

Westminster Health & Wellbeing Board

Date:	20 th November 2014
Classification:	General Release
Title:	LSCB Annual Report
Report of:	Tri Borough Children's Services
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	Working Together (2013) places a requirement on the Local Safeguarding Children Board to send its Annual Report to the Chairman of the local Health and Well Being Board
Financial Summary:	None
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the achievements of the LSCB (2013/2014) against its four key priorities, evaluates the effectiveness of the LSCB overall, describes its activities, and future priorities and comments on the linkage to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. Key Matters for the Board's Consideration

- 2.1 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 has been made in the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) covering the areas of Hammersmith and Fulham, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that lie ahead. The report illustrates the extent to which the functions of the LSCB as set out in Working Together 2013 are being effectively discharged.

- 2.2 It is recommended that the Board considers the report and makes any representations to Jean Daintith, the Independent Chair of the LSCB. The Health and Wellbeing Board should consider how it can collaborate with the LSCB on shared priorities and through short life working groups.
- 2.3 The LSCB would welcome actions from the Westminster HWB to:
1. Improve local responses to the identification of children in families where parental substance misuse and/or parental mental health, FGM, and children at risk of sexual exploitation is an issue.
 2. Establish best practice in identifying early neglect within health agencies, to ensure that neglect of children is appropriately identified and responded to
 3. Clarify how the LSCB should support HWB task and finish groups (on issues such as parental substance misuse, parental mental health, and transition between children and adult mental health services)
 4. Develop a culture of 'challenge' from health agencies, to promote improved safeguarding practice within partner agencies
 5. Promote the learning from SCRs within health agencies. This also includes need for:
 - Improved communication between GPs and HVs
 - Clarification of systems and processes for transfer in / out of child health records (Sofia SCR)

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 the safeguarding of priority groups. It also measures progress against the LSCB priorities for 2013-14: 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; continuous improvement in a changing landscape.
- 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 functions are to ensure that the work of key agencies is coordinated and effective and to hold all agencies to account for the quality of their work to safeguard children.
- 3.4 The commitment to ensure that local as well as national priorities are addressed has shaped the work of the LSCB in the past year. 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 Children's Trust and each of the Health and Well-Being Boards. Increasingly there is a linkage to the Health and Wellbeing Boards' priority themes for children, and duplication is avoided, whilst shared priorities are acknowledged. This linkage is key to the LSCB being seen as effective in both governance and partnership.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 No Comment

5. Financial Implications

5.1 No Comment

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

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**APPENDICES: Tri-borough Local Safeguarding Children Board
Annual Report 2013/14**