

**LRSA End of Project Case Study – Bexley
August and December 2010 (10 days)**



Service reviews – referral and assessment / fostering and adoption

Details of project request

To undertake short reviews of the effectiveness of specific service areas to inform service development.

Details of work undertaken by LRSA

The LRSA was commissioned to undertake two short reviews of specific service areas;

- The effectiveness of referral and assessment arrangements across the borough
- Whether or not the fostering and adoption service is meeting national minimum standards on safeguarding.

The review involved looking at cases, reviewing key documents provided by the authority, observation of on site practice and interviews and focus groups with key staff.

Findings were communicated to staff in a written report and events were held with relevant frontline staff and managers to consider how to take them forward locally.

Specific safeguarding outcomes achieved

Measures were put in place in response to the findings, such as improved arrangements for CRB checking and unannounced visits to carers.

The review enabled the borough to get a positive outcome in the unannounced inspection which followed shortly after. Staff were better able to demonstrate the positive practice which had been put in place in the referral and assessment service.

Next steps

None identified.

Client review

Very useful:

“The work you did with us in August was very beneficial and the duty team workers commented (to me not the Ofsted inspector!) how helpful that experience had been even though they perceived it to be more challenging professionally than the unannounced inspection!”

Sheila Murphy, Deputy Director Children’s Services.