

Local Government Association Safeguarding Children Peer Review 4 – 8 February 2013

Improving safeguarding of children in Trafford Council

Professor Eileen Munro's review of child protection has endorsed peer review as an approach that promotes learning from a sector-led improvement perspective. We are constantly striving to improve outcomes for children and young people in Trafford Council but an external and independent view can help to accelerate or consolidate progress. To this end the council and its partners have invited a visit from a Local Government Association (Peer Support Team) peer review team. Peer Support Team is the peer delivery arm of the Local Government Association. The Safeguarding Children peer review programme is part of a sector-led approach in which local government takes responsibility for its own improvement.

Safeguarding Children Peer Review

The peer team has been invited by Council's Children's Services to conduct a tailored review of local safeguarding children services. The review is not an inspection-rather it is a supportive but challenging 'critical friend' approach to assist councils and their partners in celebrating their strengths and identifying their own areas for improvement. The key purpose of the review is to stimulate local discussion about how the council and its partners can become more effective in delivering improved safe outcomes for children and young people. All members of the team are knowledgeable about, and experienced in, children's services and/or local government. However, in order for the team to be able to effectively evaluate our strength and areas for development they will need our full co-operation.

The Peer Review Team

The team consists of senior staff and a councillor from other authorities:-

- Team Leader
- Member peer
- Officer peer
- Health peer
- Analyst peer
- Other sector specialists where agreed
- Review Manager

The Approach

This peer review is based on the Safeguarding Children peer review framework revised from September 2012. The themes the peer review team structure their questioning around are:

- Effective practice, service delivery and voice of the child
- Outcomes, impact and performance
- Working together
- Capacity and managing resources

- Vision, strategy and leadership.

The work

Some work will be undertaken prior to the team's visit. The peer review team will study documents, policies and performance information. This will include questionnaires completed by frontline staff in the council and from partner agencies. A case mapping exercise will be undertaken challenging the success and challenges of inter-agency collaborative work in safeguarding cases.

The team will then come to Trafford Council for a week. The process begins with a meeting of senior managers from partner agencies, the review team will talk to a cross-section of senior officers, elected members, partners and front line staff. This on-site work is a key aspect of the peer review process and those interviewed are encouraged to be as open and honest as possible. All information provided will be treated by the review team as non attributable.

The team will feed back their observations and recommendations/findings from all the elements of the peer review at the end of the site visit and facilitate a workshop around its findings. This will be followed a few weeks later by written feedback that the council will have the opportunity to consider.

When

The review team will come to Trafford Council on 4-8 February 2013 with a lead in of 12 weeks to enable preparation and to develop the timetable for the on-site visit.

Relationship with Ofsted Inspection

The Children's Improvement Board Safeguarding Lead notifies Ofsted of the planned review in order that Ofsted inspection does not coincide with the peer review.

Role of Partner Agencies

The review is a real opportunity for candid feedback on how we work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is important that staff are able to speak freely about their experience of their own agency areas of strength and those in need of development as well as to comment on the effectiveness of interagency working. Operational and senior staff will be invited to take part and it is vital that they are enabled to do so.

How to contact us

If you would like more information or the opportunity to speak to the team, please contact:

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