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## **Executive:** revised safeguarding report

## Monday 12 March 2012 at 7.00 pm

Committee Rooms 1, 2 and 3, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, HA9 9HD

### Membership:

Lead Member Councillors:	Portfolio
John (Chair)	Leader/Lead Member for Corporate Strategy and Policy Co-ordination
Butt (Vice-Chair)	Deputy Leader/Lead Member for Resources
Arnold	Lead Member for Children and Families
Beswick	Lead Member for Crime and Public Safety
Crane	Lead Member for Regeneration and Major Projects
Jones	Lead Member for Customers and Citizens
Long	Lead Member for Housing
J Moher	Lead Member for Highways and Transportation
R Moher	Lead Member for Adults and Health
Powney	Lead Member for Environment and Neighbourhoods

**For further information contact:** Anne Reid, Principal Democratic Services Officer 020 8937 1359, anne.reid@brent.gov.uk

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The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting



## Agenda – revised report

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members.

**Item** Page

## 5 Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection - outcome and 1 - 36 action plan

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the outcome of the Safeguarding and Looked After Children (SLAC) inspection which took place between 3-14 October 2011. The detail is contained within the attached full inspection report and the associated Action Plan.

Ward Affected: Lead Member: Councillor Arnold

All Wards Contact Officer: Krutika Pau, Director of

Children and Families

Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk

Date of the next meeting: Monday 23 April 2012



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## Executive 12 March 2012

# Report from the Director of Children and Families

Wards Affected:

ALL/

# Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspection: Outcome and Action Plan

#### 1.0 Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the outcome of the Safeguarding and Looked After Children (SLAC) inspection which took place between 3-14 October 2011. The detail is contained within the attached full inspection report and the associated Action Plan.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the outcome of the Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspection report for Brent. The report was published by Ofsted in November 2011 and is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.2 That Members approve the Action Plan contained in Appendix B which addresses the recommendations identified in the inspection report and articulates the department's ambitions to make significant and far reaching improvements to the service.
- 2.3 That Members give delegated powers to the Director of Children and Families to make amendments to the Action Plan as required, to ensure this continues to drive improvement.

#### 3.0 Detail

3.1 There has been a nationally established programme of inspection for children's social care departments over a number of years, which recently has been divided between annual "no-notice" inspections of contact and referral services and 3 yearly "full" inspections of safeguarding and looked after children's services. Brent has had two successful "no-notice" inspections over the last two years but, prior to this inspection, had not had a full inspection since the Joint Area Review in 2006. The current Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspection (SLAC) was under a different regime to the Joint Area Review, but is also the last in the current format. A new inspection regime (based on some of the recommendations of the Munro review) is currently being piloted with a view

to being rolled out from April 2012. This new regime introduces a no-notice approach for the first time.

- 3.2 It is clear that the inspection regimes for children's social care are getting progressively tougher and thresholds are rising. The recent inspection was tougher than the Joint Area Review in 2006 and the next one will be tougher still. The other key differences are that the notice given to authorities has progressively reduced (from several months in 2006, two weeks under the current regime, through to no notice in the future) and that the level of detail on individual cases being examined is increasing.
- 3.3 The inspection provides two separate judgements, one for safeguarding and one for services to looked after children. The judgement scale is Outstanding, Good, Adequate and Inadequate. Brent was judged to be adequate for both which is the grade for 48% of Local Authorities for Safeguarding and 53% of authorities for looked after children.
- 3.4 Children were judged to be safe in Brent and thresholds for child protection intervention were judged to be appropriate. There were however concerns in relation to the health of looked after children which resulted in health being given an "inadequate" rating in that area. NHS Brent are currently addressing these concerns and reporting to both the Care Quality Commission (their inspection body) and ourselves on progress.
- 3.5 The Inspection commended aspects of Early Intervention, Locality Services and in Care Planning, some of which are noted below. Parents who received services as part of a CAF had achieved some positive outcomes and valued the services provided, children's social care services positively engage with and listen to children and young people evidenced through assessments and care plans and the established fora to consult such as the Care in Action group and Brent Youth Parliament. Access to front door social work services was clear and well understood and relationships with partner agencies were good. Many children saw positive outcomes as a result of their child protection plan and services were seen to be highly effective in closing the cap educationally for those children subject to economic deprivation with achievement being particularly pronounced for children who are seeking asylum. Morale and staff motivation were reported to be high and strategic arrangements to improve services to looked after children were commended. The inspectors also praised the commitment of elected members as champions of the needs of all children and young people through engagement with Brent Youth Parliament as members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the decision to provide permanent accommodation for the Youth Parliament in the new Civic Centre,
- 3.6 The plan covers recommendations which are the responsibility of the local authority, as well as those which need to be followed up by the local authority together with its partners. In order to make a comprehensive response to the inspection and further improve outcomes for children and young people, this plan additionally picks up comments made by Ofsted within the text of the final report, which were not highlighted as recommendations. These additional areas for development follow the recommendations for Safeguarding, or for Looked after Children, respectively. As the plan follows the format of the Ofsted inspections, the recommendations and actions required cover all aspects of the work, from management and leadership to front-line practice.
- 3.7 This plan has been prepared in conjunction with the Health Action Plan which has been developed by Brent Primary Care Trust and is reported (and monitored) on a monthly basis by the Care Quality Commission. The Children and Families Plan complements the actions within that plan.
- 3.8 The plan has benefitted from input and quality assurance from London Safeguarding Advisors and the Local Government Improvement and Development Agency (LGIDA).

The department has already secured £20,000 improvement monies from LGIDA to start a range of initiatives aimed at making significant improvements to the supervision of front line staff. It will be implemented alongside individual service improvement plans already in development, representing the ambition of the council and its partners to make a positive difference for children in need of safeguarding or who are in the care of Brent Council.

- 3.9 The monitoring arrangements for the plan are as follows:
  - 1 The Director of Children's Services will chair a monthly monitoring of the action plan involving Health and Social Care colleagues.
  - 2 Corporate Management Team on a monthly basis
  - 3 Local Safeguarding Board on a bi-monthly basis.
  - 4 Brent Children's Partnership on a quarterly basis
  - 5 Multi- agency child protection meeting on a quarterly basis
  - 6 Children and Families Departmental Management team on a monthly basis.
  - 7 Children and Families Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding group.
  - 8 The Lead Member for Children and Families will have a key role in the monitoring of progress.
- 3.10 Finally, the Department will seek external challenge of the progress against the plan in June 2012 through the Local Government Improvement and Development Agency and the intention is to arrange a process of peer challenge or review in December 2012 to assess progress against the findings of the SLAC Inspection report

#### 4.0 Finance

- 4.1 Currently the funding to cover the proposed £152,000 of growth required for the plan identified in this report has not been identified but the department is confident that it will be able to find the money from within existing resources through restructuring.
- 4.2 Three additional posts are needed. Two of the posts are Child Protection Advisors to assist with the planning, monitoring and auditing of work on child protection across the department. They would join the existing three postholders whose role is to chair child protection conferences but also to provide professional child protection advice on complex cases to a range of professionals as well as to monitor plans and audit the quality of child protection work across the Borough.
- 4.3 The other post is within the looked after children service to provide additional resource to work with children and young people who were looked after, but who have now turned 18 years and for whom the Council has a responsibility up until the age of 24 years. The Service view is that the posts are necessary to ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory responsibilities to that age group but also to allow improvements to be made to the quality of the work that is delivered.

#### 5.0 Legal

5.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 to appoint a personal adviser for young people who have left care or are preparing to do so. The personal adviser acts as an intermediary between the young person and the social services department, until the young person turns 21, or 24 if they are still receiving help with education, training or employment.

The council has a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 to to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need, in addition to a duty to protect children in its area from foreseeable risks of significant harm. The Children Act 2004 also introduced a duty for the Council to work together with its Safeguarding Partners, such as Primary Care Trusts and the Police to promote the welfare of children.

#### 6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 There are no diversity implications contained within this report.
- 7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)
- 7.1 There are no accommodation issues contained within this report.

#### **Background Papers**

- a) Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services, London Borough of Brent. Published by Ofsted 18 November 2011
- b) Brent safeguarding and looked after children action plan.

#### **Contact Officer**

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#### **KRUTIKA PAU**

**DIRECTOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES** 

#### **Brent Children and Families Department**

#### **APPENDIX B**

#### Action Plan in response to the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission Safeguarding and Looked after Children Inspection

This action plan has been produced as a response to the recommendations made as a result of the safeguarding and looked after children inspection, which took place 3-14 October 2011 and resulted in the report of 18 November 2011. Brent Council is committed to delivering a step change in performance and ensuring the very best outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people. The DCS and AD (Social Care) will lead this improvement process, challenging performance of all agencies and delivering outstanding outcomes through strong strategic and operational multi-agency working. This Action Plan covers recommendations which are the responsibility of the local authority, as well as those which need to be followed up by the local authority together with its partners. In order to make a comprehensive response to the inspection and accelerate the rate of improvement in outcomes for children and young people, the plan additionally picks up comments made by Ofsted within the text of the final report, which were not highlighted as recommendations. These additional areas for development follow the recommendations for Safeguarding, or for Looked after Children, respectively. As the plan follows the format of the Ofsted inspections, the recommendations and actions required cover all aspects of the work, from management and leadership to front-line practice.

This plan has been prepared in conjunction with the Health Action Plan which has been developed by Brent Primary Care Trust and is reported (and monitored) on a monthly basis by the Care Quality Commission. The Children and Families Plan complements the actions within that plan.

The plan has benefitted from input and quality assurance from London Safeguarding Advisors and the Local Government Improvement and Development Agency.

This action plan will be implemented alongside individual service improvement plans already in development, representing the ambition of the council and its partners to make a significant and positive difference for children in need of safeguarding or who are in the care of Brent Council.

#### Monitoring, Accountability and Scrutiny arrangements:

This inspection action plan and the wider service improvement plans contain SMART objectives, with detailed actions to be carried out.

The monitoring arrangements for the plan are as follows:

1. Within each Children's Social Care team on an ongoing basis, with constant oversight by the Director of Children & Families

- 2. Children and Families Departmental Management Team on a monthly basis.
- 3. Corporate Management Team on a monthly basis, to promote partnership working across Directorates
- 4. Monthly monitoring of the action plan involving Health and Social Care colleagues chaired by the Director of Children's Services.
- 5. Local Safeguarding Board on a bi-monthly basis, which will provide advice and feedback on progress
- 6. Brent Children's Partnership on a quarterly basis, which will provide advice and feedback on progress
- 7. Multi- agency child protection meeting on a quarterly basis
- 8. Children and Families Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding group.
- 9. The Lead Member for Children and Families will have a key role in the monitoring of progress.

There are three key mechanisms for monitoring progress:

- 1. Operational oversight by the Director of Children's Services, to include a fortnightly review of performance and progress towards the required outcomes using feedback from Assistant Director, Heads of Services and Leads in respect of each action point.
- 2. The Action Plan will be updated on a monthly basis and provide evidence of progress against identified actions and compliance with timescales. This will form the basis of the regular monitoring by both DMT and CMT.
- 3. A quarterly data set and report will be prepared by the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care, which will summarise progress and evidence how the identified actions are improving services and the difference they are making to children and their families in Brent. This will be submitted to the groups identified above, together with the Local Safeguarding Board, Brent Children's Partnership and the Multi-agency child protection meeting for their advice and feedback and form the basis of the quarterly programme of review.
- 4. Any concerns arising from the monitoring programmes will be conveyed directly to the Director of Children and Families, who will report to CMT and the Lead Member for Children and Families.

Finally, the Department will seek external challenge of the progress against the plan in June 2012 through the Local Government Improvement and Development Agency and the intention is to arrange a process of peer challenge or review in December 2012 to assess progress against the findings of the SLAC Inspection report. NB: A glossary of all acronyms used within this plan is included at the end of the document.

Nb. Where there are multiple leads identified, the responsible lead officer is underlined.

## 1. Safeguarding Recommendations:

1. Ofsted Recommendation Timescale: Immediate	nmendation recorded promptly and to a high standard.				
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012	
Staff at all levels receive regular (at least monthly), high quality supervision, which encompasses both performance management and reflective supervision.	Review of all supervision materials to be conducted by external consultant working together with managers, to ensure supervision is delivered in line with best practice elsewhere and that this can be evidenced.	Assistant Director, Social Care	Policy to be completed by end February 2012	External consultant engaged. Focus group with managers 19.1.12.	
Supervision enables reflective, child focussed practice, in line with the Munroe Review of Child Protection	Intensive coaching workshops for managers across children's social care, to deliver improved expertise in supervision, including reflective supervision, and in doing so enable managers to uniformly lift the quality of practice across the service.	Head of Localities and Disabled Children/Head of Care Planning	February – March 2012	Funding secured through Local Government Improvement and Development Agency.	
All social workers will have a fully completed personal supervision file to capture casework as well as personal and professional development	3. Line managers to ensure that existing good practice in respect of supervision is reflected in accurate and comprehensive supervision notes.	Head of Localities and Disabled Children/Head of Care Planning			
Supervision notes to demonstrate timely plans and impact					

2. Ofsted Recommendation Timescale: Immediate	Ensure that supervision files are subject to a regula	,		
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
Managers and staff are confident that supervision is being delivered in line with departmental policy; audit feedback demonstrates significant improvements in frequency and quality.	<ol> <li>Evidence of both compliance with and impact of improved approach to supervision to be evidenced through regular audits.</li> <li>Quarterly Audit of random selection of 15 files</li> </ol>	Assistant Director, Social Care Head of Localities and Disabled Children/Head of Care Planning DCS	March 2012. Audit outcome will be included in post-inspection action plan quarterly report to Departmental Management Team and Local Safeguarding Children Board Information to be included in quarterly impact report	Audit to ensure cases had been supervised undertaken December 2011
	Conduct staff and management survey to gain feedback on impact of new supervision system	Head of C&F Policy & Performance	September 2012	
3. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Within 3 months (end February 2012)	Fully implement a system of qualitative as well as processes	quantitative perfo	rmance management which li	inks to the auditing
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
Service improvements are informed by learning from qualitative and quantitative measurements.	Develop a quality management framework aimed at delivering continuous improvement, which captures quantitative and qualitative data.	Assistant Director, Social Care Head of Safeguarding	March 2012 – sign-off by DMT and LSCB	January 12 - Draft QMF produced, plans for overarching audit system being developed.

	Provide quarterly QMF reports which     evidence how service improvements are     informed by the qualitative and     quantitative information collected.	Head of C&F Policy and Performance Head of Safeguarding /	June 2012 to be included within quarterly post-inspection action plan report to DMT, CMT and LSCB	
4. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Within 3 months (end February 2012)	Develop effective systems for obtaining and aggre advocacy services, with the purpose of informing s			s from complaints and
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
An overarching framework for consulting with service users is in place and having a positive impact on service delivery.  There is documentary evidence of meaningful consultation.	Develop range of methods for consultation with service users throughout the service, including qualitative and quantitative methods through the use of questionnaires, e-mail and text messaging, surveys, telephone interviews and focus groups. Methods to be informed through consultation with Brent Consultation Team and Complaints Team; and from best practice elsewhere.	Director of Customer & Community Engagement Head of Localities and Disabled Children	Overarching system to be signed off by DCS in February and fully operational by June 2012.	Potential for placement for management trainee being investigated to help pull together system. London Safeguarding Advisors providing input Feb/March 12

The views of children, young people, parents and carers inform service improvement.	<ol> <li>Further strengthen systems so that feedback from the views of children and young people, and parents and carers, including the outcomes of complaints, inform service improvement and this can be evidenced.</li> </ol>	Assistant Director, Social Care SCMT, Complaints Manager	Review by Complaints Manager and SCMT – April 2012. Report to Lead Member	
	3. Director of Children Services, Corporate Parenting Group and LSCB to scrutinise outcomes of feedback and complaints, and ensure actions are taken to improve services accordingly.	independent chair Assistant Director, Social Care	Six monthly reports to Brent Children's Partnership Executive Group, Corporate Parenting Group and LSCB.	
5. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Within 3 months (end February 2012)	Ensure that the quality of child in need and child poutcomes for safeguarding are clear and effective.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	mproved so that timely, mea	surable and achievable
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012

Social work reports to child	1. Improv	e the quality of child	Assistant	A progress report will be	a. Signs of Safety
protection conference are	protect	ion and child in need plans	Director, Social	provided to the DCS in	training held Nov/Dec 11
of a high standard, and	through	h the following actions:	Care	February, on all actions	
will reflect the individual	a.	Training on analysis of risk for			
needs and diversity of		social workers	Head of	below for presentation to	
children and their families	b.	Multi-agency training to	Safeguarding	the LSCB and Multi-agency	
within the primary		improve contribution of all		child protection meeting	
objectives of the plan.		agencies to child protection	Head of	for scrutiny April 2012.	
		planning	Localities and		
Child protection plans will	C.	Together with London	Disabled		
be SMART		Councils, developing more	Children		
		focused set of child protection			
		documentation templates			
Child protection concerns	d.	Strengthening the quality			
will be addressed in a		assurance role of Child			d. System for ongoing
timely manner through the		Protection Advisers through			audit of cases with CP
child protection		use of the Alert system, and			plan for more than 18
conference system.		through audit			months now embedded.
,	e.				Alert system usage
Children in need receive a		Child In Need policy, including			reinforced.
high quality service, and		strengthening the role of the			e. 2 multi-agency
SMART plans with clear		Team Around a Child (TAC)			workshops held January
objectives and timescales	f.	Improving management			2012.
are in place		overview of child in need			
		cases to ensure timely			
		progress to meeting agreed			
		objectives.			
	g.	Monitoring attendance at			
	0	training scheduled.			
6. Ofsted	The LSCB to ensure	that thresholds and 'step up, st	tep down' process	es are fully understood and e	ffectively shared across
Recommendation:		n to children who no longer requ	•	•	
Timescale: Within 3		<b>.</b>	•	·	
months (end February					

2012)				
Required Outcome Action	tions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
Managers and staff are able to focus their work on children who meet Brent's levels of need.  Child protection plans are appropriately stepped down when indication that risk of significant harm has diminished	<ol> <li>All families will receive the appropriate level of intervention, through the following actions:         <ul> <li>Assessment of whether cases receiving appropriate level through audit</li> <li>Benchmarking of thresholds across London</li> <li>Ensure thresholds are understood across partnership</li> </ul> </li> <li>Pilot multi-agency consultation system by Child Protection Advisers</li> <li>Strengthen screening of new work through Locality Duty systems</li> <li>Strengthen links with early help services to improve signposting</li> <li>Strengthen overview of child in need cases to ensure timely progress to meeting agreed objectives.</li> </ol>	independent chair /Head of Safeguarding  Principal Lawyer Social Care	Multi-agency progress report on all actions below to be scrutinised by DCS on monthly basis, and through High-Level Child Protection meetings. Report to LSCB June 2012.	a. LSCB thresholds group to sample audit 6 cases on multi-agency basis at 6-monthly intervals – starting January 2012.  c. First 6-monthly LSCB thresholds meeting, led by Head of Safeguarding, January 2012. Thresholds reinforced through locality practitioner forums, CIN workshops, joint operational CP meetings. d. To commence April 12 when fully staffed.  g. New, robust CIN policy launched December 2011 through multi-agency workshops.

7. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Within 3 months (end February 2012)	Brent children's social care services, NHS Brent and arrangements to ensure the prompt sharing of info who are looked after.  NB: Recommendation also covered within Health Action From the actions within the Health Action From the services.	ormation about ch	ildren subject to child protec	tion plans and children
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountability	Evidence of progress January 2012
Health partners in child protection have ready access to list of children who are subjects of child protection plans, Supervision Orders, Interim/Care Orders and placed with parents.	<ol> <li>Establish of joint ICO/LA 'task and finish' group to review information exchange issues and improve process</li> <li>Liaise with Health partners to ensure that children subject of child protection plans are automatically flagged on NHS system when patient files are accessed.</li> </ol>	AD Social Care; Community Services Director, Brent ICO	Task and finish group to report February 2012. Report to Lead Member, DMT and to LSCB to confirm all arrangements have been put in place – April 12.	Immediate check showed that key providers receive updated information about child protection plans. Designated health staff identifying whether spread of information should be expanded.
8. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Within 3 months (end February 2012)	Brent's children's social care services, NHS Brent and Ealing Hospital NHS Trust to ensure that disabled children and young people and their parents/carers are actively engaged in the quality assurance and development of services.  NB: Recommendation also covered within Health Action Plan. The actions below are to be carried out in partnership, and complement the actions within the Health Action Plan.			
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012

Disabled children, young people and their parents and carers are able to comment on service quality and to contribute to service development.	Ensure children, young people and their parents/carers are kept informed of any proposed changes to services which may affect them, and that their views are taken into consideration.	Head of Localities and Disabled Children/Head of Transitions Team, Adult Social Care, Community Services Director, Brent ICO	Immediate and ongoing. Communication will take place as part of the 2 One Council projects: Transitions into Adult Life, and Children with Disabilities 0-13 project – outcome to be reported to Lead Member and Programme Board April 2012.	
9. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Within 6 months (end May 2012) Required Outcome	Brent Children and Families' directorate and Brent strategic plans, underpinning them by appropriate improvement  Actions			

A 'golden thread' will link partnership and corporate strategic priorities with all service improvement plans. All plans will be SMART and will establish challenging targets which can be tracked and evidenced.  Qualitative measures will be integrated into plans to ensure that service development leads to improved outcomes for children, young people and their families.	1. Consultation processes in the development of strategic plans will be strengthened to ensure that strategic priorities reflect practice and service-user priorities.	Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement Director of Legal and Procurement LSCB Independent chair	To feed in to consultation prior to review of Children and Young People's Plan 2012 To feed in to LSCB Annual Review 2011 and Business Plan 2012 Scrutiny of actions within this recommendation will be undertaken through CMT, the Chief Executive's quarterly multi-agency child protection meetings; and by the members' Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Board.	Links made between this plan and update of CYPP, which will be finalised April 2012.
	2. Linkages between Brent Children's Partnership, Brent LSCB, and operational managers will be strengthened, to ensure more effective scrutiny and accountability; qualitative performance information; and information-sharing which enables key priorities for the range of children and young people in Brent to be identified, prioritised within plans, and taken forward.	LSCB Independent chair	April 2012	

3. Children's social care improvement plans will be produced which will cover all key priorities, identifying their source, with clear targets which will be scrutinised by the Social Care Management Team on a quarterly basis.	Assistant Director, Social Care SCMT	January 2012	
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## 2. Safeguarding: Additional Areas for Development

1. Area for Development:	There are insufficient monitoring and evaluation processes in place in relation to work addressing concerns about the conduct of adults working with children. This role is the responsibility of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)				
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012	
Lessons from referrals to LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer dealing with concerns about adults working with children) will be learned.	LADO will regularly review     outcomes of investigations and     highlight lessons to be learned     and acted upon.	Assistant Director Social Care Head of Safeguarding	Quarterly report to be included with management information to the LSCB on outcomes of referrals about adults who may pose a risk to children, from December 11	Report provided December 11	
LADO role will be understood across the partnership	2. The Safeguarding in Employment sub group of the LSCB will promote the role of the LADO across the voluntary, private and statutory providers in Brent.	Chair of sub-group	LSCB	Initial plans made December 11.	
LADO will be adequately resourced to ensure the statutory requirements of the role are fulfilled	Review the LADO role against the role and capacity of CPAs and prepare a business case proposing sufficient resource.	Head of Safeguarding	February 2012		
4. Area for Development	Procedures and data retention in relation need to be more robust and consistently		e in place and usually applied	appropriately, but systems	

Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when	Evidence of progress January 2012
Decisions in relation to Criminal Record Bureau disclosures will be managed well and appropriately recorded, to ensure safe recruitment processes are robust and consistently applied.	Finalise planned work in relation to strengthening procedures and data retention.	Assistant Director Human Resources	January 2012. Report to DMT February 2012.	
5. Area for Development:	There is no formal evaluation of the imp	act of CAF on children, y	young people and their familie	2S.
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when	Evidence of progress January 2012
Families have access to bespoke and coordinated multi-agency support that addresses need early	Review CAF processes to determine outcomes and quality. This will include an evaluation of the impact of CAF.	Assistant Director, Social Care Head of Early Years and Integrated Services	February 2012	Work has been commissioned and field work to start Dec 2011. Planned date of completion end February 2012
	Recruit a full time CAF     coordinator to manage the SPA     process and the CAF team.		December 2011	Role has been advertised- anticipate start date of Jan 2012.
3. Area for Development	The process of cloning records between slead to the individual needs of each sibli			not appropriate and can
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when	Evidence of progress January 2012
Recording will reflect the individual needs of each child within the family as well as needs which apply	Reinforce requirements re     ensuring individual needs of     children within a family are     recorded by practitioners.	Head of Localities & Disabled Children	January 2012 Compliance to be tested through planned audit cycle.	Requirements reinforced.

to the whole family				
4. Area for	Assessments for disabled children broug	ht to the multi-agency r	resources panel are not always	fully comprehensive or
Development	multi-disciplinary			
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
Assessments for disabled children are comprehensive and multi-disciplinary, maximising the potential for ensuring best outcomes.  Early Support Panel	Incorporate improvements to assessments into current One Council 0-13 children with disabilities team project.	Assistant Director, Social Care, Head of Localities & Disabled Children	April 2012/0-13 Project Board	
Coordinator in place and supporting multi-agency key workers support to families with additional needs aged 0-5 years.	Early Support Coordinator     appointed; attends six weekly     CWD panel (led by paediatricians     at Brent and Harrow PCT)	Head of Early Years and Integrated Services	Takes up post December 2011.	Recruitment complete and coordinator took up post Dec 2011.
	Early Support Coordinator to identify additional funding for families with early support needs.	Head of Early Years and Integrated Services	Ongoing, as key part of role.	
5. Area for	The LSCB's 26 wide-ranging priorities for	this year do not link cle	early to the priorities of Brent (	Children's Partnership or
Development	Brent's Child Poverty Strategy			
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
The LSCB Business plan	LSCB planning business planning day	LSCB Independent	Takes place March 2012	
demonstrates linked	references, scrutinises, monitors and	<b>Chair,</b> Head of Policy		
priorities for 2012-13 to	evaluates all key safeguarding elements	and Performance	Accountable to Director of	

Brent Children's Partnership strategies The annual report demonstrates how the LSCB BCP priorities were addressed on 2011-12	of partnership strategies.  Brent Children's Partnership to be consulted on the LSCB plan.		Children's Services who will ensure appropriate linkages are in place.	
6. Area for Development	The LSCB to engage more effectively wit	th the community and to	o recruit lay members.	
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
Lay members will be in place and fully contributing to the work of the LSCB.	Reference group for community groups is in development, with first meeting planned.      Advertisement to be placed for lay members of LSCB	LSCB Development Manager	Meeting planned March 2012 Accountable to LSCB Independent Chair, then to DCS February 2012	
7. Area for	Within children's social care services the			
Development	conference following the undertaking of unacceptable delay.	child protection enquir	ies is not consistently followed	l, leading at times to
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
There is clear understanding of timescales required within child protection processes. Current appropriate level of	Clarification about timescales     within child protection     processes to be sent to team     managers and practitioners.	Assistant Director, Social Care Head of Safeguarding	December 2011	Achieved

performance of 70% within timescale is maintained, ensuring those that exceed the timescale are complex cases, receiving fuller assessment, with risks managed.	Periodic audit to identify     whether cases which go beyond     15-day timescale do so in the     interests of getting a fuller     assessment and risks are     managed, as opposed to drift.		Next audit: April 2012  Outcome of audit to be reported to LSCB.	
	<ol> <li>Multi-agency strategy meetings or discussions will be held for complex cases where detailed multi-agency planning and management of risk is required from the beginning.</li> </ol>	Head of Localities and Disabled Children LSCB Chair	LSCB	

#### 4. Looked After Children Recommendations:

Recommendations: Looked	After Children			
1. Ofsted /CQC Recommendation:	NHS Brent to provide an effective health service to looked after children:			
Timescale: Immediate	To ensure the timely completion or	f all health assessments a	and reviews	
	To develop a robust approach to m	nonitoring actions identifi	ied in health plans	
	To improve information exchange	between health and socia	al care professionals	
	To provide age appropriate and co	mprehensive health infor	mation for looked after child	ren
	• Where appropriate, to ensure that health professionals are invited to or able to contribute effectively to looked after children reviews NB: Recommendation directed at NHS Brent and covered within Health Action Plan. The actions below are either to be carried out in partnership or apply to social care, and complement the actions within the Health Action Plan. As the Health of Looked After Children received a judgement of Inadequate, this recommendation is receiving the highest priority for action and improvement, and compliance and improvement will be reported on a monthly basis to the DCS. Actions under this recommendation and in the CQC Health Action Plan will also be scrutinised through quarterly reports to the LSCB and to the Multi-Agency Child Protection Meetings, as well as to the Health and Well-Being Board. A revised set of Performance Indicators (PIs) to capture key performance areas has been agreed.			
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
Health assessments are timely and comprehensive	A system is being devised to     ensure that all young people to     have a Health Assessment in     accordance with Care Planning     Regulations and within 3 months     prior to their 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday.	Head of CPCIC/Deputy Director, Nursing and Clinical Standards, Brent ICO Assistant Director, Social Care	1 February 2012	

Children's health plans will be implemented in a timely and comprehensive way, ensuring their health needs are met	<ol> <li>Strengths and Difficulties         Questionnaire (SDQs) to be         identified as needing completion         at first LAC Review, and         monitored at 2<sup>nd</sup> LAC Review.</li> </ol>	Head of Commissioning and Resources	1 February 2012
	<ol> <li>IROs to review health recommendations at each LAC review and implement escalation policy where necessary.</li> </ol>	Head of Commissioning and Resources	Immediate and ongoing
Through the revised service specification, to ensure robust quality assurance of the health services being delivered to LAC, both in terms of timeliness and quality	4. Improving outcomes on health assessments through:  a. Quarterly performance monitoring meetings to ensure robust monitoring of health assessments as part of SLA  b. Bi-monthly liaison meeting between social care and health to develop good practice working.	Head of Care Planning/Deputy Director, Nursing & clinical Standards/Head of Commissioning and Resources/Deputy Director, Strategy & Planning, NHS Brent  Regular review of SLA will ensure all actions are implemented.	1 February 2012

LAC Reviews will be fully informed about children's health issues, in order to best meet their needs  Information exchange between health and social care will be consistently good, and enable children's health needs to be met in a timely way	5. Establish joint ICO/LA 'task and finish' group to review information exchange issues and improve process.	Head of Care Planning/Head of Commissioning and Resources/Community Services Director, NHS Brent	1 February 2012
Children and young people will be fully informed about health issues, in an ageappropriate way.	Review current health     information and develop or     source appropriate health     information materials in liaison     with public health department.	Deputy Director, Nursing & Clinical Standards, Head of Health Improvement Brent, Ealing and Harrow ICO (see CQC plan)	December 2011
LAC health colleagues are notified of all statutory reviews to enable their participation and attendance where appropriate	7. Health to be routinely informed about every LAC review, in order that up-to-date health information can be provided.  Personal attendance where required to be identified by social worker.	Head of Care Planning/ Community Services Director Brent NHS/ Head of Commissioning & Resources	1 February 2012
2. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Immediate	The council to ensure timely notifications other significant changes to placement arr		children to partner agencies, and to inform them of

Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
Health, schools and other partner agencies as appropriate are informed promptly when children come into care, or when their placements change.	<ol> <li>Strengthen systems for notifying partner agencies when children come into care or change placements, through identifying problems and rectifying.</li> <li>Follow-up audit to ensure system working well.</li> </ol>	Head of C & F Policy and Performance /Head of Care Planning/Head of Localities/Head of Commissioning and Resources	Audit September 2012. Outcome of audits to be presented to DMT and to LSCB as part of quarterly monitoring.	Requirements reinforced.
3. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Within 3 months (end February 2012)	The council to draw up robust pathway an have left care.	d transition plans in conj	unction with all those young	people leaving care or who
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012
All care leavers will have a relevant, meaningful and up to date Pathway Plan  A Pathway Plan is drawn up in conjunction with all care leavers and a copy is given to them	1. Pathway planning to be made more robust through:  a. Increased management involvement with Pathway Planning arrangements  b. Training workshops to improve expertise of practitioners, ensuring each Pathway Plan is young-person centred	A D Social Care, Head of Care Planning Head of Transitions  Director of Adult Social Care  Director of Major Projects & Regeneration (Housing)	March 2012  Management information to be presented to DMT and to LSCB as part of quarterly monitoring.	Context: Rate of completion of pathway plans has improved significantly over past 2 years, currently 87% (December 2011). Target is 100% by March 2012

	c. Quality assurance of Pathway Planning arrangements, through the IRO role; management information; and audit. d. Support to be offered by relevant directorates to ensure all necessary services are provided in a timely way.			
All care-leavers with disabilities will have a comprehensive transition plan in place prior to leaving care.	<ol> <li>Team manager of Transitions team to ensure transition plans are comprehensively updated prior to the young person leaving care.</li> </ol>	Head of Localities & Disabled Children/Head of Transitions Service from 1.4.2012  Director of Adult Social Care	Immediate and ongoing	
	This requirement will be integrated within current plans for a 14-25 Transitions Team.	Head of Commissioning and Resources	April 2012	
4. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Within 3 months (end February	The council to ensure that all social worker appropriate management oversight of case NB: All actions are the same as in Safeguar service.	work planning.		

2012)				
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to	Evidence of progress January 2012
Staff at all levels receive regular, high quality supervision, which encompasses both performance management and reflective supervision. Supervision enables reflective, child focussed	1. Review of all supervision materials to be conducted by external consultant working together with managers, to ensure supervision is delivered in line with best practice elsewhere and that this can be evidenced.	Assistant Director, Social Care Head of Localities and Disabled Children /Head of Care Planning	Policy to be completed by end February 2012	External consultant engaged. Focus group with managers 19.1.12.
practice, in line with the Munroe Review of Child Protection All social workers will have a fully completed personal supervision file to capture casework as well as personal and professional development.  Supervision notes to	2. Intensive coaching workshops for managers across children's social care, funded through the Local Government Improvement and Development agency, to be provided to deliver improved expertise in supervision, including reflective supervision, and in doing so enable managers to lift the quality of practice across the service.	Head of Localities and Disabled Children/Head of Care Planning	February – March 2012	
demonstrate timely plans and impact	3 Evidence of both compliance with and impact of improved approach to supervision to be evidenced through regular audit.	Head of Localities and Disabled Children/Head of Care Planning Head of Policy and Performance	March 12. Audit outcome will be included in post-inspection action plan quarterly report to Departmental Management Team and Local Safeguarding Children Board	Audit to ensure cases had been supervised undertaken December 2011

	4. Conduct staff questionnaire re experience of new supervision system Audit of random selection of supervision files by Assistant Director, Social Care	Head of Localities and Disabled Children/Head of Care Planning Assistant Director, Social Care, Head of Policy and Performance	September 2012	
5. Ofsted	The council to ensure that care plans and a		ter children are focused, spec	ific and include the
Recommendation: Timescale: Within 3	consideration of all relevant background in	nformation.		
months (end February				
2012)				
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when	Evidence of progress January 2012
Care plans for children and	<ol> <li>Care Planning systems to be</li> </ol>	Assistant Director,	All actions to be	Draft training
young people are focused,	strengthened through the	Social Care, Head of	implemented by March	programme proposed by
specific and include the	following actions:	Care Planning, Head of	2012	Legal
consideration of all relevant background	a. Review of current care planning policies and	Legal Services	Progress to be reported to DMT March 2012.	
information	processes to ensure that	Principal Lawyer,	DIVIT IVIAICII 2012.	
Information	the care planning process	Social Care	Reviewed by CMT	
	is robust, timely and of a			
Supervision to reflect active	high standard. This to			
care planning	include workflow			
	processes on FWI.			
Care plans implemented to	b. Strengthen joint planning			
ensure timely outcomes	arrangements with Legal			

Required Outcome Ac	ctions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress
	ne council to ensure that action is taken to nat are subject to fixed-term and multiple		ince for looked after children	
Joint working arrangements between Care Planning and Legal Services ensure a comprehensive approach which avoids delay. Parallel and contingency planning in place from the start to avoid delays, and evidenced  Improved practitioner expertise in care planning	Services, to ensure timely and effective planning in care proceedings-delivery of additional training from legal department.  c. Managers to ensure that parallel and contingency planning is considered at each stage.  d. Permanency Planning Meeting processes to be strengthened to ensure plans progress in a timely way.  e. Audit of care plans to be undertaken by end February 2012  Training and workshop sessions with the objective of improving the care planning process to be set up for staff in Care Planning, Localities, Disabled Children's Team, and Placements.	HOS –Care Planning, Locality, C&R Principal Lawyer, Social Care	February – March 2012	Draft training programme proposed by Legal

School attendance for looked after children is improved  The number of fixed-term and multiple school exclusions for looked after children is reduced	Virtual Head to draft revised procedure in respect of school attendance for consultation with Brent head teachers and designated staff, and ensure implementation.      To monitor on termly basis	DCS  Head of Commissioning & Resources/ Head of Care Planning	February 2012  Monitoring to be reported	
All aspects of education for looked after children, including attendance and exclusions, will be improved, in line with the objectives within Brent's LAC Strategy 2011-2014			to DMT so that DCS can ensure that this is implemented and improves educational outcomes for looked after children. As a central improvement area within the LAC Strategy, improvements in attendance and exclusions will be taken forward and monitored by the LAC Strategy group.	
7. Ofsted Recommendation: Timescale: Within 6 months (end May 2012)	The council to ensure progress is made in provision of permanent homes for children			to care, and the timely
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012
Children will not be subjected to unnecessary placement moves following admission to care	Placement stability will be improved through:     a. Strengthening systems for matching, including support plan     b. Ensuring Brent foster-	A D Social Care, Head of Care Planning/ Head of Commissioning and Resources Principal Lawyer,	Will be included within quarterly data set to be scrutinised by LSCB and DMT and CMT. Improvements will also be made and monitored	

Children will experience much improved placement stability	carers are available to the Emergency Duty Team  c. Consider referral to LAC CAMHS for each child/placement — decision in respect of referral to be recorded of the child's file  d. Annual professionals meetings are held to ensure team around the child actively reviewing child, needs and placement  e. Expand pool of foster-carers to meet more complex needs  f. Review Adoption Panel processes to strip out delay  g. Clarify respite arrangements  h. Analyse disruptions of placements to inform improved arrangements	on	through the Social Care Transformation Project and Board. Report on progress to go to Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Board September 2012.	
8. Ofsted	improved arrangements The council to improve monitoring arra		al children to measure educational	progress relative to their
Recommendation: Timescale: Within 6 months (end May 2012)	starting points.			
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012

Children's individual educational progress will be identified and tracked so that they can better achieve their full educational potential. To have greater impact in respect of new LAC adolescents and KS4  To continue to develop work on respect of 16+ and	Systems to be established to track and monitor LAC from their starting points	Head of Care Planning/Head of Commissioning and Resources Head of Transitions	Monitoring to be reported to DMT so that DCS can ensure that this is implemented and improves educational outcomes for looked after children. It will also be monitored by the LAC Strategy group and CMT. Report to go to Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Board September 12	Systems now in place.
those in EET	<ol> <li>NEET/EET strategy to include the identification of young people with potential to benefit from higher education so that they can be supported in accessing relevant courses.</li> </ol>		February 2012	
	Identify actions to support new     LAC adolescents and KS4 to     achieve their educational potential		February 2012	
	To continue to develop work on respect of 16+ and those in EET		Ongoing. To be reviewed for impact August 2012 (post exam results)	

### 5. Looked After Children: Additional Areas for Development

1. Area for Development	The LAC Strategy Review Group has yet to meet so it is not possible to evaluate the impact of the LAC Strategy present arrangements for accountability, monitoring and challenge of the looked after children strategy are not sufficiently robust as there is no line of report or accountable to the Brent Children's Partnership or other strategic forum.			
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012
Progress on the LAC Strategy is regularly reviewed to ensure objectives are being met in accordance with the action plan, and outcomes for children in care and careleavers are improving.	1. LAC Strategy Review Group to implement and monitor strategy on multi-agency basis; with 6-monthly scrutiny meeting to be chaired by Assistant Director, Social Care  2. Set up systems for scrutiny of the progress on the LAC Strategy with Brent Children's Partnership	Assistant Director, Social Care, Head of Care Planning	Meeting of LAC Strategy Review group February 2012, then on quarterly basis	
2. Area for Development	Commissioned advocacy services are accessible for those who wish it but no detailed evaluation of the service's impact has been undertaken as yet.			
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012
Performance monitoring & management in respect of all SLAs will be tighter, with a particular focus on outcomes for children and young people.	To ensure that appropriate performance monitoring arrangements are in place for all relevant commissioned services and that they focus on outcomes.	Head of Commissioning and Resources Head of Policy and Performance	February 2012 Report to DMT covering all commissioned services.	

	The provision of a complaints- related advocacy service will be				
	considered within the Aidhour SLA (service provider for LAC Reviews).				
3. Area for Development	The targeted use of the Crisis Intervention and Support Teamis successful at maintaining children on the edge of care at homeHowever, there is no longitudinal review to evaluate effectiveness.				
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012	
The CIST will successfully divert young people from the care system, and enable them to continue to remain with, or return to their families, whenever it is safe to do so.	<ol> <li>Following an external review in Summer 2011, the CIST has been operating with a tighter focus, and clearer performance monitoring.</li> <li>The impact of the CIST, including the lasting impact of diverting young people from care, will be evaluated one year from the implementation of the changes.</li> </ol>	Head of Localities and Disabled Children Head of Policy and Performance	September 2012 Evaluation report to go to DMT and to Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Board.	Performance monitoring demonstrates positive diversion from care rate	
4. Area for Development	While an appropriate escalation policy is all reviewing officers are familiar with it.	• • •	IROs), this has not been used in	n the last 12 months and not	
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012	
The escalation policy is fully and meaningfully implemented, its effectiveness monitored and themes identified in order to contribute to continuing service improvement.	Ensure all IROs are clear about the use of the escalation policy, and to use this instead of emailing or otherwise communicating concerns.	Head of Commissioning and Resources	February 2012		

	2. The effectiveness of the escalation policy will be analysed prior to the IRO Annual Report, and issues identified will be communicated through the report.		October 2012 IRO report will be presented to the Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Board	
5. Area for	Locality teams have benefitted from Adv	•		
Development	planning teams and so practitioners do r	not have the same or	pportunities to develop expertis	se in such a focused manner.
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012
Care Planning teams are assisted to develop expertise.	In view of current resource constraints, consideration will need to be given about how this can be achieved.	Assistant Director, Social Care/Head of CPCIC	April 2012 Any proposals to be considered by DMT in first instance.	
6. Area for Development:	The management board overseeing children missing, including those missing from care, needs to undertake further work in order to effective analyse any patterns or trends that are emerging, and the board has yet to submit a report to the LSCB for scrutiny and challenge			
Required Outcome	Actions	Lead	By when/Accountable to:	Evidence of progress January 2012
Children Missing from Care are managed effectively and the Board is able to analyse patterns and trends	<ol> <li>The Missing Children Risks and Needs group collate and analyse data from Frameworki about Children missing from Care on a quarterly basis.</li> <li>Police data and data from other</li> </ol>	Chair of Missing Children Risks and Needs group (DI - Met Police)	Report to LSCB February 2012 then on quarterly basis.	
	agencies concerning missing children to be analysed			

#### **Key to Acronyms:**

**LA** – Local Authority

LSCB - Local Safeguarding Children Board

**BCP** – Brent Children's Partnership

ICO – Integrated Care Organisation (health providers for Brent, Ealing and Harrow)

**DMT** – Departmental management team

CMT – Corporate Management Team

**SCMT** – Social Care Management Team

**CPCIC** – Care Planning and Children in Care Service

**CQC** – Care Quality Commission (health inspectors who worked with Ofsted on this inspection)

**DCS** – Director of Children's Services

AD - Assistant Director

**HOS** - Head of Service

**CPA** – Child Protection Adviser

LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer (responsible for dealing with concerns about the conduct of adults towards children)

IRO – Independent Reviewing Officer (responsible for chairing regular reviews for looked after children)

LAC – Looked after children (children in the care of the council)

**CWD** – Children with disabilities

CAF – Common Assessment Framework (used to assess children's needs)

**QMF** – Quality Management Framework

**SLA** – Service Level Agreement

SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound