

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b> 15 November 2021
	<b>Report from the Assistant Chief Executive</b>
<b>Transitional Safeguarding Scrutiny Task Group</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Transitional Safeguarding Scrutiny Task Group Scoping Paper
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Craig Player Scrutiny Officer Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:craig.player@brent.gov.uk">craig.player@brent.gov.uk</a>  Angela d'Urso Strategic Partnerships, Policy and Scrutiny Manager Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:angela.d'urso@brent.gov.uk">angela.d'urso@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To enable the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to set up a members' scrutiny task group to review transitional safeguarding arrangements in Brent.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To discuss and agree the contents of the report and scoping paper attached as Appendix 1.

- 2.2 To agree to set up a scrutiny task group with the terms of reference and membership in Appendix 1.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can commission evidence-based reviews of a policy area or function of the local authority, which are led by non-executive members. As part of the work programme discussion, members of the committee discussed a variety of areas of which they would like to examine in greater detail. One of these was the area of transitional safeguarding. The transitional safeguarding approach is described in more detail in Appendix 1. The evolution of practice nationally and the development of transitional safeguarding arrangements in Brent make the creation of the scrutiny task group timely, and will enable members to review these arrangements at an early stage.
- 3.2 Safeguarding is a corporate priority for Brent Council. The Borough Plan 2021-2022 commits to 'safeguarding children and young people and helping vulnerable adults to be independent'.
- 3.3 A key part of the work of the task group will be to produce a written report with recommendations to Cabinet which are focused on areas which are the responsibility of the Executive. This recommendation-making function is one of the most important that overview and scrutiny has in a local authority. It's considered good practice that recommendations are SMART (specific, measurable, agreed, realistic and timed) and limited in number. In addition, information about likely recommendations will be shared and discussed with the Lead Member for the area prior to being made.
- 3.4 Evidence-gathering is a key part of the role of the task group. Members will be expected to develop their own lines of questioning to test the evidence they are presented with, and to weigh-up the evidence they are given. It is considered best practice for members to consider different types of qualitative and quantitative data so they have a complete picture and view of a subject.
- 3.5 Membership of the task and finish group has to be drawn from non-executive members. However, the Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care and the Lead Member for Adult Social Care will take part in the evidence-gathering sessions alongside other key stakeholders. The evidence-gathering sessions will be set out in more detail in a project plan once the task group has been established.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for the purposes of this report.

### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications for the purposes of this report.

## **6.0 Equality Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications for the purposes of this report.

## **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1 Non-executive members are regularly involved in the overview and scrutiny process.

### **Report sign-off**

**LORNA HUGHES**

Head of Strategy and Partnerships

*on behalf of*

**SHAZIA HUSSAIN**

Assistant Chief Executive