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**REVIEW GROUP UPDATE IN CONNECTION WITH INDEPENDENT INQUIRY  
ACTION PLAN**

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**Briefing by Director – Education and Lifelong Learning**

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**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**25 August 2022**

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1. This Briefing provides an update from the Inquiry Review Group, which was established to progress the work identified following the independent investigation into the Council's handling of concerns raised about a former Scottish Borders Council employee.
2. The last Report to Council was on 23 June 2022, and the Review Group reported on the actions which had, at that date, been completed. In accordance with the agreed reporting procedures, the next Report on progress and completed actions will be brought to Council in September. In the interim, this Report aims to provide an update on the work that has been carried out in furtherance of the Action Plan since June.
3. The Inquiry Review Group has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis, chaired by the Acting Chief Executive, and attended by the Portfolio Holder for Education and Schools.
4. Work has now commenced in respect of all actions, as listed in the Action Plan, and in particular, work is ongoing in respect of the following elements:
  - a. *Outcome 4*: Review and improvement of child protection training: a sub-group of the Public Protection Committee Training Group has drafted a matrix which ensures that the training meets the needs of specific staff groups and is delivered at appropriate intervals and with robust methods of assessment.
  - b. *Outcome 5*: review and improvement of the Scottish Borders Child Protection Procedures. This action is progressing in line with the implementation of revised national procedures.
  - c. *Outcome 10(a) and 10(b)*: Auditing of existing tools and processes for communicating with parents is informing the areas for focused consultation with stakeholders, which will in turn inform a fuller review of communication methods and practice. Due to the correlation between these actions, it is intended that these continue to be delivered concurrently. There is likely to be an extension to the original timescale for delivery due to the scale of this outcome.

- d. Outcome 12: Ensure there is a clear process where any referrals concerning a staff member to the Child Protection Unit is, by default, copied to the HR Case Management System (failsafe measure).