

<p><b>London Borough of Hammersmith &amp; Fulham</b></p> <p><b>HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING BOARD</b>  <b>9 November 2015</b></p>	
<p><b>LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT</b></p>	
<p><b>Report of the Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board</b></p>	
<p><b>Open Report</b></p>	
<p><b>Classification - For Information, Scrutiny Review &amp; Comment</b></p>	
<p><b>Key Decision: No</b></p>	
<p><b>Wards Affected: All</b></p>	
<p><b>Accountable Executive Director:</b> Andrew Christie, Executive Director of Children's Services</p>	
<p><b>Report Author:</b> Steve Bywater, Policy Manager, Children's Services</p>	<p><b>Contact Details:</b>  Tel: 020 8753 5809  E-mail:  <a href="mailto:steve.bywater@lbhf.gov.uk">steve.bywater@lbhf.gov.uk</a></p>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have a statutory obligation to compile and publish an Annual Report and to provide this to the Chair of the local Health and Wellbeing Board. The report is expected to provide an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The report for 2014/15, which accompanies this report, reviews and evaluates the achievements and progress of the LSCB which covers Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster. It also identifies future priorities and an assessment of challenges faced going forward.
- 1.2. In September 2014, the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and the LSCB agreed a protocol which covers how they will work together to safeguard children. In its broadest sense safeguarding refers to promoting the well-being of children, a shared responsibility of both Boards. The HWB considers how the health needs of children are met and has an influence on this broader safeguarding agenda. The HWB can also use this influence with health partners to ensure that the LSCB is getting the right support to ensure that agencies working with children are meeting the highest standards.

- 1.3. The HWB is requested to consider the Annual Report of LSCB for 2014/15 and to consider how the two Boards might work together on any further reports.

## **2. THE ANNUAL REPORT**

- 2.1. The 2014/15 Report has a particular focus on the main priorities identified in the LSCB's 2014/15 Business Plan and reviews activities carried out, any impact and what further steps are required to ensure that progress continues to be made. These include activities to improve Early Help and better outcomes for children subject to child protection plans and those who are looked after. There is also a review of progress on issues where shared approaches have been developed across the three boroughs, for example in relation to child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, domestic violence and abuse and e-safety.
- 2.2. There have been a number of activities to improve the effectiveness of the LSCB. These include a range of approaches to engaging children and young people in awareness of safeguarding and the work of the Board. There have also been initiatives to improve communication with a new website now online and various initiatives to improve the multi-agency workforce's learning from reviews and audits carried out by the Board.
- 2.3. The Annual Report provides an overview of other key functions of the LSCB including quality assurance, the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer in managing allegations made against adults working with children, complaints and training.
- 2.4. The report describes the context in which the various partner agencies are operating with details of the demographics and profile of vulnerable children in each of the authorities.
- 2.5. Based upon a review of progress to date as reflected in the report, the LSCB has identified its priorities for the current year which are listed at the end of the report and reflected in the 2015/16 Safeguarding Plan. The intention is to continue to address longer term issues whilst responding to emerging issues, as the LSCB continues make progress with these priorities.
- 2.6. There is a summary of the work of the Child Death Overview Panel which considers circumstances relating to the deaths of children and a section which describes Serious Care Reviews (SCRs). These are initiated where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected and the child has died or has been seriously harmed. Two SCR's commenced in the three boroughs in 2014/15 and actions were taken in response to one which was completed. Key learning included the need to avoid "compartmentalising" cases which can stifle thinking about the wider needs of children and there were specific learning points about working with mobile families, children in need, adoptive families, emotional attachment disorders, concealed

pregnancy and how schools might best respond to drug use amongst pupils.

### **3. CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1. The report concludes that the LSCB has a good overview of practice which protects and safeguards children and young people, has worked well to anticipate and respond to significant issues affecting their lives and has challenged LSCB members to promote the best outcomes for children and young people.
- 3.2. The report also highlights areas where progress is not as good and where further development is required. These are reflected in the 2015/16 Safeguarding Plan which informs the current activities of the LSCB. Current priorities respond to the need to continue to improve local practice in relation to national issues such as FGM, CSE, serious youth violence, children who go missing and radicalisation of young people. Some specific actions for partner agencies are also identified.
- 3.3. There are recommendations to continue to improve the engagement of some agencies in the active work of the Board as well as continuing to improve communications with all staff and the wider community.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1. It is recommended that:
  - The Health and Wellbeing Board notes the contents of the LSCB's Annual Report and makes any representations to Jean Daintith, the Independent Chair.
  - The Health and Wellbeing Board considers the effectiveness of contributions from local partners to the LSCB, particularly those who are also represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
  - In the light of the report and the activities and impact described, the Health and Wellbeing Board may wish to comment on and confirm how it perceives its role in relation to safeguarding and any joint work that should take place between the two Boards.
  - That members of the Board identify priorities of the LSCB's 2015/16 Safeguarding Plan which may benefit from further consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board or more collaboration between the two Boards. The following developments may be of particular interest:
    - Recommendations from a short-life working group which is considering the impact of parental mental health on children.
    - Briefings about learning from serious case reviews, particularly regarding issues relating to the Health and Wellbeing Board's priorities or wider agenda.
    - Meeting safeguarding issues for young people as they go through transition to adulthood and services designed for adults.

- Oversight of information sharing and referral patterns in relation to female genital mutilation between agencies represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 6 All member agencies of the LSCB have contributed to the report which is now a public document.

## **6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. The Annual Report describes actions to improve safeguarding for a number of groups within local communities, many of which comprise of significant numbers of people with protected characteristics. This is particularly the case for the protected characteristics of sex and race. Where relevant, it describes services which have been developed to engage and specifically meet the needs of such groups.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. The legal duties relevant to this report are set out in full in paragraph 9.1
- 7.2. Implications verified by: Kevin Beale, Head of Social Care and Litigation, Legal Services.

## **8. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. There are now financial implications for the purposes of this report.
- 8.2. Implications verified/completed by Andre Mark, Group Accountant - Financial Planning and Analysis

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 9.1. The Local Safeguarding Children Board is a significant source of external Assurance to the Council concerning the effectiveness of its Child Protection arrangements. Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented on LSCBs. An LSCB must be established for every local authority area. The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements. The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area (this is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004). The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the

health and wellbeing board. In producing this report this meets the following risks identified on the Strategic Shared Services Risk Register, risk number 8 managing statutory duty, risk number 9 standards and delivery of care and 10 maintaining significant strategic partnerships. Where risks are identified in the report these should be noted within the Childrens Services Risk Register and assessed periodically together with an improvement or action plan.

9.2. Implications verified by: Michael Sloniowski, Shared Services Risk Manager, telephone 020 8753 2587.

**10. PROCUREMENT AND IT STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. Not applicable.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**  
**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT**

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.			

**LIST OF APPENDICES:**

LSCB Annual Report 2014/15