



**Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee**
18 March 2019

**Report from the Strategic Director
of Policy Performance and
Partnerships**

Contextual Safeguarding: Overview and Scrutiny Task Group

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	1
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer:	James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Strategy and Partnerships, Chief Executive's Department, james.diamond@brent.gov.uk 020 8937 1068

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update committee members with the report from the members' overview and scrutiny task group which was set up to review contextual safeguarding.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members of the committee to discuss and agree the contents of the task group report, particularly the recommendations for Brent Council's Cabinet.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Background

- 3.2 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee can commission evidence-based reviews of a policy area of 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 which they would like to examine in greater detail. One of these was contextual safeguarding.

- 3.3 Contextual safeguarding is a commitment in the Borough Plan 2019-2023. Safeguarding is felt to be a highly relevant area for a scrutiny review in terms of corporate priorities as well as meeting concerns of the borough's residents. For the above reason, committee proposed that its 2018/19 work programme would include a task group to review contextual safeguarding and how this new approach could be introduced more widely with support from across the council. The committee formally set up the members' task group on 8 October 2018. Committee agreed Councillor Hylton would chair the task group, and the other members would be Councillor Patterson and Councillor Donnelly-Jackson.
- 3.4 Members of the task group were asked by the committee to develop up to five recommendations for Brent Council's Cabinet. On 30 January, the task group presented an interim report to the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee which included early feedback about their findings and areas in which they might make recommendations in the final report. The areas were set out in the committee report. They have now been developed into five specific recommendations which are set out in full on page 5 of the report.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 If a recommendation was to be accepted and implemented then the financial implications would need to be accounted for in a subsequent report to Cabinet. However, none of the task group's recommendations to the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee have significant financial or Budget implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There were no discussions of individual cases as part of the task group's work. Information did not include family court proceedings papers which require authorisation from the court before disclosure under the Family Procedure Rules 12.73(1) (b).

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 There are no immediate equalities implications arising from this report for the local authority. However, if the proposed recommendations are accepted and implemented then they would help to reduce wider social inequalities in the borough, particularly for groups overrepresented in safeguarding concerns.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 Ward members who are committee members have been involved in this report.

REPORT SIGN-OFF

Peter Gadsdon

Director Performance Policy and Partnerships