

**HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN - DRAFT SCOPE**

1	<b>SUBJECT</b>	Safeguarding Children
2	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee
3	<b>REVIEW GROUP</b>	<p><b>Councillors:</b> <i>Yet to be determined.</i></p> <p><b>Co-optees:</b> <i>Yet to be determined.</i></p> <p><i>Chairing arrangements are subject to confirmation by the review group at its first meeting once it has been established.</i></p>
4	<b>AIMS/ OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To assess how much progress has been in the borough in terms of ensuring robust safeguarding children arrangements since the NHS London Safeguarding Children Improvement Team visit in 2010.</li> <li>▪ To review and assess progress against action plans developed to address some of the recommendations arising from the review.</li> <li>▪ To ensure some of the key issues highlighted by NHS London's review that has a major impact upon practice such as clarity on organisational policies and procedures, staffing and workforce issues, training and development, supervision are being adequately addressed.</li> <li>▪ To gain an understanding of the role of key lead individuals and organisations in monitoring and ensuring robust and effective safeguarding arrangements in the borough.</li> <li>▪ To ensure organisations in the borough are working effectively in partnership to safeguard children in Harrow.</li> <li>▪ To identify and address any gaps in services provision that may hinder the effectiveness of children's safeguarding arrangements.</li> <li>▪ To consider what else could be done to ensure that the safeguarding needs of children in Harrow</li> </ul>

		are met through the identification of good practice in other boroughs.
5	<b>MEASURES OF SUCCESS OF REVIEW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To gain clarity and understanding of the various organisations, individuals, policies and arrangements in place to support safeguarding children arrangements</li> <li>▪ To identify any obstacles to effective safeguarding, and to make recommendations for action as appropriate</li> <li>▪ To engage successfully and openly with partner organisations</li> <li>▪ To reach an overall conclusion on whether the Council and its partners are doing/ have plans in place to ensure everything they reasonably can do to prevent any serious incidents in the borough.</li> <li>▪ Development of realistic and constructive recommendations to support successful multi-agency partnership working to deliver robust, safe and effective services.</li> </ul>
6	<b>SCOPE</b>	<p>The scope of the review will focus on the progress of the recommendations and the follow up and developments since the NHS London Safeguarding Improvement Team visit to the Harrow Health Community in October 2010.</p> <p>The overall objective is to review 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 exact focus of the review will be refined following initial meetings/ correspondence with partners and consultation and discussion amongst the review group.</p>
7	<b>SERVICE PRIORITIES (Corporate/Dept)</b>	<p>This review relates to the following Corporate Priorities 2011/12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ United and involved communities: a council that listens and leads</li> <li>▪ Supporting and protecting people who are most in need</li> </ul>
8	<b>REVIEW SPONSOR</b>	Catherine Doran, Corporate Director Children's Services
9	<b>ACCOUNTABLE MANAGER</b>	Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny
10	<b>SUPPORT OFFICER</b>	Fola Irikefe, Scrutiny Officer
11	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	Scrutiny Team

	<b>SUPPORT</b>	
12	<b>EXTERNAL INPUT</b>	<p>The input of the following may be gauged through the course of the review:</p> <p><b>Stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff involved in the delivery of safeguarding children’s services in the health sector and also the local authority</li> <li>▪ Relevant corporate director(s)</li> <li>▪ Relevant portfolio holder(s)</li> <li>▪ Harrow Local Children’s Safeguarding Board</li> <li>▪ Residents and members of the public</li> <li>▪ Staff within other children’s settings e.g. children’s centres, youth centres</li> </ul> <p><b>Partner agencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NHS Harrow</li> <li>▪ North West London Hospitals Trust</li> <li>▪ Central North West London Mental Health Trust</li> <li>▪ Integrated Care Organisation</li> <li>▪ Clinical Commissioning Board</li> <li>▪ GP’s</li> <li>▪ Compass</li> <li>▪ Schools and Academies</li> <li>▪ Harrow Police</li> <li>▪ Interest groups (including residents groups, disability groups, business groups etc)</li> </ul> <p><b>Experts/advisers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Representative interest groups</li> <li>▪ Care Quality Commission</li> <li>▪ Centre for Public Scrutiny</li> <li>▪ Academic experts</li> <li>▪ Public policy think tanks</li> </ul>
13	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<p>The review could gather evidence using a range of methods including written evidence, oral evidence, research, focus groups, presentations, evidence from key officers and managers (both internal and external), inspections, site visits, expert witnesses, public meetings etc.</p> <p>The review will be a light touch review taking evidence at a number of meetings.</p> <p>Suggested stages for the review are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify current policies/practices through initial briefings</li> <li>▪ Identify current position in terms of the implementation of policies and practices and action plans arising from NHS London’s review.</li> <li>▪ Examine how performance and implementation matches policies</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify issues arising and what gaps need to be met</li> <li>▪ Determine how to support the development of constructive policies and procedures.</li> </ul>
14	<b>EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>In carrying out the review, the review group will also need to consider its own practices and how it can facilitate relevant stakeholders in the borough to have their voices heard.</p>
15	<b>ASSUMPTIONS/ CONSTRAINTS</b>	Success will depend upon the ability and willingness of officers, partners and stakeholders (as relevant) to participate and contribute fully in this review.
16	<b>SECTION 17 IMPLICATIONS</b>	The review will have regard to the possible community safety implications of any recommended changes to policy or practice.
17	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scoping – February 2012</li> <li>▪ Initial desktop research – February/ March 2012</li> <li>▪ Evidence gathering and review group meeting/s – March 2012 onwards</li> <li>▪ Final report to O&amp;S for onward transmission to Cabinet – to be confirmed</li> </ul>
18	<b>RESOURCE COMMITMENTS</b>	To be met from existing scrutiny budget. No significant additional expenditure is anticipated.
19	<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Fola Irikefe, as advised by the review group.
20	<b>REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS</b>	<p>Outline of formal reporting process:</p> <p>To Corporate Director [✓] throughout the course of the review and when developing recommendations</p> <p>To Portfolio Holder [✓] as a witness in the review and when developing recommendations</p> <p>To CSB [✓] to be confirmed</p> <p>To O&amp;S [✓] to be confirmed</p> <p>To Cabinet [✓] to be confirmed</p>
21	<b>FOLLOW UP ARRANGEMENTS (proposals)</b>	6 month review by the Performance and Finance Scrutiny sub-committee.

**Contact:** Fola Irikefe, Scrutiny Officer, [fola.irikeye@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:fola.irikeye@harrow.gov.uk), 020 8420 9389.