

CYP SELECT COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Annual Report of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board	
Ward	All	Item No. 6
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Class	Open	Date: 24 January 2019

1. Summary and Summary of the Report

- 1.1 The Lewisham Children Safeguarding Board (LCSB) is required to publish an annual report to outline the work of the Board in the previous year and identify areas where further work will be required in the forthcoming year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Select Committee is asked to comment on and note the contents of the report.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Statutory Guidance within 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' 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 provide an assessment of the performance of local safeguarding services and show how areas of development 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. This will be done following consideration by this Committee.

4. Details

- 4.1 The Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board comprises all partner agencies with a key contribution to child protection and safeguarding in the Borough. In developing the Annual Report partners contributed to the evidence detailed and summaries of relevant safeguarding activity for the period 2017/18.
- 4.2 This is the last report of the LSCB in its current form as the legislative framework has changed and local areas (specifically the statutory partners namely the council, police and CCG) are required to agree new arrangements by June 2019. There will be a report to CYP Select Committee in March 2019 setting out proposals for new safeguarding partnership arrangements, including joint working with the London Boroughs of Greenwich and Bexley who are part of the same police command unit.

5. Financial implications

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

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 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.

- 6.2 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.

- 6.3 The revised Working Together guidance 2015 places 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.

- 6.4 The partnership structure will need to change in the light of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. A further report will come to CYP Select Committee on this, with arrangements to be signed off by Mayor and Cabinet and Full Council.

7. Crime and disorder implications

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

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1 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

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10. Background documents and originator

10.1 If there are any queries on this report please contact Lucie Heyes on 020 8314 8140.

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