



<b>Briefing for:</b>	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Safeguarding and Support
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## 1. Introduction

Haringey's Children's Social Care is committed to providing high quality services to support and safeguard children, young people and their families across the Borough. Our aim is always to put children and young people at the centre of all our work.

The services provided by children's social care follow from specific Government legislation, including the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004, and the "Every Child Matters: Change for Children" agenda.

Children's Social care deliver services through three main functions:

- First Response
- Safeguarding and Support
- Children in Care

This paper is to update members on the Safeguarding and Support Services within Children's Social Care.

All children's services across the country have experienced an increase in the number of children and young people subject to Child Protection Plans but the increase has been particularly acute in Haringey.



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There are currently 117 children under 5 subject to Child Protection Plans in the Borough and they are particularly vulnerable due to their age and development.

There are over 300 children and young people subject to Child in Need Plans. The plans for these children and young people are managed through multi-agency reviews by workers within the Safeguarding and Support Service.

Where any child or young person is subject to a Child Protection Plan or Child in Need Plan and their circumstances change, if these circumstances place them at risk of significant harm, social workers in the service work with our Child Care Legal Team and the Police to ensure they are protected. The child is removed from the parent(s) where necessary.

The teams in Safeguarding and Support are made up of Team Managers, Senior Practitioners, Practice Managers, Social workers and Assistant Social Workers. The teams work with other agencies across the Borough, especially Community Midwifery, Health Visiting, Police and schools to ensure children and young people are safe and have the right services delivered at the right time.

The Department have implemented a range of procedures to support practitioners and managers within the service. Audit and quality control processes to ensure best practice and management oversight are carried out across all cases.

Some of the mechanisms for implementing quality control processes are:

- Safeguarding Panel
- Legal Case Work Meetings
- Revised Legal Planning Meeting Processes
- Monthly thematic audits carried out by all managers from Deputy Head of Service to Director of Children's Services
- Safeguarding Champions
- Multi-agency audits

## **2. Background information**

The Safeguarding and Support Service delivers services to children, young people and their families living in the community, some of the most vulnerable in the Borough.

The children and young people who receive a service are subject to Child Protection (CP) Plans, Child in Need (CIN) Plans and Supervision Orders.

As at the end of May 2010 there were 280 children and young people subject to Child Protection Plans, all with key-workers from the Safeguarding and Support service, who manage the Child Protection Plans and the team of professionals working with the child or young person through a series of Core Group



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meetings. There has been a 55.6% increase in the number of children and young people subject to plans in the twelve months to May 2010. This has placed enormous pressure on the service and other agencies working with the families.

### **3. Options for consideration**

Members are asked to note this report and for an update to be brought to the Committee within six months.

### **4. Financial Implications**

The service is facing difficult financial times ahead. All public services are facing further significant reductions in their resources over the next few years. In spite of these difficulties, we will continue to work effectively with our partner agencies to ensure that our safeguarding work continue to improve.

### **5. Legal Implications**

This is an update for members information and there are no new legal or policy implications.

### **6. Policy Implications – As above**

### **7. List the proposed routing for the report through the formal decision making process – Not applicable**