

## LRSA End of Project Case Study – Croydon January – March 2011 (12 days)

### **Auditing care plans of children in care / reviewing partnership work**

#### Details of project request

Two LRSA's commissioned to undertake audit and review of CIC care plans and also to review strength of partnership working across LSCB following a period of restructuring within CSC, finding of which would support preparation towards full Safeguarding and LAC Inspection.

#### Details of work undertaken by LRSA

CIC Case file audit and short report. LRSA reviewed 10 cases, identified strengths and weaknesses and provided recommendations.

Review of LSCB partnership – this included the LRSA interviewing several partner agencies to gauge and report on their views using the Ofsted Inspection Framework. The LRSA produced a final report with recommendations for future action together with presentation slides for LA use.

The LRSA also prepared and delivered two half-day LSCB Development Days based on the findings of the report and introducing the QAF and OBA approaches.

#### Specific safeguarding outcomes achieved

The CIC audit has directly fed into improvements being undertaken by the senior management team. The review of the LSCB partnership enabled the borough to examine more closely its relationship with its partners, identified good practice and areas for development. The findings from the report informed the LSCB Development Half Days. The LRSA worked with the LSCB partnership to identify high level improvement outcomes using the QAF and OBA principles. The LSCB has already taken this work forward. The DCS is also looking into utilising the QAF approach within Children's Services. Consideration is also being given to embedding an LRSA within the borough on a longer term basis to support some of the recently appointed the senior management team, as well as introduce the QAF and potentially the Strengthening Families / SoS model.

#### Next steps

The use of the QAF is already being piloted with a number of LSCBs. The findings from these will be disseminated widely. Similarly, a number of boroughs are being supported in developing the Strengthening Families model.

The use of the LRSAs to undertake reviews / audits on behalf of boroughs / partnerships is proving to be a highly useful and effective approach.

#### Client review

*“Joan and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kay Bell for her hard work and skill in facilitating these Development Days for Croydon.”*

Joan Prokop (CSCB Board Manager)

Trecina Pia Rajakone (CSCB Administrator)

*“Thank you for the offer of support and for that which we have already received from Kay and Vivien; it has been very valuable and much appreciated.”*

Di Smith (Interim DCS)