



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 1 April 2009

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiries – Safeguarding

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2009, the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) received a report on safeguarding in Leeds. This coincided with the publication of the latest Annual Performance Assessment (APA) for children's services in Leeds, which assessed safeguarding as 'adequate'.
- 1.2 Members were also informed that the Leader of Council had asked, through the Chair, that the Scrutiny Board undertake an inquiry into the safeguarding arrangements for children in Leeds.
- 1.3 The Board agreed to establish two working groups to focus on two key areas of safeguarding:
- Resources** – to consider the adequacy of current children's social work resources to meet core child protection responsibilities
- Preventative Duty** – to consider the universal safeguarding duty and preventative work, particularly at a wedge level
- 1.4 The working groups held initial meetings on 17 and 19 March respectively. Each working group met with relevant officers to discuss what further information and witnesses would be required to carry out their remit. The proposed courses of action will be circulated to Board Members in advance of the Board meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Board is asked to agree the next stages of the working groups' activity.

Background papers

None