

CYP SELECT COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Annual report of the Lewisham Children's Safeguarding Board	
Key Decision		Item No. 4
Ward	All	
Contributors	Alastair Pettigrew, Director, Children's Social Care	
Class	Open	Date: 8 September 2015

1. Summary and Summary of the Report

The Lewisham Children Safeguarding Board (LCSB) is required to publish an annual report every year to outline the work of the board in the previous year and identify areas where further work will be required in the forthcoming year. Chris Doorly is the Independent Chair of both the Children and Adults Safeguarding Board in Lewisham. She would normally attend to present this report. Unfortunately she will be on annual leave and she has asked the Director of Children's Social Care to present the report on behalf of the Board. The Safeguarding Board meets four times a year and the next meeting will take place on 18 September 2015. The annual report presented at this meeting should therefore be regarded as a draft because it has not yet been formally signed off by the Safeguarding Board

2. Recommendations

The Select Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and also to identify any issues of concern

3. Policy Context

Working Together March 2013 requires each LSCB to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and the promotion of the welfare of children in the local area. The report should be a rigorous assessment of the performance of local safeguarding services and to show how any areas of weakness will be addressed. Working Together requires that the report is submitted to the Chief Executive of the Council and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4. Details

Please see the attached report. The Safeguarding Board comprises all the agencies involved in child protection. Each agency was asked to summarise its relevant activity during 2014-15 and this report brings together that information.

5. Financial implications

The operation of the LSCB is funded partly by the council and partly by partners. There are no specific financial implications to this report.

6. Legal implications

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each Local Authority to establish a local safeguarding children's board for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented on the board.

The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policies and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements. The strategy, objectives and functions of the LSCB are described as follows:

- Coordinate what is done by each personal body whoever sits on the board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each personal body for those purposes.

The revised Working Together guidance 2013 places increased responsibilities on the LSCB to deliver a stronger leadership role around local safeguarding practice and directly influence multi-agency and single agency requirements as well as requiring the establishment of a single assessment approach and supporting framework. The revised regulatory framework also includes a judgement on the effectiveness of local safeguarding boards with a focus on assessing the impact of the board's activity on frontline practice and the positive difference made to children and local communities.

7. Crime and disorder implications

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

8. Equalities implications

The work of the LSCB is particularly focused on the protection of vulnerable groups in the child population, such as those with disabilities and girls at risk of violence and sexual exploitation. The majority of data considered by the LSCB is analysed using equalities data where that is available.

9. Environmental implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10. Background documents and originator

If there are any queries on this report please contact Alastair Pettigrew on 020 8314 8140.