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DATE: 29 April 2013

To: Members of the
CARE SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Judi Ellis (Chairman)

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P. (Chairman)

Councillor Catherine Rideout (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Lydia Buttinger (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Reg Adams, Ruth Bennett, Roger Charsley, John Getgood, David Jefferys, Mrs Anne Manning and Charles Rideout

Councillors Kathy Bance MBE, Nicky Dykes, Judi Ellis, Brian Humphrys, David McBride, Alexa Michael and Neil Reddin FCCA

Non-Voting Co-opted Members
Brebner Anderson, Disability Voice Bromley
Angela Clayton-Turner, Bromley Mental Health Forum

Church Representatives with Voting Rights
Father Owen Higgs and Joan McConnell

Julie Turner, Bromley LINK
Brian James, Learning Disability and Looked After Children Representative
Leslie Marks, Bromley Council on Ageing
Lynne Powrie, Carers Bromley

Parent Governor Members with Voting Rights
Dolores Bray-Ash JP, Darren Jenkins and Janet Latinwo

Non-Voting Co-opted Members
Alison Regester, Pre-school Settings and Early Years Representative
Andrew Spears, Young People's Representative
1 x Head Teacher Representative (vacancy)

A joint meeting of the Care Services and Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees will be held at Bromley Civic Centre on **TUESDAY 7 MAY 2013 AT 7.00 PM**

MARK BOWEN
Director of Corporate Services

Paper copies of this agenda will not be provided at the meeting. Copies can be printed off at www.bromley.gov.uk/meetings. Any member of the public requiring a paper copy of the agenda may request one in advance of the meeting by contacting the Clerk to the Committee, giving 24 hours notice before the meeting.

Items marked for information only will not be debated unless a member of the Committee requests a discussion be held, in which case please inform the Clerk 24 hours in advance indicating the aspects of the information item you wish to discuss

A G E N D A

PART 1 AGENDA

Note for Members: Members are reminded that Officer contact details are shown on each report and Members are welcome to raise questions in advance of the meeting.

STANDARD ITEMS

1 CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4 QUESTIONS TO THE CARE SERVICES CHAIRMAN OR EDUCATION PDS CHAIRMAN FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

To hear questions to the Care Services PDS Committee or Education PDS Committee received in writing by the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on Tuesday 30th April 2013 and to respond. Questions must relate to the work of the scrutiny committees.

5 QUESTIONS TO THE CARE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER OR EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

To hear questions to the Care Services Portfolio Holder or Education Portfolio Holder received in writing by the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on Tuesday 30th April 2013 and to respond. Questions must relate to the work of the Portfolios.

6 INFORMATION ITEMS

The items comprise:

1. BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (BSCB) NEW STRUCTURE FROM JANUARY 2013

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- a) Bromley Safeguarding Children Board
- b) Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Committee
- c) Training Committee

3. MEMBERSHIP LIST

- a) Bromley Safeguarding Children Board
- b) Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring Committee
- c) Training Committee

4. BSCB POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (the list below is a selection of some of the most recent BSCB Policies and Procedures – all BSCB policies and procedures are available on the BSCB website – <http://www.bromleysafeguarding.org/>)

- a) The Child's Journey in Bromley – A Partnership model for providing service to support children and families in Bromley including the safeguarding thresholds guidance (July 2011)
- b) A Strategy for Safeguarding Disabled Children (June 2011)
- c) Working with Neglectful Families – Guidance for Practitioners (October 2012)
- d) A Strategy to Safeguarding Children and Young People at risk of experiencing Sexual Exploitation in Bromley (March 2012)

5. BSCB BUSINESS PLAN 2013/14

6. BSCB TRAINING BROCHURE 2013/14

7. BSCB ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

8. RECENT MEETING MINUTES

- a) Board Minutes of Meeting held on 12th February 2013
- b) Board Minutes (previously called Executive) of meeting held on 20th November 2012

9. BSCB NEWSLETTERS

- a) Spring 2013 Edition
- b) Spring 2012 Edition

Members and Co-opted Members have been provided with advance copies of the briefing via e-mail. The briefing is also available on the Council's Website at the following link:

<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?XXR=0&Year=2013&CId=559>

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS

7 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

“To scrutinise the arrangements, organisational structures, and procedures and processes of the Council and partner organisations with regard to child safeguarding to ensure there is clear cooperation, no unnecessary duplication and effective management and supervision of frontline staff.”

8 INTRODUCTION TO THE STATUTORY GUIDANCE RELATING TO CHILD PROTECTION (TERRY PARKIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES)

9 OVERVIEW OF THE BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD (HELEN DAVIES, INDEPENDENT CHAIR) - UNDERPINNED BY BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 5 - 12)

Attached items comprise:

- Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board Briefing Report, including hyperlinks (see Item 6)

10 MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS (PRESENTATIONS)

- a **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE (KAY WEISS/JULIE DALY)**
- b **EDUCATION (DR TESSA MOORE/JULIE DALY)**
- c **BROMLEY POLICE SERVICE (DI DAVE SMITH)**
- d **BROMLEY CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (SONIA COLWILL)**

11 QUESTIONS TO THE PRESENTERS

12 SCRUTINY OF THE ASSURANCE ASSESSMENT OF THE JOINT POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF ADULT SERVICES
(Pages 13 - 18)

Attached items comprise:

- Report on the Assurance Assessment relating to the Joint Position of Director of Children's Services and Director of Adult Services

13 SUGGESTIONS FOR AREAS OF SCRUTINY FOR CARE SERVICES AND EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEES FOR 2013/14

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London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Joint Meeting of Care Services and Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees 7th May 2013

MULTI AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN IN BROMLEY

Contact: Helen Davies
Chair, Bromley Safeguarding Children Board.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) has been set up under the requirements of the Children Act 2004. BSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in Bromley will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Bromley and for assuring the effectiveness of what they do.
- 1.2 This briefing sets out the statutory framework within which BSCB operates, the governance arrangements for BSCB, how BSCB meets its statutory requirements and future priorities.

2. THE BRIEFING

Statutory Framework

- 2.1 Bromley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) was set up in October 2005 in accordance with the requirements of the Children Act 2004.
- 2.2 Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the **objectives** of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB), which are:
 - to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
 - to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes

2.3 Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the key **functions** of the LSCB are broadly as follows:

(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:

- the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
- training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
- recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
- investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
- safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;

(b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;

(c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;

(d) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and

(e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

2.4 Section 13 of the Children Act 2004, sets out that an LSCB must include at least one representative of the local authority and representatives from the following:

- the chief officer of police;
- the Local Probation Trust;
- the Youth Offending Team;
- the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups;
- NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts all or most of whose hospitals, establishments and facilities are situated in the local authority area;
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass);

- 2.5 The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 requires the local authority to take reasonable steps to ensure that the LSCB includes two lay members representing the local community.
- 2.6 Section 13(4) of the Children Act 2004, provides that the local authority must take reasonable steps to ensure the LSCB includes senior representation from the education sector.
- 2.7 Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2013) comes into force on 15 April 2013. This replaces previous guidance issued in 2010.
- 2.8 Working Together (WT) sets out the statutory arrangements for Local Safeguarding Children Boards and states that the guidance should be followed by:

“local authority Chief Executives, Directors of Children’s Services, LSCB Chairs and senior managers within organisations who commission and provide services for children and families, including social workers and professionals from health services, adult services, the police, Academy Trusts, education and the voluntary and community sector who have contact with children and families.”
- 2.9 WT 2013 outlines that the LSCB should be independent and should not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures. Every LSCB should have an independent chair who can hold all agencies to account.
- 2.10 It is the responsibility of the Local Authority Chief Executive to appoint or remove the LSCB chair with the agreement of a panel including LSCB partners and lay members. The Chief Executive, drawing on other LSCB partners and, where appropriate, the Lead Member will hold the Chair to account for the effective working of the LSCB.
- 2.11 The LSCB Chair should work closely with all LSCB partners and particularly with the Director of Children’s Services. The Director of Children’s Services has the responsibility within the local authority, under section 18 of the Children Act 2004, for improving outcomes for children, local authority children’s social care functions and local cooperation arrangements for children’s services.
- 2.12 The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and wellbeing board.
- 2.13 The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action

being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.

- 2.14 All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective.

Governance arrangements of Bromley Safeguarding Children Board

- 2.15 The key organisational mechanism for delivering the statutory requirements of the BSCB are the meetings of the Board (4 times a year) and the Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring sub committee (6 times a year). Details of the membership of these committees are shown in the supporting documentation for this meeting. BSCB is compliant with the required representation and the requirement to have an Independent Chair. The Independent Chair chairs both the Board and Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring sub committee.
- 2.16 The role of the Board is to set the strategic direction and priorities for the work of all agencies responsible for safeguarding children in Bromley. In addition the Board ensures all agencies are compliant with Government guidance and requirements. The Board also monitors local arrangements through scrutinising data, audits and case reviews.
- 2.17 The Quality Assurance and Performance monitoring sub group is the main mechanism through which individual agencies are held to account for their safeguarding practises. This is through scrutiny of individual agency audits on specific child protection issues and quality of practice and through 'Section 11' audits. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires all agencies that work with or have responsibility for children to safeguard and promote their welfare. The mechanism for ensuring this occurs is for each agency to complete regular audits of the key ways in which children are safeguarded e.g. through policies and procedures, safe recruitment policies, training etc. These audits by individual agencies are scrutinised by the Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring sub committee where senior representatives of those agencies held to account.
- 2.18 In addition to the two main committees, the training programme of BSCB is monitored through a training sub committee. An Education sub committee and Health sub committee bring together wider representation from those two sectors than is possible at the main Board meeting.

How BSCB meets its statutory responsibilities

2.19 The work of the BSCB in meeting its key statutory responsibilities is summarised in Appendix 1.

2.20 As required, the BSCB produces an annual report which sets out its governance and accountability structures and includes its financial arrangements and membership. It also outlines its achievements and progress for the preceding year, arrangements for quality assurance and performance monitoring and sets out future priorities and developments.

2.21 The annual report for 2011/12 can be found at:

<http://www.bromleysafeguarding.org/pdfs/BSCB%20Annual%20Report%202011-2012%20final.pdf>

Future priorities

2.22 The work and priorities of the BSCB are set out in an annual business plan. Details of the current business plan can be found at:

<http://www.bromleysafeguarding.org/pdfs/BSCB%20Business%20Plan%202013-4%20v%202%20March%202013.pdf>

2.23 Key priorities for 2013/14 include:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of the BSCB training programme
- Continuing to promote awareness in key areas of child protection including domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and neglect.
- Establishing more regular multi agency audits of front line practice
- Establishing mechanisms for the views of children and young people to inform the assessment of the effectiveness of child protection practice in Bromley.

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CSED 13001 Appendix 1

Summary of how BSCB meets its key statutory responsibilities (as set out in Section 14 of the Children Act 2004)

Statutory responsibilities	How they are met in Bromley
Ensuring there are policies and procedures in relation to the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention	<p>BSCB is signed up to the London Child Protection Procedures which provides the framework for safeguarding children in individual cases. BSCB delivers regular briefings to ensure the procedures are understood across the partnership.</p> <p>BSCB has a performance framework which includes the multi-agency auditing of frontline practice to ensure the procedures are effective.</p> <p>BSCB has provided threshold guidance for all partners: The Child's Journey in Bromley – A Partnership model for providing services to support children and families in Bromley including the safeguarding thresholds guidance (July 2011)</p>
Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children	<p>BSCB oversees an extensive programme of multi agency child protection training. http://www.bromleysafeguarding.org/pdfs/BSCB%20Training%20Brochure%20April%202013%20-%20March%202014%20-%20publ%20March%202013.pdf</p> <p>In 2012/13 789 staff from across Bromley agencies received safeguarding training. In addition 130 people attended the BSCB annual safeguarding conference on neglect.</p>
Policies and procedures in relation to recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children	BSCB runs a dedicated training programme around safer recruitment.
Investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children	The Local Authority Designated Officer for the management of allegations against professionals who work with children presents an annual report to the BSCB for scrutiny. The last report was presented in May 2012.
Safety and welfare of	BSCB receives an annual report regarding the welfare of privately fostered children. The last report was

children who are privately fostered	considered in November 2012 when an action plan was agreed for promoting awareness raising in this area. BSCB is currently reviewing all procedures in relation to privately fostered children.
Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so	Recent briefings and policies have included awareness raising around: Children at risk from Gangs Anti-bullying Safeguarding disabled children E safety Signs of Safety Working with neglectful families Safeguarding children at risk of sexual exploitation
Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve	This is the function of the Quality Assurance and Performance Monitoring sub group. This group regularly reviews safeguarding audits undertaken by individual agencies as well as Section 11 audits. The performance and improvement framework for BSCB can be found here: http://www.bromleysafeguarding.org/pdfs/BSCB%20Performance%20Management%20&%20Improvement%20%20Framework%20March%202013.pdf
Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned	Fortunately BSCB has not been required to undertake a serious case review since March 2010. However as part of the new performance and improvement framework and in line with WT 2013 there will be an expectation that learning takes place from regular reviews of cases where there are concerns about practice or good practice that can help improve outcomes for children.

Report No.
CSED 13002

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Joint Meeting of the Care Services and Education PDS Committees

Date: 7th May 2013

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **ASSURANCE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN BROMLEY**

Contact Officer: Terry Parkin, Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services
Tel: 020 8313 4060 E-mail: terry.parkin@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Doug Patterson, Chief Executive

Ward: Boroughwide

1. Reason for report

To allow for the proper Scrutiny of the arrangements for the discharge of the statutory duties relating to the safeguarding of children, specifically in relation to the arrangements in place to fulfil the statutory roles for the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and those of the Lead Member for Children Services (LMCS). These arrangements are required to be subject to local testing when either the DCS or the LMCS undertake more than one role as is the case in Bromley. We ask that Members of the Joint PDS recommend that the appropriate Portfolio Holders validate the present arrangements through looking at the processes and procedures in place to ensure children in the London Borough of Bromley are safeguarded adequately.

Further, the independent Bromley Safeguarding Children Board on behalf of its partner agencies has oversight of our safeguarding procedures. The independent chair also has a duty to observe the work of the local system and, should it have failings, report those to the DCS and Chief Executive. Members will have an opportunity to ask questions of the independent chair and to test the strength of local partnership arrangements.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That the Chairman of the Education and Care PDS Committees in their Scrutiny role should agree that the arrangements to discharge the statutory role of Director of Children's Services are safe and that the assurance test be repeated and reported annually.
- 2.2 That through the minutes of this meeting, this should be communicated to the Chief Executive in his role as head of the service.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre:
 4. Total current budget for this head: £
 5. Source of funding:
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement.
 2. Call-in: <please select>
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): From 01/04/2012 – 31/03/2013 there were children's social care initial contacts – 10069; children's social care referrals – 2148 As at 31/03/13 Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan – 177 and 286 children in care.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

Overview

- 3.1 All top tier authorities in England have the responsibility of overseeing the local arrangements for the safeguarding of children. They are required to appoint a Director of Children's Services (DCS) and a Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) whose responsibilities are defined from time to time by Parliamentary Order. These roles are therefore covered by Statutory Guidance to which Local Authorities must have regard: <http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00206029/statutory-guidance-on-the-roles-and-responsibilities-of-the-director-of-childrens-services-and-the-lead-member-for-childrens-services/roles-and-responsibilities-of-the-dcs-and-lmcs>
- 3.2 The most recent guidance (3rd April, 2012) states:
- The DCS and LMCS are appointed for the purposes of discharging the education and children's social services functions of the local authority. The functions for which they are responsible are set out in section 18(2) of the Children Act 2004. This includes (but is not limited to) responsibility for children and young people receiving education or children's social care services in their area and all children looked after by the local authority or in custody (regardless of where they are placed).
 - Within this legal framework, it is for individual local authorities to determine their own organisational structures in the light of their local circumstances. However, local authorities must ensure that there is both a single officer and a single elected member each responsible for both education and children's social care. The DCS and LMCS should each have integrated children's services brief, ensuring that the safety and the educational, social and emotional needs of children and young people are central to the local vision. Between them, the DCS and LMCS provide a clear and unambiguous line of local accountability.
 - The DCS has professional responsibility for children's services, including operational matters; the LMCS has political responsibility for children's services. Together with the Chief Executive and Leader, the DCS and LMCS have a key leadership role both within the local authority and working with other local agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- 3.3 **Assurance Process where the DCS is responsible for additional functions.**
The guidance also outlines that local authorities need to ensure that an assurance process is undertaken where the DCS is responsible for additional functions not related to local authority children's services and that local authorities review their arrangements regularly to satisfy themselves that they continue to be effective (Paragraph 14) . This local test of assurance ensures that the focus on outcomes for children and young people will not be weakened or diluted as a result of adding such other responsibilities.
- 3.4 The local test of assurance needs to ensure their structures and organisational arrangements enable them to:
- fulfil their statutory duties effectively (including ensuring that children, young people and families receive effective help and benefit from high educational standards locally);
 - be transparent about responsibilities and accountabilities; and
 - support effective interagency and partnership working.
- 3.5 **National Context**
Around 40 local authorities including across the country including Bromley, have integrated Adults' and Children's services under one Director. This is seen as strengthening the social care offer as it results in an enhanced ability to work with families in a more holistic

way. This is not precluded by Statutory Guidance. However, the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) has stated that “When you have one Director responsible for both Children’s and Adult services, you need a structure in place with specialist and senior management posts so that nothing critical is lost in the shuffle”. A key part of the test will therefore be; is there strong and distinct leadership of children’s and adult safeguarding?

3.6 Assurance of arrangements in Bromley

The Executive Director has since appointment introduced a range of assurance systems, as well as building on those already in place. We then have a number of tiers of assurance:

Strategic

- Children’s Board, including regular 1-1s between the DCS and LMCS
- Bromley Safeguarding Children’s Board, including the Annual Report of the Chair, and the reporting within that of the section 11 contributions made by the various teams of Bromley Borough Council to the safeguarding of children
- Scrutiny of decision making through the respective PDS committee’s
- An annual business plan approved by the respective Portfolio Holders
- Executive Working Party: Safeguarding and Corporate parenting

Operational

- Robust supervision from the Chief Executive to the DCS, and from the DCS to his direct reports
- Weekly meetings between the DCS or his nominee and the respective Portfolio Holders
- Weekly monthly and quarterly performance data considered by the DCS and his senior managers, including, from April 2013, a departmental balanced scorecard
- An actively managed risk register feeding into the Corporate risk register
- A designated principal social worker, and a clear professional development programme for qualified social workers

Bromley children’s services are also committed to sector-led improvement with the DCS a former Ofsted inspector and a trained sector-led (peer) reviewer. We also have a number of staff from second and third tier roles trained as peer reviewers, and, indeed, as present and former Ofsted inspectors. This gives considerable strength when we audit our own performance. Findings of sector-led reviews are incorporated into post-inspection action plans and also provide a critical analysis of whether improvement plans are on track.

3.7 External Assurance

As part of the validation process, Members will be aware that children’s social care is subject to regular Ofsted inspections. Ofsted provides four grades in its inspections from inadequate through to outstanding. The majority of externally regulated services have been judged as adequate or good and these judgements include consideration of accountability and leadership evident politically and at executive officer level. None have been found to be inadequate.

Action plans arising from Ofsted inspections are taken to the relevant PDS and monitored by the respective Portfolio Holder. To date, the relevant Portfolio Holders and PDS committees have approved all action plans, and found progress on them to be acceptable.

3.8 Future Assurance Process

Set out below are the proposed additional safeguards to provide assurance that the statutory responsibilities of the DCS are not compromised in the role of the Executive Director for Education, Care and Health Services

- That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio holder continue to monitor the effectiveness of the current arrangements against the Council's requirements and the need for assurance set out in government guidance;
- In the event of a change of Director, the portfolio of responsibilities should be reviewed;
- The Assistant Director for Children's Social Care, the head of the Quality Assurance, and the independent chair of the LSCB should attend the Children's Board and ECHS DMT quarterly and report on critical issues; thresholds, caseloads (numbers and type), workforce (including stability, use of agency, sickness/stress absence, incidents of violence and complaints);

It is proposed that the portfolio holder's and scrutiny chairman should consider the outcome of an annual review of the current arrangements in April each year. This will be undertaken through a self assessment carried out at arms length by the Strategic and Business Support service..

3.9 Conclusion

The council takes very seriously its responsibilities for all children in the borough and specifically for vulnerable children. The arrangements proposed in this report assure the council that sufficient additional safeguards are in place to ensure the continued delivery of the council's overarching responsibilities for all children and its specific responsibilities for vulnerable children are not compromised by the breadth of the role of Executive Director for Education, Care and Health Services.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All top tier authorities in England have the responsibility of overseeing the local arrangements for the safeguarding of children. They are required to appoint a Director of Children's Services (DCS) and a Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) whose responsibilities are defined from time to time by Parliamentary Order. These roles are therefore covered by Statutory Guidance to which Local Authorities must have regard: <http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00206029/statutory-guidance-on-the-roles-and-responsibilities-of-the-director-of-childrens-services-and-the-lead-member-for-childrens-services/roles-and-responsibilities-of-the-dcs-and-lmcs>
- 4.2 The guidance is consistent with the corporate operating principles and the priorities within the Children's Strategy and Portfolio Plans.

Non-Applicable Sections:	PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

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