



Report of the Director of Children's Services

Meeting: Inner West Area Committee

Date: 9th December 2009

Subject: Safeguarding and Integrated Working

Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report introduces a presentation about key priorities of the Leeds Children and Young People Plan to advance at pace integrated working and the strengthening of safeguarding arrangements.

Purpose of This Report

1. The presentation appended forms the basis of this report.
2. The presentation is intended to provide an opportunity for members of the Area Committee to comment on multi-agency service development and to advise on how we should take this work forward with the Area Committee and the Children's Champion.
3. **Background Information**
Papers to Area Committee in December 2008 explored integrated locality working, local priorities for children, young people and families, and the role of a Children's Champion. A clear direction of travel emerged that involves local integration capacity and closer agency working amongst universal, targeted and specialist services.

The unannounced inspection by OFSTED of the Authority July 21/22/2009 identified areas for priority action

- Response to child protection referrals does not meet statutory guidance and does not ensure that children are adequately safeguarded
- During the initial reading of records, children were identified as having been left at potential risk of serious harm
- Inconsistent assessments by Children and Young People's Social Care
- Inconsistent referrals from agencies

These priorities reinforce the direction of travel and the need to implement changes quickly.

5. **Main Issues**

The action being taken to address the priorities above are covered in the appended presentation.

6. **Implications For Council Policy and Governance**

There are no issues for Council policy arising from the recommendations although the role of elected members in extended services clusters and area children services groups are being considered within emerging proposals about locality governance arrangements.

7. **Legal and Resource Implications**

Actions identified in the presentation are being undertaken through the remodelling of existing resources.

8. **Recommendations**

The Area Committee is requested to

- Note and consider the presentation appended
- Comment on the priorities and emerging actions
- Advise on the recommendations made in the final 'slide'

Background Papers

None.