



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Overview & Scrutiny

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Report Title: Safeguarding Plan for Haringey

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

Signed :

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 February 2011.
- 1.2. The report also presents the Inspection of Safeguarding and looked after children services report (Ofsted February 2011)

**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 recognise the progress made and achievements identified through the announced inspection.
- 4.3. To note the development of a Safeguarding and Looked After Children Action Plan which will replace the Safeguarding Plan.

#### **5. Reason for recommendation(s)**

- 5.1. This report provides Scrutiny with a progress report on the Safeguarding Plan for Haringey up to February 2011.

#### **6. Summary**

- 6.1. The Safeguarding Plan for Haringey has now been refreshed three times since originally formed as the JAR Action Plan and is in the process of being refreshed once again. These refreshes have incorporated findings 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. The announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children which took place in January confirmed our route of progress but more remains to be done. Progress to the end of February 2011 is shown within the Safeguarding Plan Milestone Report.

#### **7. Chief Financial Officer Comments**

- 7.1. The Safeguarding Plan attached to this report is not costed. Additional resources amounting to £7.4m were agreed for the Children's Service as part of the 2011-12 budget however, it is clear that these resources target in the main, on-going service pressures around the number of Looked After Children (LAC) and their associated costs.
- 7.2. Consequently, any additional costs associated with implementing the Safeguarding plan will need to be met from existing resources.
- 7.3. Future progress reviews of the plan should consider the resource implications of agreed actions.

<p><b>8. Head of Legal Services Comments</b></p> <p>8.1. N/A</p>
<p><b>9. Head of Procurement Comments</b></p> <p>9.1. N/A</p>
<p><b>10. Equalities &amp; Community Cohesion Comments</b></p> <p>10.1. N/A</p>
<p><b>11. Consultation</b></p> <p>11.1. N/A</p>
<p><b>12. Service Financial Comments</b></p> <p>12.1 See Chief Financial Officer comments</p>
<p><b>13. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs</b></p> <p>13.1. Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms</p> <p>13.2. Appendix 2: Safeguarding Plan Milestone Summary Report, February 2011</p> <p>13.3. Appendix 3: Ofsted Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services report, February 2011</p>
<p><b>14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b></p> <p>14.1. JAR Report (December 2008)</p> <p>14.2. Annual Performance Assessment (December 2008)</p> <p>14.3. Inspection of Progress in the Provision of Safeguarding Report (July 2009)</p> <p>14.4. Inspection of Progress in the Provision of Safeguarding Report (February 2010)</p> <p>14.5. Unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements 9September 2010</p> <p>14.6. Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services report (February 2011)</p>

## **1. Background**

- 1.1.1 Since January 2009 the Safeguarding Plan has been closely monitored and regularly refreshed to incorporate the latest findings from Ofsted inspections and Serious Case Reviews. In October 2010 senior officers from across the partnership came together to take stock and review the plan in light of the changed political and economic climate. The partnership was clear that even during a time of financial pressures they would prioritise safeguarding. The result of this workshop was the development of the refreshed Safeguarding Plan which was launched in December 2010. Progress to date against this can be found in Appendix 2.
- 1.1.2 In January 2011 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission undertook a two week announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services. Inspectors noted that 'improvements reported after the last unannounced inspection of the service in August 2010 have been sustained' and that 'highly visible and committed leadership within the partnership, including the LSCB and Haringey Children's Trust, has strengthened safeguarding systems over the past 18 months'. Many of their judgements say that our work is adequate; however, in 9 of the 22 judgements they make, they say we are 'Good' and have made "sustained and significant improvement" since 2009. No areas were judged as inadequate. Their overall judgement for Capacity to Improve is 'Good' for both Safeguarding and Looked After Children. These two judgements are extremely important and compare favourably with those local authorities who have been through a similar inspection, though inevitably some have done better and some not so well.
- 1.1.3 ~~The announced inspection was the first in recent years to include our looked after children's services and this will be reflected in the Safeguarding and Looked After Children Action Plan, which will replace the Safeguarding Action Plan. The inspection report included 9 areas for improvement for safeguarding and 5 for looked after children, which are to be addressed within 3-6 month timescales. In response senior officers from across the partnership have identified actions and milestones which will meet Ofsted's requirements and improve services delivered to our children and young people. These will be included in the refreshed plan, alongside some of the actions from the December version.~~

## **2. Next Steps**

- 2.1.1 The areas for improvement and findings identified by Ofsted will be incorporated into the Safeguarding and Looked After Children Action Plan and this in future will be reported to Overview and Scrutiny twice per year.