

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, 11 APRIL 2011**

**Present:** Councillor Rice (Chair), Councillor Amin, Hilary Corrick, Councillor Davies, Councillor Hare, Councillor Strickland.

**In Attendance:** Xanthe Barker, Sylvia Chew, Marion Wheeler.

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>	<b>ACTION BY</b>
<b>HSP03.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Apologies for absence were received from the following:  Councillor Stuart McNamara - Councillor Alan Strickland substituted	
<b>HSP04.</b>	<b>URGENT BUSINESS</b>  There were no items of Urgent Business.	
<b>HSP05.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>HSP06.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b>  That the minutes of the meetings held on the following dates be confirmed as a correct record:  ➤ 24 January 2011 ➤ 17 March 2011 (Joint meeting with the Corporate Parenting Committee)	
<b>HSP07.</b>	<b>OFSTED INSPECTION REPORT</b>  The Committee received, for information, the Ofsted report conducted into safeguarding and Looked After Children (LAC) during 10 to 21 January 2011.  The report reflected the progress that had been made since November 2008 with an overall assessment of 'adequate' with the capacity for improvement being assessed as 'good' being awarded. This was considered to be a significant milestone for the service which would continue to be built upon.  The Committee discussed the areas for improvement identified in the	

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report and an update was provided as to how these were being addressed. It was noted that the Corporate Parenting Committee would monitor progress with respect to the recommendation that LAC who went missing should have the opportunity to meet with a suitably designated independent person upon their return.

There was discussion around how children and young people who went missing, who were not in the care of the Local Authority, were monitored and it was requested that officers should determine where and how this function was carried out. In response to a suggestion that all children should have the opportunity to discuss the reasons for their disappearance with an independent person the Committee was advised that although this would be desirable the Local Authority was dependent on the information that it received from other organisations with regard to this. Consequently it may not be possible to maintain a consistent approach.

The Committee was advised that one of the causes of children going missing from home was due to grooming and it was noted that this could affect any child regardless of their background.

The Committee discussed the recommendation around the monitoring and extended use of personal education plans for LAC and it was noted that this would be monitored by the Corporate Parenting Committee. There was agreement that the educational attainment of LAC should be a key area of focus.

In response to a query as to how the recommendation made with respect to quality control and assurance would be affected by budget cuts and what preparation was being made for this, the Committee was advised that a multi agency scorecard was being developed at present, which would be in place by May. In addition officers were working with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSBC) to form an outcomes based quality assurance framework and a sub group had been formed to monitor progress with respect to this.

There was agreement that the Committee should receive a report on this at a future meeting.

In response to a query as to the level of work that would need to be undertaken in order for the service to achieve an assessment of 'good' the Committee was advised that at least another year would be required for services to be developed to a point that might attract this kind of assessment. It was noted that an assessment of 'adequate' was a milestone for the Borough at this point and that it had not been anticipated that an assessment of 'good' would be given for the overall rating.

In terms of the national picture an assessment of 'adequate' placed Haringey very much in the average category. It was noted that there were an increasing number of Local Authorities being assessed as

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	<p>'inadequate'.</p> <p>In terms of the recommendation made with respect to reducing the level of non attendance at child protection review medicals and the monitoring of this, the Committee was advised that there were instances where information was not passed between NHS and Local Authority. The recommendation recognised that this exchange of information was essential and it was noted that mechanisms were being established to systemise this.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that the recommendations set out in the report would be picked up within the Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Plan (which was originally called the Joint Area Review (JAR) Plan). An improvement plan would also be compiled and submitted to Ofsted setting out how the improvement areas identified would be addressed.</p> <p>During discussion with colleagues from health it had become apparent that a list of children considered to be 'of concern' was kept and this was now being shared with the Local Authority. Further work would be undertaken to develop information sharing between nurses caring for children that were subject to Child Protection Plans and social workers.</p> <p>In response to a query as to how effectively the Local Authority and health worked together the Committee was advised that joint working had improved significantly since 2008. This relationship had been strengthened further by the establishment of the joint Public Health team and their locating to River Park House.</p> <p>There was a general consensus that it would be useful if a representative from health attended a future meeting to gain an insight into their perspective on safeguarding and the relationship with the Local Authority.</p> <p>The Chair thanked officers for their work with respect to the Ofsted inspection and the progress made in order achieve the assessment awarded.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. That the report be noted.</li> <li>ii. That a representative from health should be invited to attend a future meeting as discussed above.</li> </ul>	Marion Wheeler / Clerk
<b>HSP08.</b>	<p><b>AUDIT EXERCISE</b></p> <p>The Committee discussed potential areas for audit to be undertaken over the next year.</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting was being held after the beginning of the new Municipal Year. Given the likelihood that new members were</p>	

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	<p>would be appointed to the Committee, it was suggested that this should be used as an opportunity to 'familiarise' new members with its role.</p> <p>There was agreement that the proposed date of 31 May for the next meeting was too soon and there was agreement that this should be moved to June/July.</p> <p>The Committee discussed potential areas for audit and the following were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Children who went missing from home (not LAC) and the notifications from the Police regarding domestic violence</li> <li>➤ Children that were part of homeless families and how long they lived in temporary accommodation and what measures could be taken to address this</li> <li>➤ Children placed in the Borough by other Local Authorities</li> </ul> <p>There was agreement that at the next meeting the Committee should finalise the areas for audit over the forthcoming year.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. That the Committee should finalise the areas for audit over the forthcoming year at its first meeting of the new municipal year.</li> <li>ii. That the meeting date scheduled for 31 May should be moved to June/July.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<b>HSP09.</b>	<p><b>A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE POSITION OF CHILDREN'S TRUSTS AND SHADOW HEALTH WELLBEING BOARD</b></p> <p>The Committee was provide with an verbal update with respect to the establishment of the new shadow Health and Wellbeing Board (sHWB) and the position with respect to the Children's Trust.</p> <p>It was noted that the Board was being operated in shadow form for a year until it became a statutory requirement in April 2012. During this period the Children's Trust would also continue to operate in its present form.</p> <p>The position with respect to relationship between the bodies would be reviewed in a years time.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the verbal update be noted.</p>	
<b>HSP10.</b>	<p><b>EXEMPT ITEMS OF BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for</p>	

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	consideration of the following item as it contained exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985): paragraphs 1 and 2: namely information relating to any individual, and information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.	
<b>HSP11.</b>	<p><b>CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATIONS</b></p> <p>The Committee considered a report that provided an overview of Child Protection cases that had been audited between November 2010 and March 2011.</p> <p>The following key issues had arisen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Joint working – police timetables, delays in referral by schools</li> <li>➤ Drift and lack of urgency when children appeared to be in no immediate danger</li> <li>➤ Pressure on conferencing service</li> <li>➤ Timescales</li> </ul> <p>An update was provided with respect to the cases outlined in the report. It was accepted that 'drift' had occurred in some cases and the Committee was advised that this was being addressed with individual managers where appropriate.</p> <p>It was noted that delays had been caused when social workers had waited pending a decision from the Crown Prosecution Service. There was agreement that officers should liaise with the Police in order to agree a protocol that would ensure that communication with regard to cases where legal action was pending was maintained.</p> <p>There was agreement that the Committee should receive a report providing an overview of how the cases undertaken during the period between November 2010 and March 2011, where there had been referrals between the Police, health and the Local Authority had progressed and a timeline of key events.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. That the report be noted.</li> <li>ii. That the Committee should receive a report providing an overview of cases between November 2010 and March 2011, where there had been referrals between the Police, health and the Local Authority and how an areas where actions were required had been progressed.</li> </ul>	Marion Wheeler/ Sylvia Chew
<b>HSP12.</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There were no items of AOB.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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COUNCILLOR REG RICE

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CHAIR