

REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 12th June 2012

Subject: Scrutiny Review of Children's Safeguarding – Interim Report

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

Scrutiny Lead Adult Health and Social Care
Member area: Children and Young People

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Scrutiny Review of Children's Safeguarding – Interim Report

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The enclosed report sets out the interim findings from the scrutiny review looking into children's safeguarding arrangements.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- I. Consider the content of the interim report of the review group
- II. Approve the next steps proposed for the review group to consider the outcomes of the recent Ofsted in section and re-align the scope for the review in the light of this.

Section 2 – Report

In February 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the scope for the review to look at the safeguarding children's arrangements and address progress that had been made against the NHS London Safeguarding Children Improvement Team (SIT) visit to the Harrow health community in October 2010.

The need to address whether all the appropriate services, procedures and individuals are in place was brought to the attention of the Scrutiny Leadership Group by the Chair of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee who had been duly alerted by the Corporate Director for Children and Families.

The overall objective of the review is 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.

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: Scrutiny Review of Children's Safeguarding, Interim Report