



Open Report on behalf of Executive Director for Performance and Governance	
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Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	Proposal for a Scrutiny Review on Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding

Summary:

This report sets out a proposal for a scrutiny review on Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding to be carried out by a Task and Finish Group. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider this potential topic for a scrutiny review, and decide whether it wishes to submit the proposal to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for approval.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

1. agree whether the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding proposal is a suitable topic for a scrutiny review, taking into account the guidelines;
2. if agreed, to discuss and approve the Proposal for Scrutiny Review for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for approval;
3. identify any members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee who may be interested in participating in a potential scrutiny review if the topic is agreed.

1. Background

At its meeting on 25 July 2013, the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group considered a report on the recent serious case review relating to Family T/S. The Sub Group suggested that further work should be undertaken to investigate the robustness of safeguarding practices. The draft minutes from that meeting are a separate item on today's agenda.

Furthermore, Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services, has also suggested to the Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee that, in light of the serious case review, the Committee may wish to consider conducting a review into frontline social workers and safeguarding practices. Given these two suggestions, the Chairman has agreed that a proposal for a scrutiny review into this topic should be considered by the Committee.

Attached at Appendix A is a draft Proposal for Scrutiny Review for the Committee to discuss and approve looking at Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding. The draft Proposal details the proposed remit and lines of enquiry for the review, the benefits of the review and what will be excluded, and the proposed timescale for completion.

Outlined below are the guidelines which the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will use when deciding whether a proposed topic for a scrutiny review should proceed:

It is important that in-depth reviews are:

- *deliverable within a set timetable*
- *sufficiently focused on a particular aspect of a service*
- *not duplicating other significant review activity*
- *not related to a specific individual grievance or complaint*

Reviews should also, wherever possible:-

- *contribute to the overall objectives of the organisation*
- *reflect community concerns*
- *lead to potential achievable outcomes or improvements for the people of Lincolnshire*

If the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agrees that Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding will be the topic for the next scrutiny review, the Proposal for Scrutiny Review will need to be discussed and, subject to any amendments, approved by the Committee. The purpose of this section is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with information to make a decision on whether a scrutiny review could proceed on this topic.

If the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agrees to the proposed scrutiny review at its meeting on 24 October 2013, then a Task and Finish Group will be established and nominations will be sought from the leader of each political group.

2. Conclusion

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding proposal and decide whether it wishes to recommend this topic for its next scrutiny review.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Draft Proposal for Scrutiny Review on Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tracy Johnson, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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