



Haringey Council

Overview & Scrutiny

On 21st July 2010

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, for the period up to May 2010.
- 1.2. The report also presents the refreshed Safeguarding Plan for Haringey, which sets out the programme of activity to enable safeguarding of children and young people within Haringey to be recognised as being amongst the best by December 2011.

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.
- 4.2. To note the refreshed Safeguarding Plan which has been considered by Cabinet and approved by the Children's Trust.

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 up to May 2010.
- 5.2. It was originally stated within the Safeguarding Plan that it would be refreshed following the January Ofsted follow-up inspection, and to incorporate the learning from other inspections across the country.

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 has been 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. The plan continues to incorporate key findings from the serious case reviews (SCRs) where these are yet to be completed.
- 6.2. 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 previous reports to the committee. Current progress is shown within the Safeguarding Plan Milestone Report (appendices 1a and 1b).
- 6.3. 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 have been circulated to members previously, and this information has informed the refresh of the Safeguarding Plan (attached as appendix 3).

<p>7. Chief Financial Officer Comments</p> <p>7.1. N/A</p>
<p>8. Head of Legal Services Comments</p> <p>8.1. N/A</p>
<p>9. Head of Procurement Comments</p> <p>9.1. N/A</p>
<p>10. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments</p> <p>10.1. N/A</p>
<p>11. Consultation</p> <p>11.1. N/A</p>
<p>12. Service Financial Comments</p> <p>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.</p> <p>12.2. The revised analysis reflects the fact that as additional support has been engaged this has been deployed across various themes.</p>
<p>13. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs</p> <p>13.1. Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms</p> <p>13.2. Appendix 2a: Safeguarding Plan Milestone Summary Report, May 2009</p> <p>13.3. Appendix 2b: Safeguarding Plan Milestone Exception Report, May 2009</p> <p>13.4. Appendix 3: Safeguarding Plan Refresh, June 2010</p>
<p>14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</p> <p>14.1. JAR Report (December 2008)</p> <p>14.2. Annual Performance Assessment (December 2008)</p> <p>14.3. Inspection of Progress in the Provision of Safeguarding Report (July 2009)</p> <p>14.4. Inspection of Progress in the Provision of Safeguarding Report (February 2010)</p>

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 nationally as well as locally.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1.1 Governance and programme management arrangements for delivery of the refreshed plan are contained within the Safeguarding Plan and are designed to ensure that there is effective internal and external challenge, monitoring and control, without adversely impacting on the ability of managers and staff to continue to deliver the required improvements. 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 the Children's Trust in June 2010.