

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 17th November 2009

Report Title: Members' Panel - Safeguarding Adults	
Report of: Mun Thong Phung, Director of Adult, Culture and Community Services	
Signed :	
Contact Officer : Will Evans, Safeguarding Adults Lead	
Wards(s) affected: All	Report for: Key
<p>1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)</p> <p>1.1 The Independence, Well-being and Choice Service Inspection, January 2009, suggested that aspects of performance monitoring needed to be further enhanced. The proposed Members' Panel will provide additional overview and scrutiny by Members in the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.</p>	
<p>2. Introduction by Cabinet Member</p> <p>2.1. The Well-being and Choice Service Inspection, January 2009, made certain recommendations in terms of further enhancing Adults Safeguarding practice. The establishment of the Members' Panel will provide further 'arms length' overview and provide the Cabinet with the assurance that the highest level of scrutiny is being offered to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults in Haringey.</p>	

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

- 3.1 The Council has a responsibility to ensure that there are effective multi-agency arrangements in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse, and to intervene when concerns of possible abuse are raised. This recommendation has been informed by the recent Independence, Well-being and Choice Service Inspection. Overall the service was judged as “adequate” but further work was needed in developing systems of performance monitoring so that the Council can be fully assured that people in Haringey in vulnerable or abusive situations are effectively safeguarded. The new Panel will provide an additional overview/scrutiny by Members.
- 3.2 The Members’ Panel would allow the Council (in keeping with priorities 3, 4 & 5), to continually monitor Haringey’s policies for safeguarding adults from abuse which is a multi-agency responsibility; that procedures are prepared with the full support and contributions from all partners; and the procedures reflect their roles and responsibilities.
- 3.3 There are adults for whom abuse compromises their access to safety; to the civil and criminal justice system; to victim support services; to housing; to health and social care and to protective networks of family, friends and community. The development of a new operational safeguarding team, which will include Deprivation of Liberty, will continue this positive work and ensure the Council delivers a first class service to the Borough’s most vulnerable residents.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. It is recommended the establishment of an Adult Safeguarding Members’ Panel (Adult Protection) as an advisory committee.
- 4.2. The Cabinet adopt the agreed terms of reference for that Panel.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1. The Members’ Panel will assist the development of better performance management in line with the Independence, Wellbeing and Choice Service Inspection, and the agreed action plan, by reviewing the effectiveness of the Council’s policies and practice in relation to the Safeguarding of Adults and joint working of partner organisation to make sure that adults within Haringey are appropriately protected from all forms of abuse.

6. Other options considered

- 6.1. None.

7. Summary

7.1. The Independence, Well-being and Choice Service Inspection, January 2009, suggested that aspects of performance monitoring needed to be further enhanced. The proposed Members' Panel will provide additional overview and scrutiny by Members in the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

Adult Safeguarding Members Panel/Advisory Committee (Adult Protection)

Proposed Membership

Councillors: 3 Councillors, 2 from the Majority Group and 1 from Opposition
– Chair to be nominated by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Well Being.

7.2 Terms of Reference

The terms of reference are set out below:

- To examine and review the effectiveness of the Council's policies and practice in relation to the Safeguarding of Adults (Adult Protection);
- To review and examine the effectiveness of arrangements for cooperation; and joint working of Adults Safeguarding issues between partner agencies;
- By obtaining the views of key stakeholders (staff, families /carers and the person themselves) to obtain a qualitative understanding of how safeguarding processes are working to protect vulnerable adults;
- To consider the Council's policies and performance in relation to safeguarding adults through observing practice within Haringey; and
- To make recommendations on these issues to the Cabinet, the lead member for Safeguarding Adults and the Assistant Director for safeguarding in order to take forward and drive improvements to safeguarding adults within the borough.

These terms of reference will be reviewed by the Lead Member for Adults Social Care and Well Being at least every two years.

7.3. Administrative support for the Panel

Administrative support for the Panel will be provided by the ACCS Safeguarding Team's Business Support Officer.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1. The Head of Service confirms that the new Members' Panel can be serviced from within existing business unit resources. The report notes that the Panel's term of reference will be reviewed annually which will allow a further review of resourcing to be undertaken following a year's activity.

8.2. Members should note that this committee is **advisory** only and, as such, has no formal decision making powers and thus will not have the authority to incur expenditure or make budgetary decisions.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1 The Head of Legal Services notes the content and recommendations of the report and advises that there are no specific legal comments.

10. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]

10.1 Not applicable.

11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

11.1 Safeguarding works across all areas of the Borough and fits into the agreed Haringey Strategic Partnership particularly that all residents are safe from all forms of harassment and crime and are free from fear of crime.

12. Consultation

12.1 None required.

13. Service Financial Comments

13.1 Any costs associated with this panel will be contained within the overall budget of the business unit.

14. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

14.1 None required.

15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Critical Reference Paper:

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/social_care_and_health.htm#independence,_well-being_and_choice_service_inspection