Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Review Scoping Template

Title of Review	Review of Child Protection & Corporate Parenting – Service Provision and Delivery in the new Financial Climate
Outline purpose of Review - **Reason**	1. Finance & Performance and Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel members have expressed concerns about child protection and corporate parenting in the light of: • Rising children and young people projections; • The migration of vulnerable families in the borough; • Changing economic and financial circumstances of families; • Continuing local government resource constraints and restructure of Children's Services 2. There is a need for wider understanding about key terms, 'governance' arrangements, 'roles', 'responsibilities' and 'reporting' arrangements associated with the work.
Expected Timescale (possible no of meetings?) Report to Exec/Borough Council	2 meetings on Thursday 29th March and Thursday 19th April 2012.
Terms of Reference	To consider, discuss and examine: Key Terms: Governance Arrangements; Roles and Responsibilities; Access to Information and Reporting Arrangements; Resourcing Issues; (29th March) Statutory Guidance and Structural Issues (19th April).
Key areas of enquiry Research required	See appendix overleaf
How review could be publicised	Agenda circulation
Possible witnesses (for written or oral evidence) e.g. council officers, individual residents, community groups, partner organisations, other interested stakeholders, other external organisations, executive members.	Thursday 29th March Lead Member Children, Youth & Families – Lily Bath Director CSLL – Judith Pettersen Assistant Director CSLL – Specialist Services Chris Hogan Donald McPhail – Independent Chair of Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board (if possible) Thursday 19th April Chief Executive – Mary Harpley
Equality & Diversity	The review could have an impact on service provision for children and young people, including children and young people from BME community.
Expected Outcomes (all linked to Hounslow's vision and strategic objectives)	'Future Borough', Hounslow Together'
Value for Money assessment	Not the principle focus of this review
Possible Sources of Information	CSLL senior management have undertaken to produce a 'briefing' for 29th March meeting, drawing upon some of the material that was presented to the Panel 3 years ago (In February 2009), prior to the last government elections. There is also Statutory Guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services
Lead Scrutiny Officer	Alan Weaver
Relevant Support Officer(s)	Joti Patel

Appendix

Title	Description	T'scales	Interviewees/ Commentary
Key Terms	Meaning and Description of Child Protection, Corporate Parenting, Safeguarding. Patterns and types of abuse: neglect, physical, emotional and sexual.	Thu 29/03/12	*Overview – Lead Member and/or CSLL Senior Management.* *Members have concerns about member awareness of various corporate responsibilities.*
Governance Arrangements, Roles, Responsibilities Access to Information and Reporting Arrangements,	Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Panels, Children's' Trust, Lead Member and Director responsibilities, member responsibilities, scrutiny member responsibilities. Operational statistics. Section 33 visits, Reports (Children in Care Annual Report, Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, Monthly Looked After Children Performance Reports)	Thu 29/03/12	*Overview – Lead Member and CSLL Senior Management.* *Members have concerns about member awareness of various corporate responsibilities.*
Resourcing Issues	Exploration of resourcing issues: Finance – protection of funding, pressures on early intervention. Systems – investment in operational data and management information, filing systems, guidance and procedures. Staff investment in training and recruitment of front line social workers; difficulties in recruiting social work managers.	Thu 29/03/12 Overrun to Thu 19/04/12 if insufficient time.	*Discussion with Lead Member and/or CSLL Senior Management about resourcing issues associated with Finance, Systems and Staff.* *Members have concerns about potential growth in workload with limited local government resources.*
Statutory Guidance and Structural Changes	Recent statutory guidance Proposed structural changes at Hounslow relating to adult social care and children's services Comparison with changes taking place in similar local authorities to Hounslow.	Thu 19/04/12	*Discussion with Chief Executive Members' have expressed concern about the monitoring of corporate parenting and child protection within the larger department created by the merger of Children's Services and Community Services.* *Invite H&AC Scrutiny Panel members?*