

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26 NOVEMBER 2013

BRIEFING REPORT PROGRESS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF Jo Britton, Service Delivery Manager, Safeguarding Advisory
Service

This briefing report provides an update of progress relating to recommendations made by the CYP Scrutiny Committee in June 2013.

Recommendation 2 Quality Assurance of Systems and Processes - “RAG system for rating Care Plans by IROs to be reviewed”

There are a number of mechanisms in place to quality assure both the IRO Service and the quality of care planning activity.

There is a dedicated quality assurance computer programme in place where IROs record and store all the RAG documentation (the quality assurance documents that are completed by the IRO following each child's Child in Care Review). The system has been reviewed in conjunction with IT and refinements made, which now enable the user to quickly view the child's journey in terms of the quality assurance document. There is also now a facility for the IRO to update the RAG document.

The RAG quality assurance document reflects the rating of the child's Care Plan, the narrative that demonstrates the activity that is undertaken i.e. how a red Ragged Care Plan moves to a green is now recorded on the IRO case note on the child's file. The RAG document is forwarded to both the child's Social Worker and Team Manager.

Recommendation 3 “That the current review of the IRO Service should consider the management arrangements and the option of moving the service into the Scrutiny Team, consistent with scrutiny's role in providing objective review and challenge”

The service review considered the management arrangements and recognised the need for the IROs requirement of independence. It was identified that a move from Safeguarding would assist the IRO service in further developing the IRO role of challenge and case monitoring.

The IROs have a dual aspect to their role of chairing both Child Protection Conferences and Child in Care Reviews. This was significant when considering where the Service should be positioned. Working Together 2013 states that the “Child Protection Conference Chairperson is accountable to the Director of Children and Families Service”. Furthermore it was identified that it should be an area that is accustomed to delivering a quality assurance and improvement work.

The Safeguarding Advisory Service, with the responsibility for IRO’s, moved to Education and Corporate Parenting in July 2013. This has enabled the Service Delivery Manager, Safeguarding Advisory Service, to work alongside Service Delivery Managers involved in the wider delivery of School Improvement. The Assistant Director: Education and Corporate Parenting meets regularly with the IRO Team and Service Delivery Manager which has provided opportunities to consider and further develop aspects of service provision.

Proposal

A further briefing report to be provided at the 27/01/14 meeting, which will include an update of the Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report.

Jo Britton

8 November 2013