

Meeting	Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	23 October 2013
Subject	Post Decision Scrutiny: Safeguarding in Barnet
Report of	Overview and Scrutiny Office
Summary	The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested to undertake post decision scrutiny of the “Safeguarding in Barnet” report (Appendix A) that went to Cabinet on 24 September 2013.

Officer Contributors	Anita Vukomanovic, Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	Appendix A – Safeguarding in Barnet Cabinet Report
Function of	Council

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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Committee consider the attached report that went to Cabinet on 24 September 2013 (Appendix A – Safeguarding in Barnet Cabinet Report) and make comments and ask appropriate comments to the Cabinet Members and Officers.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet: 24 September 2013 (Decision Item 6) Cabinet received the report referred to in Appendix A, and requests full Council to note the content of this report which outlines governance arrangements and activity as it relates to the Council and partners' safeguarding responsibilities.
- 2.2 The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee 9 September 2013 (Decision Item 10) The Committee resolved to request that the "Safeguarding in Barnet" report (Appendix A) be received by the Committee at their next meeting for post-decision scrutiny.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three key priorities set out in the 2013-16 Corporate Plan are: –
- Supporting families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and wellbeing,
 - Improving the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study,
 - Promoting responsible growth, development and success across the borough.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 Relevant risk management issues which relate to Safeguarding in Barnet are set out in the report attached at Appendix A.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.2 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act"), the council has a legislative duty to have 'due regard' to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; and promoting good relations between those with protected characteristics and those without. The 'protected

characteristics' are age, race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The 'protected characteristics' also include marriage and civil partnership, with regard to eliminating discrimination.

5.2 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the responsibility of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council's leadership role with respect to diversity and inclusiveness; and
- The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 Relevant legal issues which relate to the "Safeguarding in Barnet" report are set out in the report attached at Appendix A.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

8.1 The scope of Overview and Scrutiny Committees is contained within Article 6 of the Constitution.

8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees are in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules. The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee have within its terms of reference the following responsibilities:

- To scrutinise the Council and its partners in the discharge of statutory duties in relation to safeguarding.
- To scrutinise the provision of Adult Social Care services (including those who have physical disabilities, sensory impairment, learning disabilities, mental health needs or other special needs) to ensure that residents are safeguarded and supported to lead as independent lives as possible in their own homes.
- To scrutinise the Council's procedures in relation to the protection and welfare of children.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 At their meeting on 9 September 2013, the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Advanced Notice of Executive Decisions.
- 9.2 Members expressed dissatisfaction that the “Safeguarding in Barnet” report scheduled to go to the Cabinet on 24 September 2013 had not come to the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee for pre-decision scrutiny. Following discussion, the Committee advised that they would like to receive the report following Cabinet on 24 September 2013 (as set out in Appendix A) in order to conduct post-decision scrutiny. Cabinet Members and Officers will be present at the meeting to respond to questions from Members.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.