

Report Title: Safeguarding Plan for Haringey

Report of **Peter Lewis, Director of Children Services**

Signed :

Contact Officer : Mark Gwynne, Programme Manager

Wards(s) affected: **ALL**

Report for: **Non Key Decision**

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

- 1.1. This report provides the Scrutiny with an update on delivery of the Safeguarding Plan (formerly the JAR Action Plan), for the period up to October 2009.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

- 2.1. N/A

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and / or other Strategies:

- 3.1. The Haringey Community Strategy 2007-2016 in particular the 'Safer for all' key outcome. In response to the JAR Action Plan we have strengthened our commitment to provide support and protection to the most vulnerable people in our community through the following priority: We will **'Safeguard children and adults from abuse and neglect wherever possible and deal with it appropriately and effectively if it does occur'** – *Community Strategy Update, March 2009*
- 3.2. The Council Plan 2007-2010 priority of 'Encouraging lifetime well-being at home, work, play and learning'
- 3.3. The Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09 (currently being finalised for 2009-12) in particular the 'Stay Safe' element which, in part, replicates the key

actions developed through the JAR Action Plan refresh.

3.4. Haringey Strategic Plan (NHS) 2008-2013

3.5. Safer for all, Haringey's Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2008-2011

4. Recommendations

4.1. To note progress in delivery of the Safeguarding Plan milestones and key performance indicators.

4.2. To note the arrangements in place for managing programme level risks and issues.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

5.1. This report provides Scrutiny with a progress report on the Safeguarding Plan for Haringey: the refreshed JAR Action Plan.

5.2. Quarterly performance reports on the refreshed plan will continue to focus on achievement of programme milestones and management of performance indicators, providing an indication of the direction of travel as well as identify areas where further support is required.

6. Summary

6.1. The refreshed JAR Action Plan forms the Safeguarding Plan for Haringey. Development of the refreshed plan comprising a smaller more focused set of actions was completed in August 2009. Most of the actions are scheduled for completion by December 2009, which will lead to a positive recognition for the improvements made in the January inspection, whilst setting the way for safeguarding services to become amongst the best by 2012.

6.2. The Safeguarding Plan has been focused on delivering the key actions that are required before the end of the year in order to ensure that the basic foundations are in place to enable effective safeguarding of children in Haringey. This incorporates key findings from the serious case reviews (SCRs).

6.3. There are several challenges to achieve this outcome, which are highlighted in the Safeguarding Plan Milestone Report (appendices 2 and 2a) and the Performance Report (appendix 3).

7. Chief Financial Officer Comments

7.1. N/A

8. Head of Legal Services Comments

8.1. N/A

9. Head of Procurement Comments

9.1. N/A

10. Equalities &Community Cohesion Comments

10.1. N/A

11. Consultation

11.1. N/A

12. Service Financial Comments

12.1. Meetings have been held between all Area for Improvement lead officers and the Head of Finance. Based on these meetings an update of the allocations necessary across the seven themes has been undertaken.

12.2. The revised analysis reflects the fact that as additional support has been engaged this has been deployed across various themes.

13. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

13.1. Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

13.2. Appendix 2: Safeguarding Plan Milestone Report, October 2009

13.3. Appendix 2a: Safeguarding Plan Milestone Exception Report, October 2009

13.4. Appendix 2: Performance Indicator Report, September 2009

14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

14.1. JAR Report (December 2008)

14.2. Annual Performance Assessment (December 2008)

14.3. Inspection of Progress in the Provision of Safeguarding Report (July 2009)

1. Background

- 1.1.1 In developing the JAR Action Plan back in January 2009, partners across the borough were keen that the Plan was ambitious and represented more than just addressing the JAR (Dec 2008) and APA (Dec 2008) inspection reports. The intention was to unite all partners in the borough to implement more fundamental changes in the quality of safeguarding work.
- 1.1.2 The ambition was to achieve a 'positive direction of travel' by June 2009 and this was to be validated by the inspection. Whilst the inspection report recognised progress in some areas, their overall assessment fell short of the desired outcome.
- 1.1.3 In addition, May's performance report showed that slippage had occurred in a number of areas and performance measures. Ofsted's 'priorities for further improvement' also identified a number of actions in the current plan that needed to be expanded or amended.
- 1.1.4 Senior officers across the partnership embraced the inspection findings and agreed that it provided an opportune moment to review the plan. The inspection team also endorsed the need for this at their feedback session and suggested that the timelines for delivering the plan be revisited.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1.1 A range of quality assurance mechanisms have been put in place to assess improvement in the quality of work ahead of the inspection. External assessments of progress have been commissioned to validate improvements and identify areas where further work is required. In addition, a review of the published reports from unannounced safeguarding inspections has been undertaken.
- 2.1.2 The findings from these are all being used to support the gathering of suitable evidence to demonstrate that:
- We are clear about our strengths and areas for improvement;
 - Recognition should be given for some of the key areas of success that exist within the Borough; and
 - Plans are in place to continue to improve services and working practices in areas where we know further improvement is required.
- 2.1.3 Evidence gathering and the development of a robust self assessment will help ensure that the inspection recognises progress made to date and our ability to continue to improve the service. These activities are happening throughout November and December in preparation for the January inspection.