

MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 29 JUNE 2010

Councillors *Rice (Chair), *Amin, Davies, Hare and *McNamara

Independent Member *Hilary Corrick

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CSPPAC.01	<p>APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)</p> <p>An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Davies.</p>	
CSPPAC.02	<p>MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 March 2010 be confirmed and signed.</p>	HLDMS
CSPPAC.03	<p>TERMS OF REFERENCE (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive- People and Organisational Development - Agenda Item 5)</p> <p>We noted that when the Committee was established in April 2009 it had been agreed that its terms of reference would be the subject of a review by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services after one year's operation and that the views of the Committee had been invited.</p> <p>We also noted that as the membership of the Committee had, with the exception of the Independent Member, changed completely Members were of the view that they should be given more time to consider the Committee's purview before commenting. In this context we were reminded of the view of the Committee which had been reported to the Cabinet that its reporting mechanisms and influence should be higher within the Council structure and to this end it should report direct to full Council to ensure that information was better disseminated to all Councillors.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the quorum of the Committee was three.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That consideration of the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.</p>	HLDMS
CSPPAC.04	<p>ROLE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE INDEPENDENT MEMBER (Report of the Independent Social Work Consultant and Independent Panel Member - Agenda Item 6)</p> <p>We noted that the Committee had been established to enable a more</p>	

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	<p>detailed examination of the work of children's services and ensure that Members had some understanding of key child protection issues. Also to ensure that Members had confidence in the safeguarding arrangements and practice in Haringey and had developed a range of questions which enabled them to consider all aspects of safeguarding and which could be shared with other Members. In addition to the background information and details of the work undertaken by the Committee to date and the role of the Independent Member.</p> <p>With regard to future work plans, we asked that in addition to the suggestions contained in the paper a report be submitted to the Committee on the Central Government's proposals in relation to the work of children's services including the possible abolition of Children's Trusts and the implications this might have.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That approval be granted to a future work programme for the Committee comprising the following elements – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the Common Assessment Framework and an audit of all the cases referred to the Common Assessment Framework Panel on a particular date in June so that the cases might be reviewed at our October meeting; • The relationship between Children and Adult Social Care Services, particularly in respect of young people who had been the subject of child protection plans and were vulnerable young adults; • An audit of children known to the police as living in households where domestic violence was a feature. 2. That, in addition to the elements set out in 1 above, officers be requested to bring forward briefings about the new First Response arrangements and joint work with other agencies. 3. That the Committee also receive briefings about assessment and the child protection and safeguarding agenda from the Independent Member and other relevant professionals. 	<p>DACCS</p> <p>DACCS</p> <p>DACCS</p> <p>DACCS</p>
<p>CSPPAC.05</p>	<p>SAFEGUARDING AND SUPPORT (Report of the Head of Service Safeguarding and Support - Agenda Item 7)</p> <p>We received a presentation and noted that children's services across the country had experienced an increase in the number of children and young people subject to Child Protection Plans but that the increase had been particularly acute in Haringey.</p> <p>We were informed that 117 children under 5 were subject to Child Protection Plans in the Borough and they were particularly vulnerable</p>	

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	<p>due to their age and development. Over 300 children and young people were subject to Child in Need Plans and the plans for these children and young people were managed through multi-agency reviews by workers within the Safeguarding and Support Service. Where any child or young person was subject to a Child Protection Plan or Child in Need Plan and their circumstances changed so as to place them at risk of significant harm, social workers in the service worked with the Council's Child Care Legal Team and the Police to ensure they were protected including by removing them from the parents where necessary.</p> <p>We also noted the structure of the teams in Safeguarding and Support and that the teams worked with other agencies across the Borough, especially Community Midwifery, Health Visiting, Police and schools to ensure children and young people were safe and had the right services delivered at the right time. We were further informed that a range of procedures had been implemented to support practitioners and managers within the service and that audit and quality control processes were in place to ensure best practice and management oversight were carried out across all cases.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted and a further update be brought back to the Committee in six months time. 2. That Committee Members be provided with a copy of the presentation. 	<p>DACCS</p> <p>DACCS/ HLDMS</p>
<p>CSPPAC.06</p>	<p>FIRST RESPONSE (Report of the Head of Service, First Response - Agenda Item 8)</p> <p>We received a presentation and noted the service provided by First Response and the process by which referrals relating to Children and Young People living in Haringey and believed to either be in need of support or at risk of harm were managed and the appropriate action taken.</p> <p>With regard to current referral rates and workload, we received tabulated information for 2009/10 with comparisons carried out with three inner London boroughs which had revealed that compared with our statistical neighbours Haringey received a high number of contacts into the service. The relatively low percentage shown that moved to referral related to a high number of police reports received which did not meet the threshold for children's social care. We asked that officers supply Committee members with details of the threshold guidance.</p> <p>We also noted that the low annual conversation rate from referral to assessment reflected the significant amount of backlog work undertaken in 2009/10 and demonstrated the sustained improvement</p>	

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	<p>in the service over the year with the conversion rate from referral to assessment standing at 61.2%.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That Committee Members be provided with a copy of the presentation 	DACCS/ HLDMS
CSPAC.07	<p>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the dates of Committee meeting dates for the 2010/11 municipal year be noted. 2. That officers, in consultation with the Chair, explore the possibility of bringing forward the next scheduled meeting from 4 October to a date in September 2010. 	HLDMS
CSPAC.08	<p>OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Local Safeguarding Children Board Meetings <p>In response to a question about possible attendance by Committee Members at meetings of the Local Children Safeguarding Board, Hilary Corrick indicated that she would seek clarification of the position from Sarah Peel (LSCB Training Officer). Hilary Corrick indicated that she would also check and advise on the date on which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be reviewing child protection.</p> b. Next Meeting <p>That the next meeting be given over to the role of the Common Assessment Framework and an audit of all the cases referred to the Common Assessment Framework Panel on a particular date in June and that Alison Botham (Chair of the CAF Panel) be invited to attend.</p> 	Hilary Corrick DACCS/ HLDMS

The meeting ended at 21:00 hours.

REG RICE
Chair