

Decisions of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10th October 2011

Present:

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

Councillors:

Andrew Strongolou	* Brian Salinger
* Zakia Zubairi	* Ansuya Sodha
* Anne Hutton	* Brian Gordon
Alison Cornelius	* Agnes Slocombe
* Sury Khatri (Substituting for Cllr Andrew Strongolou)	* Anthony Finn (Substituting for Cllr Alison Cornelius)

* denotes Member present

Also Attending:

Councillor Andrew Harper – Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families

Councillor Sachin Rajput – Cabinet Member for Adults

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

RESOLVED -

(1) That the minutes of the Committee held on 4 July be agreed as a correct record.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison Cornelius and Andrew Strongolou.

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

Councillor Kate Salinger declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in relation to all items on the agenda by virtue of a family member being a vulnerable adult.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Agenda Item 4)

None.

5. MEMBERS' ITEM (Agenda Item 5)

None.

6. BARNET MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011 (Agenda Item 6)

The Committee receiving the report of the Director of Adult Social Care and Health, Committee and noted:

- That Councillors could best advise residents when receiving enquires about elderly relatives being cared for at home to refer to the council's Enablement Teams as first point of contact. It was noted that access points and signposting were well publicised.
- The council had expected and budgeted for an increase in referrals as service provision was a statutory duty
- That the council's translation services were available where appropriate and publicised appropriately

Additionally, in response to a request from Members of the Committee, officers undertook to investigate the future of Barnet Mind and to update an update to the Committee.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Barnet Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2010-11 be noted.**

7. ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2010-2011 (Agenda Item 7)

The Assistant Director, Transformation and Resources, Adult Social Care and Health presented the report and outlined that around 14000 customers had been supported by the service in 2010/11 of which around 6500 had been supported at first point of contact and that around 7500 had received a care package.

Committee noted and welcomed the low number of complaints as a proportion of the number of people supported. The Cabinet Member for Adults thanked the Committee for its appreciation.

Responding to Committee observations that no complaints had been received from Chinese residents, the Cabinet Member for Adults explained that the Council's Adult Social Care and Health Equalities Network will be exploring the ethnic profile of complainants at their next meeting.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the Annual Complaints Report be noted.**

8. UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING THE RISE IN THE NUMBER OF REPEAT CHILD PROTECTION PLAN CASES (Agenda Item 8)

The Committee received the report outlining the Councils performance against the indicator *Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time*. Referring to paragraphs 9.6 and 9.8 of the report, the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care explained that at March 2011 the percentage of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time was 18%. The percentages between April and August 2011 ranged between 9% and 13%. This is much improved performance that that at December 2010 when performance was at 20.9%. Committee noted that fluctuations in performance may not be statistically significant due to the small cohort of children involved.

RESOLVED that-

- (1) That the report on understanding and addressing the rise in the number of repeat child protection plan cases be noted.**

9. IMPLICATIONS OF THE SEN GREEN PAPER (Agenda Item 9)

The Principal Educational Psychologist introduced the report, outlining the key recommendations of the green paper, their implications for Barnet and the next steps required. The Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families welcomed the direction of the Green Paper around early identification, proposals for streamlined assessment processes, the belief that provision needs to be shaped around the needs of the child and support for increased independence for parents.

The Committee discussed a range of issues including:

- future capacity of special needs schools
- potential reputational risk around IT systems and communications

The Committee noted that all special schools in the Borough were judged as Outstanding by Ofsted and that a report on future capacity would be presented to Cabinet. It was also noted that officers regularly reviewed best practice in IT systems and communications at other authorities to mitigate any future reputational risk.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the report on the Implications of the SEN Green Paper be noted.**
- (2) That the Committee receive a progress report on the implications of the Green Paper at its next appropriate meeting.**

10. CHILDREN'S SERVICE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES (Agenda Item 10)

The Committee received a report outlining the Governance structures in the Children's Service.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the report be noted.

11. CABINET FORWARD PLAN (Agenda Item 11)

The Committee received the most recent Cabinet Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the report on the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted

12. SAFEGUARDING WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 12)

The Committee noted their work programme.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Safer Communities Strategy be added to the Safeguarding Work Programme for review at the January meeting of the Committee.

(2) That a members training session on the Munro Review of Child Protection should be scheduled in advance of the Committee receiving a report on the review.

13. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None

14. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 14)

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 Officer visits	3

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

RESOLVED -

(1) That the exempt information be noted.

- (2) That an officer response column be added to the tables and is completed by officers before each Committee meeting.**
- (3) That a formal record of thanks is recorded to Councillor Alison Cornelius for her leadership of the cookery course at Addison Court.**

X2. STATUTORY OFFICER VISITS

RESOLVED that-

- (1) That the exempt information be noted**

The meeting finished at 9.00.pm