

Policy and Scrutiny Scoping Document

Committee	Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Topic	Monitoring of the Safeguarding Report prepared by the Committee in 2009	Ref: CYP_SCR_023 File Ref: E.41.01/7/18
Objective	To (a) ensure that the Committee's recommendations have been considered by the appropriate 'owners'; and (b) consider whether issues of concern have been resolved to the Committee's satisfaction.	
Reasons for undertaking review	The Council had received several poor inspection reports on the level of its safeguarding activity and was under a Notice to Improve issued by the Government.	
Topic suggested by	Committee	
Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial briefing to define scope • Task & Finish Group • Commission • Full Committee 	Initial review of witnesses' responses to 2009 Report at full Committee meeting on 13 May 2010. Safeguarding Sub-Group then set up to consider any ongoing issues of concern in detail.	
Membership	To be agreed at Committee meeting on 13 May 2010.	
Issues to be addressed	To confirm responses of Cabinet Member. Lead officer and Chairman of Essex Children's Safeguarding Board to recommendations made by the Committee. To clarify staffing situation in the SCF Directorate post April 2010 and its impact on staff workloads and the number of non allocated cases. To confirm how Essex County Council and the Essex Children's Safeguarding Board propose to respond to any ongoing concerns about the level of safeguarding for children in the county. To consider level of compliance with Lord Laming's second report (published in the light of the Climbié case and other subsequent concerns in England and Wales)	
Sources of Evidence and	Cabinet Member for Children's Services Lead Officer , SCF Directorate Chairman and administrator of Essex Children's Safeguarding Board Front line staff Adoption and/or Fostering Service staff	

witnesses	Children's Home manager Voluntary body/ies Examples of good practice elsewhere in the UK		
Work Programme	Commence monitoring in May 2010 Sub-Group to work over period May to August 2010 Committee to received detailed update in September 2010 and any follow up work in January 2011		
Indicators of Success	Assessments take place within the timescales set out in the Council's Key Performance Indicators. The number of non allocated cases is kept as low as possible. No (or few) issues need to go to a Serious Case Review.		
Meeting the CfPS Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critical Friend</i> • <i>Challenge to Executive</i> • <i>Reflect Public voice and concerns</i> • <i>Own the scrutiny process</i> • <i>Impact on service delivery</i> 	Yes Yes Yes		
Diversity and Equality	Ensure that safeguarded children are treated to the highest possible standards of care.		
Date agreed by Committee	13 May 2010		
Future Action			
Governance Officer	Graham Redgwell	Committee Officer	Vivien Door
Service Lead Officer(s)	Malcolm Newsam, Head of SCF Directorate		