



Haringey Council

Report for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee	Item Number:	
Title:	Terms of reference		
Report Authorised by:			
Lead Officer:	Ayshe Simsek		
Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

To ratify the terms of reference agreed by Cabinet on 12th June 2012

2. Cabinet Member introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

To ratify the terms of reference

4. Other options considered

N/A

5. Background information

Provision exists in the Council Constitution for the Cabinet to establish advisory or consultative bodies the membership of which is not limited to Cabinet Members. The Joint Area Review report into Haringey's Children Services in 2009 identified the need to improve governance of safeguarding arrangements for children. This



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committee was formally established in July 2009, when it was also agreed that the terms of reference of this committee would be reviewed following the 2010 Local Elections.

Since its establishment there were further discussion highlighted the work of the committee and its alignment to the Cabinet as an advisory committee. Similarities of the committee's role to scrutiny and its position in the committee structure were discussed and it was felt that the committee was correctly aligned to the Cabinet as an Advisory Committee. The Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee was then established to work in parallel to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and had duties for overseeing the Council's responsibility for children in need, particularly focussing on safeguarding including children who would come into contact with safeguarding policies.

Members further agreed that the profile of the committee should be raised and there should be more awareness of the committee's work. This would be assisted by increasing officer attendance at meetings and by amending the constitution of the committee so that it was more in line with the arrangements for the Corporate Parenting Committee. This would involve:

- Increasing and defining the officer representatives to support the committee
- Compiling a twice yearly report to the Cabinet and to the Council annually

To further aid the parallel working of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee, joint meetings have taken place since 2011. Both committees have also wanted to share information on their continuing work on safeguarding and corporate parenting and both sets of committee members are being included in the email distribution list of the minutes from meetings.

The Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee has also continued undertaking detailed case scrutiny into chosen day to day safeguarding practices. Members would continue to receive key safeguarding data at meetings to scrutinize and training sessions on safeguarding processes would be maintained to ensure that the committee were fully aware of safeguarding practices being followed by the Council.

Following the Governance Review Delivery Group scoping study of Committees and Council Bodies outside of the Governance Review remit in April 2012, to ensure that these bodies are not duplicating work, where consideration was given to devolving the functions of this committee to Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was agreed that the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee should continue as advisory committees of the Cabinet until April 2013.



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Subsequently, in June 2012, the Children's safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee was formally established by the Cabinet with the following terms of reference and membership.

Children Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee

Membership

Councillors: Stewart (Chair)
 Davies
 Adamou
 Allison
 1 Labour position to be filled
Hilary Corrick (Non-Councillor Member - appointed by the Panel)

Quorum

The quorum will be two members.

The terms of reference are set out below:

- a. To examine and consider the effectiveness of the Council's policies and practice, relating to the safeguarding of children.
- b. To examine and consider the effectiveness of the arrangements for co-operation on child protection matters between partner agencies.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. The Chair will determine the Committee's procedures and the means for conveying the Committee's views to the Cabinet but, in the event of any dispute, the outcome will be determined by the majority vote of the Committee's membership with the Chair having a casting vote.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985



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Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report;

Report to the Cabinet on 24 February 2009 entitled Action Plan in Response to the Joint Area Review of Safeguarding in Haringey.

Report to the Cabinet on 21 July 2009 entitled Appointment of Cabinet Advisory Committees.

Report to Cabinet on 15 July 2010 entitled Appointment of Cabinet Committees.

Report to cabinet on 22 March 2011 entitled Reconstitution of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee.

Report to Cabinet on 12 June 2012 entitled Appointment of Cabinet Advisory Committees.

The background paper is located at River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green, London N22 8HQ.

To inspect it or to discuss this report further, please contact Ayshe Simsek on 020 8489 2929.