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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 13 November 2008

### Subject: Request for Scrutiny

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity ☐

Community Cohesion ☐

Narrowing the Gap ☐

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The attached letter has been received from Councillor Selby, suggesting a possible topic for scrutiny in relation to the Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) (Appendix 1). Councillor Selby has been invited to attend the meeting to present the request to the Board.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that a Board “.....shall consider a request from any (other) source to conduct an Inquiry. All such requests for an Inquiry must be submitted in writing to the Proper Officer. The Proper Officer shall add the request to the agenda for the next Ordinary Meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Board. The Proper Office shall acknowledge all such requests for an Inquiry. At the next Ordinary Meeting, the Scrutiny Board shall consider any request for an Inquiry which the Proper Officer has added to the agenda.
- 1.3 Where the request has not come from the Executive or the Council, the person or body making the request will be invited to attend the Board's meeting to explain the reasons for the request. The Scrutiny Board Chair will decide how much time will be given to the person or body for addressing the Scrutiny Board. The Proper Officer will inform whoever submitted the request and any other relevant parties about the decision of the Scrutiny Board.”

## **2.0 OPTIONS FOR INVESTIGATIONS AND INQUIRIES**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Board is required to consider whether an Inquiry into this matter is appropriate and if so, what form that Inquiry shall take.
- 2.2 When deciding whether the Board will pursue a request for Scrutiny, it is important for Members to consider the request in the context of the Board's terms of reference, its existing Work Programme and commitments.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Board is asked to consider the request for Scrutiny and to consider whether further investigation is to be undertaken.

### **Background papers**

Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules