		2011/12		Mar 2012		Apr 2012		May 2012		2011/12		Latest Note	
			Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status		
Op504 The number of child contacts received in the month.			9,556	6,722	574	573	651	6,722	6,722							
Op410 The number of referrals to children's social care	4046	3177	2658	2306	184	160	167	2306	2306							
OP410a The rate of referrals to children's social care per 10,000 pop	556.8	599	541	469.62	37.47	32.58	34.01	469.62	469.62							
Op383 Re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral	25.6%	18.9%	18.5%	18.1%	17.4%	16.3%	5.4%	18.1%	18.1%				14%			
Op368 Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	71.5%	77.1%	84.2%	98.8%	112%	90%	110.2%	98.8%	98.8%							The monthly calculation is based on the number of children who had initial completed assessments divided by the number of referrals received in the month - however, the initial assessment may have commenced from a referral started in a previous month. This means that sometimes this indicator can exceed 100%
HY59 Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 10 working days of referral	72.2%	81.9%	66.3%	67.4%	70.4%	65.3%	69%	67.4%	67.4%				70%			
Op60 Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days	75%	83.2%	62.6%	70.1%	72.5%	71.4%	75.4%	70.1%	70.1%				70%			

2. Child Protection

Description	Eng. - Average 2010/11	SN - Average 2010/11	2010/11		2011/12	Mar 2012		Apr 2012		May 2012		2011/12			Latest Note
			Value	Value		Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status			
Op388	281	228	320	284	284	284	275	284	284	284	284	284			
OP388a	38.7	43	65.58	57.84	57.84	57.84	56	57.84	57.84	57.84	57.84	57.84			
OP 411	322	240	334	278	30	30	12	28	28	28	278	278			
OP 413	299	246	308	314	24	24	21	19	19	19	314	314			
Op421				11	0	0		2	2	2	11	11			
Op422				32	1	1		0	0	0	32	32			
HY64	6%	8.8%	5.8%	6.4%	4.2%	4.2%	9.5%	10.5%	10.5%	10.5%	6.4%	6%			
Op 365	13.3%	11.6%	9%	9.4%	0%	0%	0%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%	9.4%	10%			
Op367	97.1%	99.4%	97.7%	96.7%	96.7%	96.7%		100%	100%	100%	96.7%	100%			

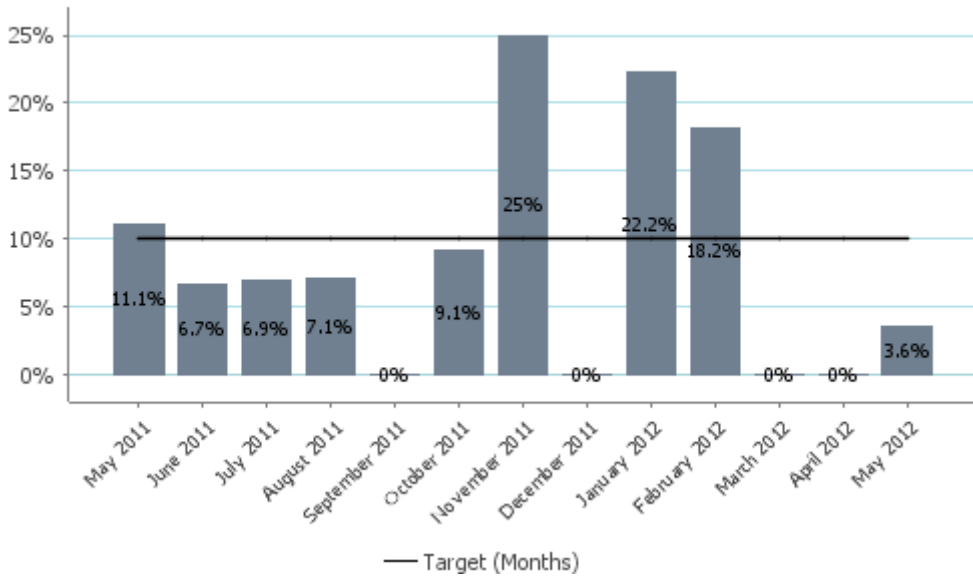
Op 365 Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

This indicator is a proxy for the level and quality of service a child receives.

Its purpose is to monitor whether children’s social care services devise and implement a Child Protection Plan which leads to lasting improvement in a child’s safety and overall well-being.

	Value	Current Target	Trend	
2011/12	9.4%	10%	↓	Red
	Value			
Mar 2012	0%			
Apr 2012	0%			
May 2012	3.6%			
	Value			
2012/13	2.5%			

CY02_365 Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time

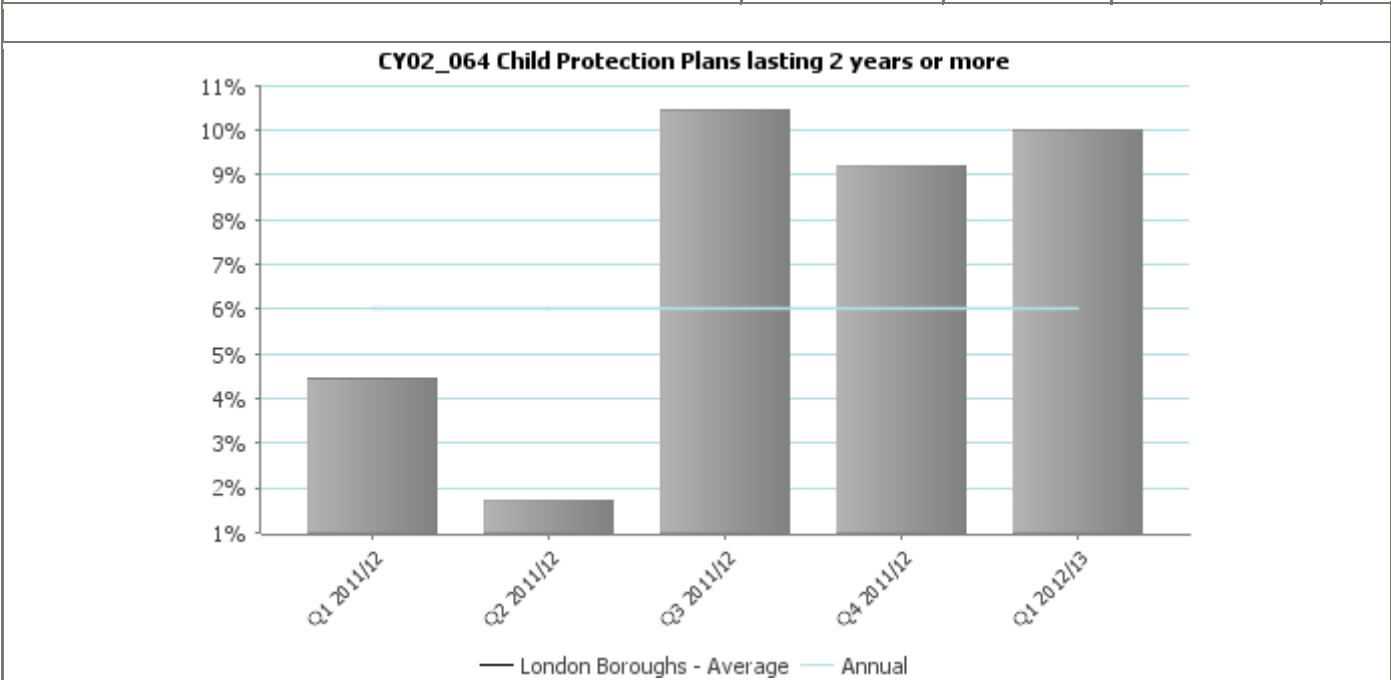


HY64 Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more

This indicator should measure whether children and their families are receiving the services necessary to bring about the required changes in the family situation and to monitor performance in working towards the outcomes outlined in the child protection plan.

This indicator reflects the underlying principle that professionals should be working towards specified outcomes which, if implemented effectively, should lead to all children not needing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan within a maximum of two years.

	Value	Current Target	Trend	
2011/12	6.4%	6%	↓	Red
	Value			
Mar 2012	4.2%			
Apr 2012	9.5%			
May 2012	10.5%			
	Value			
2012/13	10%			





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Briefing for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee
Title:	Safeguarding and Support
Purpose of briefing:	Response to audit of children subject to child protection planning presented to the Committee on 19 th April 2012
Author:	Iain Low, Head of Service Safeguarding and Support
Date:	10th July 2012

This report is a discussion paper for the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee, following on from the audit carried out by the Independent Member Hilary Corrick and presented on the 19th April 2012.

1.0 Children and Young People subject to Child Protection (CP) Plans

1.1 Child Protection Conferences

A child protection conference is a multi-agency meeting. It is held when practitioners' assess that a child is suffering harm because of abuse or neglect. At the meeting all the workers who know the child and their family share information, hear from the parents or carers and recommend whether the child needs a child protection plan

1.2 What is a child protection plan?

When a child protection case conference decides a child or a young person is at risk of abuse they are known as a 'child subject of a child protection plan'.

A child protection plan is a working tool that should enable the family and professionals to understand what is expected of them and what they can expect of others. The aims of the plan are:

- To keep the child safe
- To promote their welfare
- To support their wider family to care for them if it can be done safely



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1.3 Effective plans set out

- The cause of harm to the child
- The practical long and short term goals
- What the family and workers involved need to do to meet the goals
- Who will be checking the child is safe and well on a day to day basis
- The contingency plan - what should be done if the child protection plan is not working.

1.4 Core Groups

A Core Group is the group of professionals and family members who meet regularly if the Child Protection Conference makes a child the subject of a Child Protection Plan.

The Core Group is responsible for the implementation and review of the Child Protection Plan with the ultimate aim of making sure that the Child Protection Plan is keeping the child safe.

Core Group membership can be amended as appropriate but should include parent(s) nor carer(s), child (if appropriate), other relevant family members, the allocated social worker and professionals in direct regular contact with the child.

1.5 The Core Group Meetings

The date of the first Core Group is set at the Initial Child Protection Conference and subsequent Core Group meetings must take place at least every 6 weeks until the child is no longer subject to a Child Protection Plan. Every Core Group meeting must always review and where necessary modify the child's protection plan based on the ongoing assessment of the plan.

1.6 Review Child Protection Case Conferences

The purpose of Review Child Protection Case Conferences is to review within three months of the initial child protection case conference, and to further review at intervals of not more than six months for as long as the child remains the subject of a child protection plan. This is to ensure that momentum is maintained in the process of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child/children

2.0 *National and Local Data for Children and Young People subject to Child Protection (CP) Plans*



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- 2.1 The number of children and young people subject to CP Plans in England from the 31st March 2007 to the 31st March 2011 is detailed below: ¹

Category of Abuse	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Neglect	12,500	13,400	15,800	17,200	18,700
Physical Abuse	3,500	3,400	4,400	4,700	4,500
Sexual Abuse	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,200	2,300
Emotional abuse	7,100	7,900	9,100	11,400	12,100
Multiple	2,700	2,500	2,900	3,400	5,000
Total	27,900	29,200	34,100	39,100	42,700

- 2.2 The number of children and young people subject to a CP Plan in Haringey from the 31st March 2007 to the 31st March 2012 is detailed below:

Category of Abuse	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Neglect	77	86	37	69	89
Physical Abuse	21	27	13	11	13
Sexual Abuse	17	9	0	17	8
Emotional abuse	32	73	48	49	56
Multiply	9	55	158	150	154
Total	156	250	256	296	320

As at the end of May 2012 there were 284 children and young people subject to CP plans in Haringey.

- 2.3 The rate of children and young people subject to a CP Plan per 10,000 population in Haringey is 57.84.
- 2.4 In May 2012, 91% of all children and young people subject to a CP Plan were visited in the month by their allocated worker.
- 2.5 In May 2012, there were 2 children moving into Haringey on a CP Plan.
- 2.6 As at 31st May 2012, 10% of the children and young people subject to CP Plans had been subject to plans for more than two years.
- 2.7 As at the 31st May 2012 23.1% of all children and young people becoming looked after had been subject to a CP Plan.

¹ NSPCC inform, 2012



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3.0 Practice and audit

- 3.1 An initial child protection conference must be convened when it is believed that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. The conference must consider all the children in the household, even if concerns are only being expressed about one child.

For all cases going to conference there will have been a multi-agency strategy meeting.

- 3.2 The Team Manager and their Deputy Head of Service are responsible for making the decision to convene a child protection conference and the reasons for calling the conference (or not calling a conference following completion of a S47 enquiry) must be recorded.
- 3.3 As detailed above children and young people subject to CP Plans are reviewed on a regular basis, three monthly and then six monthly by the independent Child Protection Advisors (CPAs) at the multi-agency Review Child Protection Conferences.

The CPAs, as independent chairs of conferences, will contact managers and practitioners outside of the review conferences where they have any concerns about the management or direction of the case or to share good practice.

- 3.4 Social workers receive regular supervision and it is through supervision that Managers review CP Plans with practitioners to identify outstanding actions, identify any drift and the general progression of the plan.
- 3.5 Monthly listings of children and young people subject to CP Plans for more than 18 and 24 months are reviewed by the Head of Service and where there are issues these are passed to the practitioner's managers for action.

There is no right time for a child or young person to be subject to a CP Plan. CP Plans must be purposeful and focused on change for a child or young person.

Assertive review child protection case conferences, regular professional supervision and audit will identify any drift for children or young people subject to CP Plans

- 3.6 The Safeguarding Panel is a multi-agency forum where practitioners can take complex cases for discussion, ideas and recommendations to support their decision making. Managers attend with practitioners and this has proved to be a useful resource for children and young people who have been subject to a CP Plans for over 18 months.



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- 3.7 Within the Police Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) there are officers who work specifically with children and young people subject to CP Plans and ensure timely sharing of information with the allocated social workers.

4.0 Care Proceedings

- 4.1 When it is clear that the protection or welfare of a child cannot be achieved by agreement with the parents or the security of a legal order is necessary to ensure the viability of a plan for a child, a Legal Planning Meeting should be convened. Legal Planning Meetings may also be convened where it is being considered that a child should be reunited within their family. It is an opportunity to discuss a case fully, and to consult with solicitor colleagues from Child Care Legal to ensure that children are the subject of active case management.

- 4.2 The role of the legal representative is to advise about the legal possibilities for achieving the desired aim and to give a view about the quality of the evidence available.

Recommendations from lawyers at Legal Planning Meetings can range from the need to issue proceedings to ongoing support to the family through a CP or CiN Plan.

- 4.3 There are currently 100 sets of Care proceedings in the courts as of the 20th June 2012.

- 4.4 Recent research from the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) *'Three weeks in November....three years on Cafcass care application study 2012'*², shows that Guardians believe that care applications were more appropriately timed than in 2009. In 67.1% of cases Guardians felt that local authority's care application was timed appropriately which is a marked increase from the 53.7% recorded on the 2009 survey.

In the vast majority of cases (85.4%), Guardians felt that that the Local Authority's application was the only viable action and there was no other alternative. In just 36 cases (14.6%) they identified a possible alternative to care proceedings and where this was suggested, a robust

² *'Three weeks in November....three years on Cafcass care application study 2012'* – this report gauged the views CAFCASS Children's Guardians in relation to care applications in a three week period in November 2011



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child protection plan; family group conference and parenting education programmes were the most frequently mentioned alternatives.

It is worth noting the research also found that local authorities were making applications at an earlier stage of their involvement with families. In the research 19.8% of children had not been previously involved with children's services at the time of application, almost double the 11.5% seen in the 2009 study.

Applications where the children had a briefer length of involvement with the local authority prior to the application were much more likely to be considered appropriately timed than those with longer involvement. Applications for 88.5% children with no prior involvement were considered appropriately timed, as were applications for 73.3% of children with less than one year's involvement, 66.6% of applications with three or more years of involvement were considered late.

The research is at

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2012/cafcass_care_study_2012.aspx

5.0 The timeliness of interventions

5.1 The timeliness of interventions for children and young people is key to their safety and wellbeing and our practitioners aim to intervene sooner rather than later. Working with children and young people and their families when things first start to go wrong through our universal services, children's centres, youth service and our family support will allow families to get the correct sign-posting to the right services delivering the right interventions to ensure the Borough's children are health, safe and achieving.

The time from a child or young person being first known to the department and the decision to have an initial child protection case conference will depend on the presenting needs. Our target for Initial Child Protection Case Conferences is 15 days from the strategy meeting. In cases where it is unclear at the point of referral or at the initial strategy meeting whether or not concerns will lead to an Initial Child Protection Case Conference the 15 days is taken from the review strategy meeting.

Where a decision has been made that a child or young person needs a period of social work involvement managed through a child in need plan, it may only be a change in circumstances or a particular incident that prompts the decision to take the case to an initial child protection case conference. This can mean that a child or young person has been



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known to the service for weeks or months, before an initial case conference.

Professional, regular and challenging supervision will identify where there is drift in such cases and ensure that where appropriate cases are taken to initial case conference.

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

Document is exempt

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