

Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]


Overview & Scrutiny

On 1st November 2010

Report Title: Safeguarding Plan for Haringey

Report of **Peter Lewis, Director of Children & Young People's Service**

Signed :

 11/10/10

Contact Officer : Debbie Crossan, Project 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 September 2010.
- 1.2. The report also presents the Unannounced Inspection report and information on forthcoming inspections.

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 development of an overall safeguarding performance scorecard.
- 4.3. To recognise the progress made and achievements identified through the unannounced inspection.

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 September 2010.
- 5.2. It has been recognised that the performance management and reporting is inconsistent causing confusion for members and wasted effort in producing similar reports. The new performance scorecard, when completed, will provide more efficient and effective performance management across the partnership.

6. Summary

- 6.1. The Safeguarding Plan for Haringey has now been refreshed twice since originally formed as the JAR Action Plan. These refreshes have incorporated from the Ofsted inspections and key findings from the serious case reviews (SCRs). The purpose of the plan is to enable the Council to be amongst the best at safeguarding children and young people by 2012.
- 6.2. Inspections continue to identify the sustained progress being made, but more remains to be done. The next major assessment will be the full inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children, currently scheduled for early 2011. Progress to the end of September 2011 is shown within the Safeguarding Plan Milestone Report (appendices 2a and 2b).

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: Glossary of Terms

13.2. Appendix 2a: Safeguarding Plan Milestone Summary Report, September 2010

13.3. Appendix 2b: Safeguarding Plan Milestone Exception Report, September 2010

13.4. Appendix 3: Ofsted Unannounced Inspection Report, September 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 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. This has been particularly helpful in preparation for the Unannounced Inspection which took place on 17/18 August.
- 1.1.6 The Unannounced Inspection recognised the sustained improvement that has been made over the past year, and is amongst the best reports published to date. The report is attached as Appendix 3. Ofsted has been conducting an 18 month programme of unannounced inspections of the referral and assessment service within each Council. In our case this broadly reflects the work of our First Response service. Part way through the process the inspection framework moved to a "harder test". The inspection is designed to identify areas of strength, satisfactory practice, areas for development and any priority actions. In our instance the report, carried out under the "harder test" methodology, identified 7 strengths, 3 areas for development and no priority actions. Lewisham, Tower Hamlets and Enfield are the only 3 London Boroughs to have more strengths (8 each and all conducted under the "softer test"), and only 4 Boroughs have fewer areas for development (only one of these inspections was conducted using the "harder test"), whilst many have significantly more (up to 12

in one Borough). Analysis shows that nationally the averages are 4 strengths and 5-6 areas for development, whilst around 30% of inspections also identified areas for priority action.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1.1 The full inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children is likely to occur early in 2011. This inspection has a much wider scope and will be the next key milestone in our continued progress. It will pick up on the areas for development identified through the unannounced inspection and the January follow-up inspection to ensure that sufficient progress has been made. It will also look more deeply at the whole service, whereas to date the majority of inspection activity has been focussed on the “front door” and initial access to services.
- 2.1.2 Preparation has been underway since earlier this summer to ensure that we are appropriately positioned to demonstrate our continued improvement and our various strengths through the inspection framework.