



Briefing for:	Corporate Parenting Committee and the Children's Safeguarding Committee
Title:	Safeguarding and Support
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Haringey's Children's Safeguarding and Support Service is committed to providing high quality services to support and safeguard children, young people and their families across the Borough; our aim is always to put children and young people at the centre of all our work.

The services provided by children's social care follow from specific Government legislation, including the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004, and the "Every Child Matters: Change for Children" agenda.

Children's social care deliver services through three main functions:

- First Response
- Safeguarding and Support
- Children in Care

This paper is to update members on the Safeguarding and Support Services within the Children and Young People's Service.

The Safeguarding and Support Service delivers services to children, young people and their families living in the community, some of the most vulnerable in the Borough.



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The children and young people who receive a service are subject to Child Protection (CP) Plans, Child in Need (CIN) Plans and Supervision Orders (Children Act 1989).

As at the end of February 2011 there were 326 children and young people subject to CP Plans within the Borough. There has been a 47% increase in the number of children and young people subject to plans from the 28th February 2009. This has placed growing pressure on the service and other agencies working with the families.

There are currently 141 (this includes two unborn) children under 5 subject to CP Plans in the Borough and they are particularly vulnerable due to their age and development, this is an increase of 50% from the 28th February 2009.

Most children's services across the country have experienced an increase in the number of children and young people subject to CP Plans and the increase has been experienced in Haringey.

Child protection conferences are central to the effective inter-agency management of child protection cases. They will be agreed for all children who have been subject of a child protection investigation for whom there remains suspicions that the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering significant harm and there remain unresolved child protection issues.

An initial case conference will consider not only the needs of the child subject of enquiry and investigation but also of the needs of other children in the household and any risk or welfare issue applicable to them.

The initial child protection case conference brings together family members, the child where appropriate, and those professionals most involved with the child and family following a Section 47 (Children Act 1989) child protection enquiry.

The purpose of an initial conference is to:

- Collate and analyse the information about the child's health, development and functioning and the parent's capacity to protect and promote the child's health and development
- Determine the risk of the child suffering future significant harm.
- Decide on the need for registration.
- Identify a key worker where registration is agreed.
- Agree a multi-agency child protection outline plan and its intended outcome.



London Safeguarding procedures state that children and young people subject to CP Plans should be seen at least every six weeks by their key worker (the social worker) or at intervals specified at the conference. Children and young people will also be seen by a range of other professionals – e.g. health visitors, Children’s Centre workers, teaching and non-teaching staff at our schools and family support workers. In Haringey we ensure all children are seen every 4 weeks. In Safeguarding and Support we are looking to review this and consider children and young people being seen every two weeks.

Social workers receive supervision every four weeks, child protection plans are reviewed initially at three months and then every six months.

In supervision, social workers will review cases with their managers, using the Child Protection Plan to look at their interventions and work with the family, how the Core Group is managing the plan, identify any drift or non engagement and consider whether a legal planning meeting is appropriate. The review conferences bring practitioners working with the family back together to formally review the plan and to consider it’s implementation and to make the decision if the child or young person should remain subject to a CP Plan.

The Safeguarding Panel is an additional opportunity in the Borough to support practitioners where they can present complex or challenging cases to the multi-agency panel; many of these cases will be children and young people subject to a CP Plan.

As at 28 February 2011, there were 253 children and young people subject to CP Plans within the Safeguarding and Support Service, of these children and young people the average number of days the had been subject to CP Plans was 253 days.

There is no definitive time that a child or young person should remain subject to a CP Plan once that decision has been made. A CP Plan that is implemented effectively, in a timely manner and that ensures all services work together should see change in less than 12 months. However families’ engagement and the availability of the right services at the right time play a part in the change process. Key to the change within children and young peoples’ lives is the relationship between the social worker and the parents, the parents’ commitment and ability to change for their children and the independent reviewing of the process.

There are over 350 children and young people subject to CIN Plans. The plans for these children and young people are managed through multi-agency reviews by workers within the Safeguarding and Support Service and colleagues from other agencies.



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CIN cases meet the criteria to receive a service from Children's Social Care through 'Haringey's Continuum of Need and Intervention', but on assessment do not meet the criteria for a S47 Investigation (Children Act 1989) and therefore have not been taken to Case Conference.

Where any child or young person is subject to a CP or CIN Plan and their circumstances change and these circumstances place them at risk of significant harm, social workers in the service work with our Child Care Legal Team and the Police to ensure they are protected and where necessary removed from the care of their parent(s).

The Head of Service manages the service through two Deputy Heads of Service. The service is delivered through four social work teams. Each team is made up of Team Managers, Senior Practitioners, Practice Managers, Social workers and Assistant Social Workers who work with other agencies across the Borough, especially community midwifery, health visiting, Police and our schools to ensure children and young people are safe and have the right services delivered at the right time.

The department has implemented a range of procedures to support practitioners and managers within the service through audit and quality control processes to ensure best practice and management oversight is carried out across all cases.

- Safeguarding Panel.
- Legal Case Work Meetings.
- Revised Legal Planning Meeting Processes.
- Monthly thematic audits carried out by all managers from Deputy Head of Service to Director of Children's Services.
- Multi-agency audits.

The service is committed to working with our partner agencies to ensure we offer a safe, timely and professional service to children, young people and their families within the Borough.