



Briefing for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
Title:	The Future of the Committee
Lead Officer:	Hilary Corrick – Independent Member of the Committee
Date:	6 th December 2010

1. A review of the role of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee

The Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee was set up in April 2009 with the following Terms of Reference:

Terms of reference for Children Safeguarding Policy and Practice Panel

- (1) To examine and consider the effectiveness of the Council's policies and practice relating to the safeguarding of children.
- (2) To examine and consider the effectiveness of the arrangements for co-operation on child protection matters between partner agencies.
- (3) To consider the Council's policies and performance relating to safeguarding through observing practice in Haringey and obtaining the views of key stakeholders (staff, families and children /young people) to attain a qualitative understanding of safeguarding practice.
- (4) To make recommendations on these matters to the Cabinet or Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Director of Children and Young People's Service in taking forward improvements to safeguarding of children.

Membership



Haringey Council

Three non cabinet Councillors from the majority group, one of whom will chair the panel and two Councillors from the minority group plus one non-Councillor member having suitable experience and/or qualifications .The quorum will be three members.

The Chair will determine the Panel's procedures and the means for conveying the Panel's views to the Cabinet but, in the event of any dispute, the outcome will be determined by the majority vote of the Panel's membership with the Chair having a casting vote.

An independent member was also appointed to the Committee in order to provide advice to members.

Duration

The terms of reference for the Panel will be reviewed by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People following the Council Elections in 2010.

The Chair of the Committee and the independent member met with the Cabinet member for Children and Young People in November 2010 as part of the review of the Committee's terms of reference and role.

2. Background information

At that meeting it was noted that the practice has developed of the Committee Chair attending the Overview and Scrutiny Safeguarding meeting, and there was a discussion about the scrutiny function of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee. It reports to the Cabinet Member and presented a report to full Council in March 2010.

The role of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee was discussed and a proposal made that the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee could be seen as a parallel Committee overseeing the Council's responsibility for Children in Need in Haringey.

3. Options for consideration

It is proposed that the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee be reconstituted along similar lines to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. This would give it a clearer role in the Committee structure with clear reporting lines, and significant officer support. The role of the independent member would no longer be necessary.

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

5. Legal Implications

There are no financial implications.



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6. Policy Implications

The role of the Committee in terms of detailed case scrutiny, and the understanding of safeguarding policy, procedures and performance, would be unchanged.