

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>General Release</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Local Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2013-2014</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Tim Deacon, LSCB Business Manager</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	<b>Children's Services</b>
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Policy Context:</b>	<b>Children's Safeguarding</b>
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## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards have a statutory obligation to compile and publish an Annual report. This report provides an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It recognises the achievements and progress that have been made by the LSCB covering the areas of the City of Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that lie ahead. The report illustrates the extent to which the functions of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) as set out in Working Together 2013 are being effectively discharged.

## **2. Key Matters for the Committee's Consideration**

- 2.1 The LSCB for the City of Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster commenced work in April 2012 with an agreed set of subgroups and activities. The merging of three boroughs required a safeguarding stock take with partners at the end of 2011 which provided a foundation for the identification and agreement of shared strategic safeguarding priorities for 2012/15. These priorities have been:

- Early help and prevention of harm
  - Better outcomes for children subject to child protection plans and those looked after
  - Practice areas to compare, contrast and improve together (In 2012/13 this has included a focus on strengthening the safeguarding responses across cultures and faiths as well as the safeguarding of young people involved in gang related youth violence and sexual exploitation)
  - Continuous improvement in a changing landscape
- 2.2 A strong legacy of commitment to the priorities from the three previous Boards has shaped the work of the LSCB. Borough-based partnerships have focused on local safeguarding activities and there have been developing relationships with the Health and Well-Being Boards, the Children's Trust and the Adults Safeguarding Board. Work on early help, children at risk of serious self harm and suicide, children at risk of sexual exploitation, and children who go missing have been a focus in this second year of the LSCB.
- 2.3 The LSCB has seen that children are protected by the plans made in each of the Boroughs and that there are now stronger multi agency audit arrangements for safeguarding. Arrangements for workforce learning and development, has meant there has been a good responsiveness to new, as well as more established child protection activities. Learning from different types of case review has been formalised. The Board is supported by a small, dedicated team.
- 2.4 The LSCB will continue to focus on the four priority themes it has adopted throughout 2014/2015. In particular the Board has agreed that neglect is a cross-cutting theme that needs to be highlighted across all the other priorities. Responding to national issues at a local level, such as female genital mutilation, will also be high on the LSCB's agenda as will getting the local multi-agency response right regarding child sexual exploitation, gangs, missing young people, and suicide risk.
- 2.5 A final draft of the LSCB Annual report has been circulated to LSCB members. There are a number of parallel processes that follow the publication of LSCB annual report. The LSCB has a responsibility to present this to the Chief Executive, Leaders of the three councils, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chairs of the local Health and Well Being Boards. The full report is published on the LSCB website, and a brief synopsis circulated to professionals working locally with children from member agencies. There will also be a young people's version of the report.

The Committee is invited to comment on the achievements of the LSCB and the areas for development

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Annual report details both the core functions of the LSCB as well as the priorities that were established in April 2012.
- 3.2 In order to establish the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and of the LSCB itself, the report evaluates standing work of the board such as training, case reviews and safeguarding of priority groups.
- 3.3 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 has been to ensure that the work of these agencies is coordinated and effective.
- 3.4 The commitment to the priorities from the three previous Boards has shaped the work of this past year and the agenda has been progressed successfully through active short life improvement groups and sub groups of the Board. Borough-based partnerships have included a proper focus on local activities and there are developing relationships with the Health and Well-Being Boards, the Children's Trust and Adults Safeguarding Board.

### **4. Health and Wellbeing Implications**

- 4.1 The report outlines the development of links between the LSCB and the Health and Wellbeing Boards.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The report provides details of the LSCB budget.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact Tim Deacon LSCB Manager x 0208 753 5140 [tim.deacon@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:tim.deacon@lbhf.gov.uk)**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Tri-borough LSCB Annual Report 2013/14**