

Report Title: Safeguarding Plan for Haringey

Report of **Peter Lewis, Director of Children & Young People's Service**

Signed :



Contact Officer : Mark Gwynne, Safeguarding Plan 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 Scrutiny with an update on delivery of the Safeguarding Plan (formerly the JAR Action Plan), for the period up to January 2010.
- 1.2. The report also presents the learning from the extensive quality assurance programme and Ofsted follow-up inspection conducted in January which is being incorporated into the refreshed Safeguarding Plan. An update (Appendix 5) will be issued as soon as the Ofsted inspection report is published, providing members with information on the outcome of the Ofsted report and the timeline to address the issues arising. This will be supplemented by a verbal update at the meeting.

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 2009-20 in particular the 'Stay Safe' element which, in part, replicates the key actions developed within the Safeguarding Plan.
- 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.
- 4.3. To note the outcomes of the Ofsted follow-up inspection in January 2010 and the plans for refreshing the Safeguarding Plan in order to enable our safeguarding of children and young people to be recognised as being amongst the best by 2012.

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, the process and timescale for refreshing the plan and an update on the outcomes of the Ofsted follow-up visit in January 2010.
- 5.2. Future performance reports on the refreshed plan will continue to focus on achievement of programme milestones, management of performance indicators and risk management, providing an indication of the continued 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. Following delivery of the first phase of actions within the Safeguarding Plan and the feedback from Ofsted, the plan is being refreshed to take forward improvements over the period to December 2011, enabling the Council to be amongst the best at safeguarding children and young people by 2012.
- 6.2. Development of the refreshed plan will be completed over the next few months, with the plan being published by June 2010. The refresh will build on the solid foundations put in place over the past year to enable effective safeguarding of children in Haringey. The plan will also continue to incorporate key findings

from the serious case reviews (SCRs) where these are yet to be completed.

6.3. There were several challenges to achieve the desired outcome from phase 1 of the Safeguarding Plan, the period June – December 2009. These challenges have been highlighted in the Safeguarding Plan Milestone Report (appendix 2), the Performance Report (appendix 3) and the Risk Report (appendix 4).

6.4. The Ofsted follow-up inspection took place at the end of January 2010 in order to assess the progress we have made since the urgent JAR in November 2008 and the follow-up visit in June 2009. The outcomes from this visit and an outline of the report published by Ofsted will be circulated separately as Appendix 5 once Ofsted have published their findings.

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, January 2009

- 13.3. Appendix 3: Safeguarding Plan Performance Indicator Report, January 2009
- 13.4. Appendix 4: Safeguarding Plan Risk Report, January 2009
- 13.5. Appendix 5: Ofsted Report Follow-Up Inspection of Progress (To Be Circulated Separately Once Ofsted Report is Published)

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)
- 14.4. Inspection of Progress in the Provision of Safeguarding Report (February 2010)

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 which 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 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.
- 1.1.4 The Safeguarding Plan for Haringey (the refreshed JAR Action Plan) identified a streamlined plan of the key actions that were required in the short term to establish solid foundations on which future performance improvements could be delivered. The first phase of this set out the key actions to be delivered by December 2009 in readiness for the January 2010 follow-up visit from Ofsted.
- 1.1.5 A range of quality assurance mechanisms were 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 ensured that we continue to learn from others and are aware of key issues arising.
- 1.1.6 Inspection preparation was effectively managed to ensure 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. Next Steps

- 2.1.1 Work is underway to refresh the Safeguarding Plan, providing greater focus to the actions for the remaining months through to December 2011 in order to support the ambition of having our safeguarding services recognised as amongst the best by 2012. This will ensure that the momentum is maintained.
- 2.1.2 The refreshed plan, addressing areas for further development arising from the Ofsted visit will be developed in partnership and approved by June 2010.