

well as personal responsibilities for officers and staff. The Scrutiny Committee welcomed the report.

Members' queried the possibility of including lay members within the membership of the Children's Homes Visiting Panel. The Corporate Director stated that there was nothing to restrict this. The Committee recommended that the Children's Homes Visiting Panel have an informal discussion at its next meeting about the possibility of including the Scrutiny Committee's co-opted members on its membership. The Corporate Director stated that he would check Regulations relating to non-councillors and to police checks.

With reference to paragraph 2, the Scrutiny Committee queried the role of the Cabinet member as a 'link' Cabinet member rather than a 'lead' Cabinet member. It was highlighted that whilst Cabinet Link members had portfolios, they did not hold responsibility for these portfolios, Cabinet held a collective responsibility for all its portfolios. The Scrutiny Committee felt that there needed to be some clarification as to whether a Cabinet member would be designated with the responsibility for safeguarding children. The Cabinet Link member stated that he was happy to take on this area of designated responsibility. He stated that he would clarify and confirm this at Cabinet and then write to the Scrutiny triumvirate to confirm his position.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the attached version of accountabilities be endorsed, and that it be formally adopted by Full Council as part of the follow up work on the Victoria Climbié Inquiry recommendations.
- 2) The Scrutiny Committee recommended that child protection awareness training be arranged for all councillors,
- 3) The Committee asked that Cabinet clarify who the lead Cabinet member for Safeguarding Children would be.

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