

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 14th September 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 presents for consideration the refreshed Safeguarding Plan for Haringey, as approved by Children's Trust on 24th June 2010.
- 1.2. The plan 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. We have pledged to improve our children's services so that they become amongst the best in the country. We are not there yet, though we have made significant progress since winter 2008. This Safeguarding Plan sets out what we need to do to ensure that this progress continues and does so at a pace.
- 2.2. We, the Council, cannot achieve the safeguarding of children on our own. We have to work in partnership and that is why this plan is not just the Council's plan, it is a partnership commitment and has already been approved by the Children's Trust.
- 2.3. Our staff, and those of our partners, are key to success and I wish to place on record my thanks to them for their hard work.

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 on delivery of the refreshed Safeguarding Plan ahead of consideration by the Towards Excellence in Children's Services Board.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1. This report presents Cabinet with the latest milestone update on the Safeguarding Plan for Haringey, whilst recognising that the plan was only approved just prior to the summer break.

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 partnership 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) and initial learning where these are yet to be completed.
- 6.2. The progress reported is limited in part due to the recentness with which the plan was approved. The changes being introduced by the new government and the budget issues are creating additional pressures that will be reflected within the next refresh of the plan for approval in December. At this stage any learning from the unannounced inspection will also be included.

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: Safeguarding Plan Milestone Report, August 2010

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 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.
- 1.1.3 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. With the unannounced inspection of Haringey now being complete, this learning will feed into the next refresh of the plan.

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. A meeting with all milestone leads is arranged for September to ensure that the momentum is maintained and they continue to recognise the importance of the improvement journey.
- 2.1.2 The refreshed plan, addressing areas for further development arising from the Ofsted visit was developed in partnership and approved by the Children's Trust in June 2010. The plan is subject to quarterly refreshes to ensure that it maintains its relevance and is able to respond to budget issues and learning from SCRs in a timely manner.