



<b>Briefing for:</b>	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Review of the Role of the Independent Member
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Hilary Corrick, Independent Social Work Consultant, and Independent Panel Member
<b>Date:</b>	25th January 2010

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** The Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee was set up in April 2009 to
- ensure that members have some understanding of the key child protection issues;
  - ensure that members have confidence in the safeguarding arrangements and practice in Haringey;
  - ensure that members have developed a range of questions which enable them to consider all aspects of safeguarding and which can be shared with other members.

**1.2** At its first meeting the Committee agreed that it would be helpful to the Committee to appoint an independent Member to provide advice to Members and facilitate the work of the Committee. A draft person specification and role profile for the independent Member incorporating report writing was circulated to Members.

**1.3** At their second meeting in June 2009 the Committee was advised that Hilary Corrick had extensive experience in a wide range of social service work including senior positions at local authority and national level and now worked as an independent social work consultant.



1.4 It was agreed to confirm Hilary Corrick as the independent Member to the Committee for an initial period of 6 months, and review her role after that time.

## **2. Background information**

2.1 Hilary has attended every Committee meeting since that time (3) and represented the Committee at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings on two occasions and also at Cabinet.

2.2 She has undertaken a brief feedback survey with service users and referrers on behalf of the Committee.

2.3 She has provided a number of reports to the Committee and also supported Members in scrutinising a number of referrals.

2.4 She has provided training on a range of matters in relation to the Committee's work, such as referrals.

## **3. Options for consideration**

3.1 Members may wish to dispense with the role of the independent Member, change the role and /or the person filling the role, or maintain the role in its present form.

## **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are financial costs to an independent Member.

## **5. Legal Implications**

N/A

## **6. Policy Implications**

N/A

## **7. Conclusions**

Given the fact that the Committee has only met operationally on three occasions since the appointment of the independent Member it may be too soon to comment in detail about the role or its performance. A further time scale and more detailed criteria could be set.