



<b>Briefing for:</b>	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Haringey Safeguarding Children Board
<b>Report by:</b>	Councillor Reg Rice and Hilary Corrick
<b>Date:</b>	4th October 2010

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

At the first meeting of the new Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee on 29th June 2010, members received a presentation from Sarah Peel, the Safeguarding Board Manager, about child protection and the role of the Safeguarding Board. Members requested permission to visit the Board and observe a meeting.

The Independent Board Chair, Graham Badman, agreed that members could observe the Board but only two members at any one meeting.

Councillor Rice, Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee, attended the next meeting on 21st July with Hilary Corrick, the independent member of the Committee.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. The functions of an LSCB are set out in primary legislation and regulations.

The Board has wide scope to ensure that there are mechanisms in place to identify and prevent abuse and neglect wherever it occurs, and that children grow up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care; to ensure that work is undertaken to safeguard and promote the well being of children in particularly vulnerable groups, such as children in families with no



recourse to public funds; and that work is undertaken with children who have been abused.

LSCBs have a number of very specific functions, such as awareness raising for the general public, analysing information about all child deaths in a local area, undertaking reviews of cases where abuse or neglect are thought to be a factor in a child's death or serious injury.

the role of the LSCB is complementary to that of a local Children's Trust Board.

## **2. OBSERVATIONS**

This was a two hour meeting. There are 33 members of the Board, and although several of the members were not present, it was still a very large meeting, with wide representation from health services, the police, CAFCASS, voluntary sector and the probation service, as well as the local authority. The local authority has representatives from the Chief Executive's service, housing, legal services, schools, and children and young people's services, including the Director and the Assistant Director, Safeguarding.

The agenda was also wide, including updates on the three Serious Case Reviews, and feedback from the five sub-groups:

- Best Practice Delivery
- Quality Assurance/ Practice Review
- Policy Watchdog
- Domestic Violence
- Training and Development

There was a discussion on how the Boards of London LSCBs are funded and a presentation from the Gangs Action Group.

## **3. ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THIS COMMITTEE**

There was an interesting discussion about the Government's commitment to making available to the public the full detail of the original and the subsequent Serious Case Review on Baby P. They were proposing to publish it in July this year. The Chair, Graham Badman was meeting key officials in the Department for Education later that day.

There was a discussion about the new child protection training programme for staff and volunteers in all agencies across Haringey which have any contact with children, and it was noted that councillors were not specifically identified as invited to any of this training. The Board Manager said that training has been set up especially for Councillors but that the wider training programme would be circulated to them.

It was noted that the Board is putting on a Conference on 22nd September at the Professional Development Centre. Although places are limited it is hoped that some places will be made available for members of this Committee.



**Haringey** Council

The next meeting of the LSCB is to be held on 29th September. Two members of this Committee may attend that meeting as observers.