

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

19TH JANUARY 2016

SUBJECT:	<i>SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN SCRUTINY REVIEW</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>MEMBERS OF THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN SCRUTINY TASK & FINISH GROUP</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides background information regarding the report of the Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Review.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Due to the high profile of safeguarding issues at a national level, Members of the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee were seeking reassurance that appropriate policies and practices were in place in Wirral. Therefore, Members of the Committee agreed to undertake an in-depth Scrutiny Review to investigate the suitability of safeguarding procedures for children in Wirral. As a result, a Scrutiny Panel involving five Members has held a range of meetings in order to obtain appropriate evidence.

2.2 It had been agreed that the scrutiny review would give members the opportunity to assure themselves that the Council and partners have adequate safeguarding mechanisms in place and that those processes work in practice. Scrutiny would also help the Members to understand the experiences of families and what may need to change to improve outcomes in safeguarding.

3.0 EVIDENCE GATHERING

3.1 The Members of the Scrutiny Panel have met a range of witnesses throughout the course of the review, including Council officers, representatives of partner organisations as well as a small number of families who had experience of the social care system.

3.2 The Report, 'Safeguarding Children in Wirral' is attached for consideration by the Committee.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Members are requested to support the contents and recommendations of the Scrutiny Report, 'Safeguarding Children in Wirral';
- (2) The report be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting;
- (3) An update report regarding the impact of the recommendations will be presented to the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee in approximately six months time (that is, by July 2016).

Report of the Members of the Safeguarding Children Task & Finish Group:

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