

		AGENDA ITEM 5
		SSC/03/10
Committee:	Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee – Safeguarding Sub-Committee	
Date:	3 June 2010	
<u>In-depth Review of Safeguarding Arrangements - Scoping the Project</u>		
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### **Purpose of the Report:**

The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with a choice of two potential approaches when pairing-up to undertake the in-depth review of Essex's Safeguarding arrangements. These are based on either:

- i) The Top Ten Questions within the IDeA Safeguarding Scrutiny Guide (attached as Option 1)
- ii) The 6 Pillars within the SCF Improvement Plan (attached as Option 2)

An example approach for both options is included below. Either approach will require further development.

IDeA has been approached to identify a suitable social care adviser to assist with the development of the chosen approach. A couple of its associates have expressed an interest in this work but it is unlikely that they will be able to attend the meeting on 3 June 2010. They may however be able to develop suggested success indicators for discussion at the Sub-Committee's next meeting.

A copy of IDeA's Safeguarding Scrutiny Guide is also attached and Members are asked to retain this for the remainder of the review.

## Option 1 - Utilising the IDeA Top 10 Questions

Member pairing	IDeA question	Success indicator	Witnesses
Partnership	Is the LSCB effective in holding individual agencies to account and ensuring effective multi-agency working through the safeguarding children procedures and operational performance oversight?		
	Does your LSCB have the resources, both financial and human, to undertake its role effectively and deliver the LSCB business plan?	Do all partner agencies provide adequate funding and staff commitment to support the work of the LSCB?	
		Is there a commitment to prioritise safeguarding resources when planning for post credit-crunch reductions in public spending?	
		How does resource provision for the ESCB compare with comparator authorities?	ESCB budget
			Other authorities ESCB budgets
	Is the relationship between the LSCB and the Children's Trust clear and working effectively to improve outcomes for children?		IDeA representative on ESCB
			National guidance
Quality and performance	How does your LSCB perform its quality assurance role? Is there evidence it leads to service		

Member pairing	IDeA question	Success indicator	Witnesses
	improvement at system and frontline practitioner level?		
	Is the LSCB gathering and using the experience of children, young people and families to inform improvements to safeguarding arrangements?		
	Is there a robust needs assessment process in place and are the trends in demand and outcomes well understood?		
Practice	Are universal services supporting vulnerable children well and are there adequate and effective early intervention or prevention services in place for children and families? What safeguards are there to protect children and families from		

Member pairing	IDeA question	Success indicator	Witnesses
	inappropriate child protection interventions?		
	Are services reaching the most vulnerable groups e.g. children with disabilities, children in families affected by substance misuse, domestic violence or parental mental illness and children from refugee and asylum seeking communities?		
	Do all Child Protection Plans contain specific, achievable, child focused outcomes intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. Are these measurable and are those protection plans independently reviewed?		
	What is the quality and frequency of supervision and training given to frontline staff? Does supervision routinely address safeguarding practice and performance?		

## Option 2 - Utilising the Pillars within the SCF improvement Plan

Member pairing		IDeA question	Success indicator	Witnesses
Group 1	Confident leadership	A clear vision and sense of direction		
		Modeling professional confidence and self belief		
		Providing leadership at every level		
		Communicating clear expectations throughout the organisation		
		Supporting, solving and listening		
		Holding people to account for poor performance		
		Rewarding excellence		
	An organisation fit for purpose	Clear priorities		
		Effective organisation and management		
		Aligning resources to priorities		
		Ensuring accountability and compliance		
		Creating one organisation		

Group 2	High quality front-line practice	Building a range of services which support families and their children		
		Effective multi-agency early intervention and prevention		
		A high quality social work assessment service supported by timely decision making		
		A high quality family support service		
		A clear understanding of thresholds, risk and when to intervene		
		Family support services and residential settings that keep children safe and achieve their potential		
	Measuring what counts	Departmental Performance system		
		Accurate and timely Management Information		
		Individual achievement measured		
		Analysis and intervention		
		Quality assurance of practice		

Group 3	Effective partnerships making the difference	<p>A Children's Trust that drives better outcomes for every child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An LSCB that supports high quality safeguarding across the partnership</li> <li>• A shared vision by all partners and a commitment to improvement</li> <li>• Joint commissioning of services that keep children safe from harm</li> </ul>		
	Becoming an employer of choice	<p>Recruiting high calibre front-line staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering good quality training and development through the Essex Academy</li> <li>• Providing high quality management and supervision</li> <li>• Engaging staff in our improvement journey</li> </ul> <p>Competitive reward packages</p>		