

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy
and Performance Board
DATE: 6th September 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People
SUBJECT: Training for Members in relation to Climbie
Visits to front line Child Care Teams and Levels
of Need for Children’s Social Intervention.
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To advise Policy and Performance Board of dates for Training.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION that:**

- i) Training dates are noted and attendance is confirmed to Kirsty Moreman, Kirsty.Moreman@halton.gov.uk
- ii) Training is made available to all Members.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 At The Policy and Performance board held on 24th may 2010 a report was presented on Climbie Visits undertaken by Members to the front line Children’s Social Care Teams. It was Resolved that

- 1) the contents of the report be noted;
- 2) training be offered to Board Members and a rota for Climbie Visits agreed;
- 3) the Members’ reports and Managers’ responses following Climbie Visits be reported to the Board and scrutinised twice a year; and
- 4) the focus of Climbie Visits to give increased scrutiny to the core business of Contact, Referral and Assessment processes and performance data, should routinely be discussed and understood.

3.2 It also became apparent during discussions that members would welcome the opportunity of training in relation to Halton’s Levels of Needs especially around Children’s Social Care Intervention.

3.3 As a result of this two events have been organised. The sessions will last approximately 1½ hours the first 45minutes will provide a general over view of Levels of Need and the role of Children’s Social Care and the second 45minutes a focus on Members role in

conducting Climbie Visits. The sessions will be presented by the Divisional Manager for Children in Need and Child Protection and Principal Managers of the child Care Teams.

3.4 **Training Sessions:**

11th October 2010 12pm to 1:30pm Conference Room 2 Municipal Building.

13th October 2010 6pm to 7:30pm Civic Suite Runcorn Town Hall

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Lord Laming's Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbe recommended that; *Chief Executives of local authorities with social services responsibilities must make arrangements for senior managers and councillors to regularly visit intake teams in their children's services department, and to report their findings to the Chief Executive and social services committee.* This recommendation remains 'best practice' and still considered as part of any Ofsted Inspection.

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The training provided should enhance Members understanding of Halton's Levels of Need and the role of Children's Social Care. For those Members who carry out or are interested in carrying out Climbie Visits the training should enhance their understanding of the purpose of visits and enable them to scrutinise frontline services.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Enhanced understanding of Levels of Need and the role of Climbie Visits will afford Members an opportunity to assure themselves that front line teams are providing a standard of service that safeguards children

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

If children and young people are not safeguarded from harm they will have poorer outcomes and less likely to achieve economic well being.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

If children and young people are not safeguarded from harm they will have poorer outcomes and less likely to thrive and be healthy

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The performance of the Council's children services contact, referral and assessments teams is critical to keeping the most vulnerable children and young people in the borough safe.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None directly

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 If Members do not have a good understanding of Levels of Need and Climbe Visits are not conducted appropriately, the Council will be in breach of recommendation 41 of Lord Laming's Inquiry.

12.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The Victoria Climbe Inquiry	Grosvenor House	Vicky Buchanan
Procedure for Undertaking Climbe Visits	Grosvenor House	Vicky Buchanan
Children in Need Procedures	Intranet	Vicky Buchanan