

Cabinet

15 OCTOBER 2012

**CABINET MEMBER
FOR CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

*Councillor Helen
Binmore*

**HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM LOCAL
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD
(LSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012**

**Wards:
All**

LSCB's have a statutory obligation to compile and publish an annual report.

The main focus of the report is a comprehensive look at what each individual agency both singularly but also collectively what they have been doing in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within Hammersmith & Fulham

CONTRIBUTORS

Russell Wate:
Chair Of Hammersmith
and Fulham LSCB
EDFCG
DoL

Recommendation:

That the LSCB Annual Report is noted as a briefing on local multi agency safeguarding activity and for feedback to the Tri Borough LSCB.

**HAS A EIA BEEN
COMPLETED?
N/A**

**HAS THE REPORT
CONTENT BEEN
RISK ASSESSED?
N/A**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The following summary will outline what activity agencies have completed in the preceding months as well as outline what activity they are carrying out currently to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The future activity is worthy of note for the committee to focus any attention on as is the positive Ofsted evaluation of the multi agency contribution to safeguarding.

Safeguarding children requires all agencies working with children and their families to work together – by identifying children who may be at risk of harm, by pooling information to ensure that the clearest possible picture of family functioning and risk to children is obtained, by providing services to reduce the risk of harm to children and by monitoring children to ensure that the risks are reducing.

The LSCB key function is to ensure that the work of these agencies is coordinated and effective.

- 1.2 This is the final annual report for Hammersmith & Fulham's LSCB.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The Children's Act 2004 required each local authority to establish an Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). This LSCB was chaired firstly by Mr Andrew Christie for its first four years and then for the last two years by an Independent Chair Russell Wate. This LSCB has always been highly regarded nationally as a high performing one, and the current minister for children & families Mr Tim Loughton MP has positively commented on its activities and asked for this to be promulgated widely. The LSCB as a single local authority LSCB will no longer exist from the 1st of April 2012, when it will become part of the Tri-borough LSCB.
- 2.2 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2010 (which is statutory guidance) highlights in chapter 3 the activities of an LSCB. At 3.34 & 3.35 it outlines the requirement through the Apprenticeships, skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 for LSCB's to produce and publish an annual report. Hammersmith and Fulham's LSCB have always complied with this requirement, as they have done by producing and completing this report for 2012.
- 2.3 Ofsted in their inspection in June 2011 made the following comments on the strength of the LSCB.
- Partnership working is outstanding at both a strategic and operational level. The LSCB fulfils its statutory duties well and provides highly effective and consistent community and professional leadership in relation to universal, targeted and specialist safeguarding services;

- At a strategic level, the LSCB is robust in auditing the work of agencies and their compliance with action plans arising from serious case reviews;
- The LSCB has a demonstrable commitment to tackling challenging issues such as children with long-standing or repeated child protection plans, which it does through multi-disciplinary case discussion.

- 2.4 The report covers the following headings: 1) Governance and accountability and within this outlines agencies safeguarding governance arrangements, the LSCB's through its executive board (chair Russell Wate) and sub groups for Training (chair Carole Bell), SCR (chair Paul Hargreaves), Audit & practice improvement (chair Paul Bains) CDOP (chair Nicky Brownjohn) 2) Monitoring and audits, this is both single and multi agency focused, including the joint strategic needs assessment. 3) Specific areas for monitoring e.g. sexual exploitation, early intervention, missing children.
- 2.5 The LSCB carried out a serious case review into the tragic death of a 12 yrs old (child A) who had spent almost 8 years as a looked after child. This SCR has developed a number of recommendations and an action plan. Ofsted evaluated the SCR, recommendations and action plan as outstanding.
- 2.6 Future priorities include the continuing focus on CP plans, Ofsted action plan arising out of the June 2011 inspection, implementing the 'Munro review' recommendations this in particular is focussing on early intervention through the 'family locality service'. Actions from the Child A SCR, which focuses in the main on 'Looked after Children'.
- 2.7 The main future priority is to look to the integration of the LSCB into the Tri-borough one. The legislation allows for the LSCB to cover more than one Local Authority and a number of LSCBs across the country already do this - it is particularly helpful for unitary authorities where the Local Authority boundaries are not a natural fit for the agencies providing the child protection services. The same rationale applies in London. A tri borough LSCB will assist agencies like the police and health services who already provide services across the three Local Authorities performance by comparing and contrasting the activity data.

The new chair of the tri borough LSCB is Jean Daintith, who chaired the first tri borough LSCB in April 2012.

3. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- 3.1 There are no financial issues in this report.

4. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW

- 4.1. The Director has no comments on this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	LSCB Annual Report 2011-2012	Tim Deacon – Tri Borough LSCB Manager	Tri-Borough Children's Services
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