

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
AND SCRUTINY SUB-  
COMMITTEES**

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**Date of Meeting:** 28 February 2012

**Subject:** Scrutiny Review of Children's Safeguarding

**Responsible Officer:** Alex Dewsnap  
Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance

**Scrutiny Lead Member area:** Adult Health and Social Care -  
Councillor Ann Gate  
Councillor Vina Mithani  
Children and Young People -  
Councillor Christine Bednell  
Councillor Krishna James

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** Scope for Scrutiny Review of Children's Safeguarding

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report sets out the scope for the scrutiny review on children's safeguarding.

**Recommendations:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Consider and agree the scope for the scrutiny review on children's safeguarding.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Background**

A review to look at the safeguarding children's arrangements in the borough was decided on following agreement from the Scrutiny Leadership Group on the need to urgently consider the arrangements in place in the borough and ensure that they are sufficiently robust. The need to address whether all the appropriate services, procedures and individuals are in place was brought to the attention of the Scrutiny Leadership by the Chair of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee who had been duly alerted by the Corporate Director for Children's Services. The Corporate Director for Children's Services raised a number of concerns regarding progress on some of the recommendations that came out of the NHS London Safeguarding Children Improvement Team visit to the Harrow Health Community in October 2010.

The main objective of the review will be to address whether partners and the council's arrangements in place provide reasonable assurance and confidence that children at risk of significant harm in Harrow are suitably safeguarded.

The review could begin by assessing what procedures are currently in place, what developments and progress is underway and where any gaps need to be met amongst the various organisations involved in safeguarding children's services in the borough.

The scope and exact focus of the review will be refined and amended accordingly once a review group is formed. The review will be a light-touch scrutiny review that is hoped will get underway once the scope has been cleared.

### **Equalities Impact**

As included in the scope, the review will consider during the course of its work, how equality implications have been taken into account in current policy and practice and consider the possible implications of any changes it recommends.

In carrying out the review, the review group will also need to consider its own practices and how it can facilitate all relevant stakeholders in the borough to have their voices heard.

### **Financial Implications**

The costs of delivering this project will be met from within existing resources.

### **Performance Issues**

There are no performance issues specifically associated with this report.

### **Environmental Impact**

There is no specific environmental impact associated to this report.

### **Risk Management Implications**

There are none specific to this report.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

### **Corporate Priorities**

The review relates to the following Corporate Priorities 2011/12:

- United and involved communities: a council that listens and leads
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need

### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Not applicable.

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Fola Irikefe, Scrutiny Officer, 020 8420 9389

**Background Papers:** Appendix A: Scope for Safeguarding Children Review