

Meeting: Haringey Children's Trust

Date: 17 December 2009

Report Title: Information Sharing Protocol

Report of: Director, Children and Young People's Service

Purpose

To inform the Children's Trust of the proposed changes to the information-sharing protocol and supporting guidance for practitioners. This complies with the commitment in the Haringey Safeguarding Plan to have revised guidance in place by 31 December 2009.

Summary

The local protocol builds on the national guidance published by the DCSF. This expresses the commitment of Children's Trust partners to share information efficiently in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The guidance for practitioners is intended to support managers and frontline staff who make decisions on a case by case basis. It is intended to offer clarity on when and how information can be shared legally and professionally in order to improve outcomes for children.

Key partners have been consulted in the process of drafting the protocol and guidance and have expressed their commitment to implementing in full.

Legal/Financial Implications

The Council's Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report and on the content of the proposed Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) and associated Guidance. The ISP and guidance are compliant with the main elements of the legal framework covering the protection and disclosure of personal information, including the Human Rights Act 1998, Data Protection Act 1998 and the common law duty of confidentiality.

Recommendations

1. That the Children's adopt the information-sharing protocol as the basis for sharing-information across the partnership;
2. That members of the Children's Trust disseminate the guidance for practitioners so that front-line staff are supported in making decisions about when and how to share information;
3. That the Children's Trust requests an update report in June 2010 and each partner agency to report on progress within their own agency.

For more information contact:

Name: Jan Doust

Title: Deputy Director, Children and Young People's Service

Tel: 020 8489 -3150

Email address: jan.doust@haringey.gov.uk

Background

Information-sharing was one of the key strands of Every Child Matters. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership adopted the first Information-Sharing protocol in 2005. This replaces the original protocol and is intended to express the commitment of Children's Trust partners to sharing-information legally and efficiently. It is intended to provide clear guidance to managers and staff dealing with individual cases. It sits alongside the suite of information-sharing protocols already in existence within Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) and will complement the implementation of these protocols.

Use of Appendices

The revised Children's Trust Information-sharing protocol and guidance is attached as appendix 1.