

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Area for Scrutiny	Childhood neglect
Link to Council Plan	Young People Health and Wellbeing Caring for the Elderly and Vulnerable
Context	Over 50% of children on a Child Protection plan and a similar number of looked after children are supported due to neglect occurring within their birth family. The long term effects of neglect are well known in relation to poor outcomes for children and it is critical that professionals have the right tools to assess and intervene appropriately and that the Directorate has a range of family support services to address this issue.
Rationale	This is an area of work which is targeted on very vulnerable children and is a central core of our safeguarding to address the needs of vulnerable children and to keep them safe. It requires a partnership approach and it is also an area of work which needs to be addressed from a broader perspective concerning issues relating to child poverty and economic well being.
What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?	To understand and review the data relating to the incidents of neglect and child poverty within the Borough and to identify cross cutting themes and recommendations as to how this can be tackled in the future.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Area for Scrutiny	Early Help Offer
Link to Council Plan	Young people Health and Wellbeing People being served better
Context	The development of early support services will ensure that children and families have the right support at the right time. The overall ambition is to reduce reliance on more intervention services and enable children to achieve permanency and stability within their care arrangements. It will also in the longer term have the effect of cash avoidance and reduce budget pressures on high cost services.
Rationale	In 2013/14 the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee undertook a specific piece of work around the redesign of children's centres. The restructuring will be implemented from September 2014 and will be the core of our early support services working with partners to develop and deliver an early help offer 0-18. Scrutiny of this area of work will build on the involvement of Scrutiny Committee in the children's centres developments and provide a critical view of how well the children's centres are delivering within this context.
What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?	To assess the impact of the children's centre restructure and review and support the delivery of early support within the broader corporate and partnership arena.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Area for Scrutiny	SEN Reforms
Link to Council Plan	Young People Health and Wellbeing
Context	<p>The Children and Families Act 2014 sets out new legal duties to implement changes to arrangements for supporting young people with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes the delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local offer - which needs to be published detailing provision of services for children and young people who are disabled or who have SEN with a 0-25 focus - Education and Health Care Plans - local authorities will be required to consider requests for assistance with special educational needs and co-ordinate services around a child or young person - Joint Commissioning - local commissioners will be required to work together in the interests of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
Rationale	<p>The new requirements under the Children and Families Act require a review and implementation of a new 0-25 special needs system which will require significant systems change, partnership working and a determination to consult with and engage families and providers of local services.</p>
What are we asking from the Scrutiny Committee?	<p>To understand the requirements laid on the local authority in this area of work. To understand the local authority's implementation plan and to comment and make recommendations regarding the future delivery of services for 0-25 SEND. Scrutinising priorities determined by the local authority and the resource allocation to support SEND.</p>