



City of Westminster

Cabinet

Date:	19 February 2018
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2016-2017
Report of:	Jenny Pearce – Local Safeguarding Children Board Independent Chair
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Children and Young People
Wards Involved:	All
Report Author and Contact Details:	Emma Biskupski 0208 753 3759 <u>Emma.Biskupski@lbhf.gov.uk</u>

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The independent chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is required (through Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015) to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The report is attached.
- 1.2 The Annual Report for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) 2016/17 has been reviewed by the Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 5 February 2018. The publication of such a report is a requirement of the LSCB following statutory guidance. The report includes key details about the demographics of local children, safeguarding responsibilities and activities of agencies which are represented on the LSCB, an overview of the LSCB priorities, activities; a review of the outcomes of Serious Case Reviews and learning that has resulted from these. The Cabinet is invited to note the report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Key Matters for Consideration

- 3.1 As highlighted in the report, one of the key performance indicators show a positive story for Westminster City Council, with a reduction in the number of children subject to a child protection plan from last year. The numbers of

children in the care of the local authority has increased, however, this is largely due to the increase in unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in the Borough.

- 3.2 Westminster Partnership Group is well attended and good relationships are promoted between partners in this helpful forum. Partners share key information from their own agencies and the LSCB is able to cascade the results of its work, such as our multi-agency audits.
- 3.2 The LSCB held a successful and well attended Learning Event for the Southbank International School Serious Case Review (a Westminster independent school), to disseminate learning to schools in both the maintained and independent sector, as well as other agencies.
- 3.3 There is still some room for progress in how the LSCB engages with children and young people to seek their views, and our new LSCB chair is very keen to help us develop this further.
- 3.4 Cabinet may wish to note that in October 2017, the Department for Education published a consultation regarding the proposed changes to the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', and the proposals include changes to Local Safeguarding Children Board multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

It is proposed that in future, the key safeguarding partners (local authority, clinical commissioning group, chief officer of police) set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies whose involvement they consider may be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in particular cases. Once agreed, the safeguarding partners must publish the arrangements.

The consultation also proposes some changes to Serious Case Reviews, being replaced with local and national child safeguarding practice reviews. The consultation also proposed some changes to the Child Death Overview Panel process.

The consultation ended on 31.12.17 and further details will be expected in early 2018.

The LSCB Independent Chair is co-ordinating potential future arrangements with key stakeholders.

- 4. **Financial Implications:** None.
- 5. **Legal Implications:** None

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact: Emma Biskupski, 020 8753 3759
Emma.Biskupski@lbhf.gov.uk