

Decisions of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th July 2011

Present:

*Councillor Bridget Perry (Chairman)
Councillor Kate Salinger (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

* Andrew Strongolou	* Brian Salinger
* Zakia Zubairi	* Andrew McNeil
* Anne Hutton	* Ansuya Sodha
* Alison Cornelius	* Brian Gordon

* denotes Member present

Also Attending:

Councillor Andrew Harper - Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families

Councillor Helena Hart - Cabinet Member for Public Health

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Agenda Item 1)

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the Adults Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee and the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee to which the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee was the successor body.

RESOLVED that-

- (1) the minutes of the Adults Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee held on the 14th April 2011 be agreed as a correct record.**
- (2) the minutes of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on the 28th April 2011 be agreed as a correct record.**
- (3) Children's Services be requested to provide Councillor Sodha with an update from on missing children in the borough.**

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Kate Salinger.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Agenda Item 3)

None declared.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Agenda Item 4)

None.

5. MEMBERS' ITEM (Agenda Item 5)

None.

6. SAFEGUARDING IN BARNET (Agenda Item 6)

The Directors of Children's Services and Adult Social Care & Health presented a report on Safeguarding in Barnet. The Committee were provided with an overview of the governance arrangements for safeguarding in Barnet and of the Council's statutory responsibilities for promoting safeguarding. The Committee were informed that over a five year period the level of safeguarding activity had increased for both Adult Social Services and Children's Services across the borough. Additionally, the number of cases where domestic violence had been identified had also increased.

The Committee sought further information on the work of the multiple Safeguarding Boards and how they worked together. It also sought assurance that agreed Safeguarding procurement standards were in place when services were procured and that compliance against these standards was regularly monitored.

The Cabinet Members for Public Health and Education, Children and Families provided further information to the Committee on the ongoing Safeguarding work with Barnet's partner agencies, noting that the most serious safeguarding cases had occurred within a healthcare environment.

The Committee welcomed the report and supported a report on safeguarding activity being reported annually to Cabinet and Council. The Committee also recommended that all Members and Council staff should be encouraged to attend safeguarding training.

RESOLVED that-

- (1) the Committee recommend that an Annual Report on Safeguarding be submitted annually to Cabinet and Council.**
- (2) the Committee recommend that all Members and Council Staff should be encouraged to attend Safeguarding training.**

7. CABINET FORWARD PLAN (Agenda Item 7)

The Committee considered the Cabinet forward plan for the period June to September 2011 and agreed that the following item be considered at its next meeting on 10th October 2011.

- Safer Communities Strategy

RESOLVED that-

(1) the Safer Communities Strategy be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on the 10th October 2011.

8. SAFEGUARDING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11 (Agenda Item 8)

The Committee discussed and agreed its forward work programme, and agreed that the following items should be considered at its next meeting on 10th October 2011:

- Barnet Multi- Agency Safeguarding Board - Annual Report 2010/11
- Children's Governance Structures
- Safer Communities Strategy
- Implications of the Green Paper on SEN
- Member Visits to Barnet Children's Homes
- Statutory Officer Visits.

RESOLVED that-

(1) the above items be considered at the next meeting of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 10th October 2011.

12. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 12)

RESOLVED-

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 12A of the Act (as amended):

	Exemption category
Members' Visits to Barnet's Children's Homes	3
Statutory Regulation 33 - Officer visits to Barnet's Children's Home	3

X1. MEMBERS' VISITS TO BARNET'S CHILDREN'S HOMES

The Committee considered the exempt information on the reported Member visit.

RESOLVED that the exempt information be noted.

X2. STATUTORY REGULATION 33 - OFFICER VISITS TO BARNET'S CHILDREN'S HOME

RESOLVED that the exempt information be noted.

The meeting finished at 9.00.pm