



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Audit Committee

On 24th March 2010

Report Title JAR Action Plan Update

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

Signed : 

Contact Officer : Mark Gwynne, JAR Programme Manager

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non-Key Decision

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. This report provides an update on progress with delivery of the Safeguarding Plan, as requested by the Committee, and an update on the findings of the Ofsted follow-up inspection.
- 1.2. Audit Committee note:
 - Progress made against the milestones and performance indicators for the Safeguarding Plan; and
 - The good progress and good capacity to improve that has been developed in relation to safeguarding and as recognised by Ofsted.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

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.
- 3.4. Haringey Strategic Plan (NHS) 2008-2013
- 3.5. Priority Actions for Health: arising from the Safeguarding Plan for Haringey Plan 2009
- 3.6. Safer for all, Haringey's Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2008-2011

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. To note progress in delivery of the milestones (contained within Appendix 1) and performance (contained in Appendix 2).
- 4.2. To note the good progress made in improving safeguarding, as evidenced by Ofsted and contained in Appendix 3.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1. At the previous meeting the committee were advised of the programme management arrangements, establishment for the Safeguarding Plan and the role of the Steering Group within the governance arrangements for ensuring the improvements are delivered at an appropriate pace and in accordance with the plan.
- 5.2. Further progress has been made since the last meeting in continuing to deliver the actions in a timely and appropriate manner. In the meantime the Ofsted report has also been published which acknowledges the "extensive and consistent evidence of good progress overall and good capacity for further improvement".
- 5.3. The committee were advised at the last meeting of the focus that has been placed on improvements to the quality of assessments rather than focus simply on the timeliness. The Ofsted report recognises the "significant improvements in the quality of practice and management".
- 5.4. Whilst these improvements are clear and evident within the service, much remains to be done. The plan is being refreshed in light of the Ofsted findings and will be re-focused to enable the Council to achieve its' ambition of being amongst the best by 2012.

6. Other options considered

6.1. N/A

7. Summary

7.1. The Safeguarding Plan was developed following the June 2009 follow-up inspection providing a streamlined plan focused around 5 themes to deliver significant improvements in a short period of time. Following publication of the Ofsted report last month, the plan is being refreshed to provide actions that will enable further improvement enabling Haringey to be amongst the best by 2012. This refreshed plan will retain the five themes.

7.2. The Safeguarding Plan will continue to be actively managed on a fortnightly basis by the Safeguarding Plan Steering Group, whilst reviewing some of the other reporting channels to ensure that time and effort is spent on delivering improvements rather than reporting on progress.

7.3. For this report, progress has been reported against the milestones / achievements of the Safeguarding Plan. The programme milestone progress report (Appendix 1) and performance indicator report (Appendix 2) give a progress update on delivery of this plan.

7.4. Key milestone issues arising since the last report are:

- Induction training has been delayed, but will be on track by June
- Critical incident training has not been completed but guidance is in development.

7.5. Performance reporting continues to be drawn from the Covalent system, which identifies the following issue:

- Although priority performance indicators (NI 59 & 60 – Initial and Core Assessments) are showing an upward trend the rate of progress has not been as fast as originally planned. Whilst some progress has been made in timeliness, Ofsted identified that “significant improvement has been achieved in the quality of assessments”.

7.6. In the light of progress in delivering the milestones within the Safeguarding Plan and the improvements that have been evidenced, by Ofsted, within the service, we now have greater confidence in our ability to safeguard the children and young people of Haringey.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1. The Council in forming its 2009-10 Budget Strategy recognised the need to address the issues which had been identified in Children’s safeguarding by the Joint Area Review. It made available one-off provision for an additional £4.2m

which has been earmarked for the actions set out in the attached Safeguarding Plan. Confirmation has been received from the Government about the extent to which they are prepared to provide additional resources which is consistent with and reflected in the assumptions set out above.

- 8.2. To the extent that the actions in the Safeguarding Plan have on-going resource implications, they have been reflected in the Council's 2010-11 Budget proposals that are currently being considered.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 9.1. No legal comments.

10. Head of Procurement Comments

- 10.1. N/A

11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

- 11.1. N/A

12. Consultation

- 12.1. N/A

13. Service Financial Comments

- 13.1. Meetings were 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 themes was undertaken.
- 13.2. The revised analysis reflects the fact that as additional support has been engaged this has been deployed across various themes.

14. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

- 14.1. Appendix 1: Safeguarding Plan – Milestone Progress Report, December 2009
14.2. Appendix 2: Performance Indicator Report, November 2009
14.3. Appendix 3: Ofsted Follow-Up Inspection Report, February 2010

15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 15.1. JAR Report (December 2008)
15.2. Annual Performance Assessment (December 2008)
15.3. JAR Monitoring Visit Report (July 2009)
15.4. Ofsted Follow-Up Inspection Report (February 2010)