

Westminster Health & Wellbeing Board

Date:	19 November 2015
Classification:	General Release
Title:	System change required as a result of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report
Report of:	Jean Daintith, Independent Chair of the LSCB
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	Section 14A of the Children Act 2004 requires the Chair of the LSCB to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of the welfare of children. The report should be submitted Chair of the health and wellbeing board.
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications for the purposes of this report.
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the context within which the LSCB's annual report is produced and highlights existing links between the LSCB and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). There is also a summary of the key areas covered in the annual report and priorities which have been identified for safeguarding activity in 2015/16. A number of recommendations are identified which are intended to prompt further discussion as to how existing relationships between the two Boards might be developed still further to increase the impact made on respective priorities. Suggestions are also made of some areas where the two Boards may share a common agenda.

2. Key Matters for the Board

- 2.1 The Board is invited to consider and comment upon the contents of the LSCB's Annual Report as well as responding to the recommendations outlined at the end of this paper.

3. Background

- 3.1 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 HWB. 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 Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham. It also identifies future priorities and an assessment of challenges faced going forward.
- 3.2 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.

4. The Annual Report

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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. The report also 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 There are three broad priorities for 2015/16:

- **To continue to deliver the core business of the Board at high quality** (with a particular focus on the role of Early Help, engaging diverse communities; the effectiveness of child protection plans, multi-agency responses to neglect and meeting the safeguarding needs of children with mental health concerns, disabled children and those affected by domestic abuse).
- **To improve the Board's effectiveness in reducing harm to children** (including learning from each other in a context of organisational change, learning from case reviews; meeting the needs of children from marginalised groups, effective communication with the multi-agency workforce, holding each other to account and challenges that improves outcomes and maximising wider partnerships to better influence impact on the ground).
- **To ensure effective, proportionate, multi-agency responses to safeguarding issues which affect children & young people with high levels of vulnerability** (with a particular focus on those at risk of or have experienced Female Genital Mutilation, substance misuse, going missing, sexual exploitation or radicalisation, being a perpetrator of abuse and exploitation, being involved with gangs).

4.6 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 SCRs 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.

5. Conclusions of the Annual Report

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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. Some specific actions for partner agencies are also identified. There are areas where the Board wishes to further develop its existing links with agencies also represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board. This includes working with Adults Services in supporting young people who are involved with sexual exploitation through the transition to adulthood and developing links between the Local Authority Designated Officer (who ensures coordinated, consistent management of responses to allegations made about staff) with designated allegations management leads. The Child Death Overview Panel is seeking to develop the role of Public Health to its activities. There is also a general aim to engage a wider range of agencies in leading the LSCB's sub-groups and short-life working groups.
- 5.3 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.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 6.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board notes the contents of the LSCB's Annual Report.
- 6.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board considers the effectiveness of contributions from local partners to the LSCB. Agencies represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board (Children's Services, Adult Social Care, West London CCG, Central London CCG, Public Health and NHS England) are also represented on the LSCB.
- 6.3 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.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 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. 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.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications for the purposes of this report.

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact:

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LIST OF APPENDICES:

LSCB Annual Report 2014/15