

1. Safeguarding Disabled children in Haringey

- The Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities (AND) Service operates a single point of entry to the service through the Disabled children's team. Any potential safeguarding issues are identified at referral source when Social workers skilled to investigate abuse of Disabled children complete their enquiries, through the Child protection conference process or through the care proceedings process if required.
- Other contacts are discussed at the Service's multi agency Early Support meeting which is the process to identify issues early on, to share information across services, plan interventions across agencies and to identify the lead professional and Team around the child at this stage. The agreement to commission assessments can be made at this stage.
- The Disabled children's team comprises of a stable team of Qualified Social workers, and trainees who can access communication tools to support their work, can navigate the health, and education services around the Disabled child and who are well networked. The Social workers work closely with the component parts of the AND service to ensure that information is shared and children safeguarded. Supervision occurs on a regular basis.
- There are good working relationships developed between First Response and the Disabled children's team with joint assessments being agreed.
- LSCB Promoting the Safety of Disabled children training is delivered twice per year by the Deputy Head of Service for children with Additional Needs and Disabilities and the Head of Service for the First Response Team. Bespoke training has also been delivered to Family link carers, Special School Governors, and the staff at The Vale Special School.
- The Direct payment scheme for children is being audited and the contract has been amended to ensure greater safeguarding measures are in place for Disabled children.
- All the Special Schools have a Multi-disciplinary team meeting to which a Team manager from the Disabled children's team attends to discuss potential safeguarding issues relating to Disabled children – these meetings are usually on a fortnightly basis.
- Close working relationships with wide range of health professionals and lead Specialist health service manager attends AND management meetings.
- As a response to the DfE guidance on Safeguarding Disabled children dated July 2009, the Disabled Children's Team (DCT) adapted an already existing multi-disciplinary group in order to consider the specific issues relating to Safeguarding Disabled children. The reporting line to

the LSCB is through the LSCB Quality Assurance sub group. The Disabled children's policy and practice review group meets on a 6 weekly cycle which fits in with the QA subgroup meeting cycle.

Membership includes key agencies such as Children's social care, Health, Police, Education, SEN, Ed Psychology, Legal, Voluntary service, Learning Difficulties partnership, children's centres, Special Schools, out of borough Special Schools, Consultant Psychiatrist for learning Difficulties CAMHS, LADO, CPA.

The outcome of this group has been:

- Updated LSCB leaflet for parents about safeguarding Disabled children
- Have developed good practice examples of policies from the Special Schools, voluntary organisations and out of borough special schools which include specifically in relation to Disabled children, administration of medication policy, guidelines for working with pupils of the opposite sex, guidelines for good practice in providing intimate care and safe use of images policy. These have all been forwarded to LADO for oversight.
- Communication strategies, packs and training have been offered across the service to ensure effective communication with Disabled children. As a consequence each worker in the DCT, Family link and each Early Support worker in the service has a communication pack to work with Disabled children to ensure effective communication and to support S47 enquiries. Communication strategies have also been shared with Health professionals for use in child medicals.
- Presentation re. child death process
- LADO presentation re. Professional allegations. The discussion also included discussion relating to faith groups looking at issue of healing and children branded as witches.
- Developing and using a Disabled Children Panel for interviews.
- Single point of entry for AND service, building the picture of the child.
- Agreeing criteria for DCT.
- Case discussions and lessons learnt across services.
- Discussions from a Legal perspective of the rarity and complexity of issuing an application to court which requires the child to have surgery.
- Presentations re. Disability Hate Crime and developing the role of the group to monitor reporting of bullying of Disabled children.

- Feedback from children and young people on their short break services and on their individual plans through Children in care reviews and Annual reviews of their statements.

2. Actions with reference to the low numbers of Disabled children subject to a plan in Haringey.

- Work has commenced on the Statistical analysis of the demographics of the children who become subject to CP Plan in Haringey, the decision making and which also includes consideration of data relating to the numbers of Disabled children subject to a plan in neighbouring boroughs / statistical partners.

Further examination of the following areas is planned:

1. To establish how many CAF referrals had Disabled child mentioned – Examine what we know about the children – End of March figures
2. Audit Disabled children subject to plans in DCT – understand the social story. Examine why these children became subject to plans.
3. Audit the S47s in DCT over last two months – understand decision making – ICPC or not?
4. Examine the impact of Care Proceedings on figures.
5. Examine the impact of MDTs on outcomes for children. To be discussed at next Disabled children's policy and practice review group in November – with a Child Protection Advisor identified to attend future meetings.
6. Understand other borough's threshold for a service from DCT –
7. Examine the statistics for Disabled young people who become involved as Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults (SOVA) – consider their thresholds.
8. Understand the outcomes of children who became subject to Police Protection Orders – what was known about the children before and outcome after.
9. Consider the increased vulnerabilities of those Disabled children who are home educated.

10. Examine the role of the police in discussions re. thresholds / Initial Child Protection Conference or not.

11. To devise a threshold criteria – continuum of need that would consider the specific vulnerabilities of Disabled children, specific indicators and behaviours which would be used across settings to agree safeguarding thresholds for Disabled children which would take into account complex situations.

12. Disabled children to feed views into above exercise (point 11).

Please see below for further details of statistics relating to London Boroughs and their Disabled child population subject to plans in March 2011.

London Borough	Disabled Children subject to plan	Non Disabled children subject to plan	Percentage of children this represents.
Richmond	2	45	4.4%
Southwark	11	296	3.7%
Lewisham	7	225	3.1%
Westminster	9	300	3%
Hammersmith and Fulham	4	163	2.5%
Haringey	5	294?	1.7%
Islington	2	115	1.7%
Ealing	5	313	1.5%
Barnet	0	140	0%