

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16		
Contributors	Business Manager for Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board	Item No.	10a
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report and accompanying copy of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report for 2015-16 demonstrates the work that has and continues to be undertaken across a range of agencies and partnerships to safeguard children in Lewisham. It also sets out the Key LSCB priorities going forward.

2. Background

- 2.1 Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented on the LSCB.
- 2.2 Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of the LSCB, which are:
- (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area,
 - (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes
- 2.3 The LSCB is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in their area and the challenges that still remain. The Board is expected to challenge the work of its members, both collectively and individually, assess performance and highlight strengths and weaknesses.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Effective safeguarding arrangements for children in every local area should be underpinned by two key principles:
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part, and

- A child-centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.

3.2 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 specifies that Local Safeguarding Children Boards should maintain a local learning and improvement framework which is shared across local organisations who work with children and families. The local framework should cover the full range of reviews and audits which are aimed at driving improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Some of these reviews (i.e. SCRs and child death reviews) are required under legislation. The different types of review include:

- Serious Case Reviews for every case where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and either:
 - (a) A child dies, or
 - (b) A child is seriously harmed and there are concerns about how organisations or professionals worked together to safeguard the child,
- Child death review, a review of all child deaths
- Review of a child protection incident which falls below the threshold for a SCR, and
- Review or audit of practice in one or more agencies.

3.3 Two Serious Case Reviews were published by the LSCB during 2015/16. The full reports can be accessed on the LSCB website <http://www.safeguardinglewisham.org.uk/lscb/lscb/serious-case-review/serious-case-review>

4. Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board

4.1 The LSCB endeavour to ensure that children and young people are:

- Safe from abuse, maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation,
- Secure, stable and cared for, and helps to reduce the likelihood of them suffering from:
 - Accidental death or injury
 - Bullying, exploitation and discrimination
 - Crime and anti-social behaviour

4.2 The attached LSCB annual report for 2015/16 sets out the work and developments by the Board and its task groups during this period. It also highlights the key priorities going forward for 2016-18.

5. Changes and developments for the LSCB

- 5.1 The LSCB meets 4 times a year and is independently chaired. Following the resignation of the former chair in March 2016, the Executive Director for Children Services has acted as interim chair until the new chair was appointed in October 2016.
- 5.2 Board partners continue to contribute financially to ensure efficient funds for the work of the Board, which includes the salaries of the Independent Chair, Business Manager, Development Officer and Administrator, as well as the LSCB annual training programme. Please see page 10 of the annual report for a breakdown of financial contributions.

5. LSCB Priorities

- 5.1 The following key priorities for the LSCB to take forward during the period of 2016-18 were decided on at a Development Day event in February 2016.
- Improving the effectiveness of agencies and the community in identifying and addressing neglect.
 - Increasing the effectiveness of the LSCB as a truly effective agent in securing positive outcomes for children, in protecting them from abuse and exploitation.
 - Raising the profile of safeguarding across the Borough, amongst practitioners, stakeholders and the community with a particular focus on the most vulnerable or at risk.
 - Ensuring that the voice of children and young people influence learning, best practice and the work of the LSCB.
 - Increasing the effectiveness of agencies and the community in identifying and addressing Child Sexual Exploitation.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 8.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report. The LSCB works in close collaboration with Safer Lewisham Partnership to ensure joint approaches to overlapping issues such as domestic violence, hate crimes and 'Prevent' (the government's counter-terrorism strategy).

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 As highlighted earlier in this report, The LSCB has the lead role in promoting the fact that every child in Lewisham has the right to live safely and free from

abuse and neglect; and that Safeguarding is 'everybody's business'. The LSCB Team is working with a variety of statutory and local third sector organisations to publicise and promote that the Board is there to: make sure that local safeguarding arrangements are in place; help to prevent abuse and neglect taking place; and, ensure agencies respond appropriately when concerns are raised. In particular the team is working with local organisations to reach out to smaller communities which may be harder to engage in order to spread the Board's messages across all sections of the community.

- 9.2 The LSCB's comprehensive Performance Framework assists with identifying trends and areas for development which enables the Board to specifically target activity and interventions aimed at those children and young people most at risk.

10. Environmental Implications

- 10.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Marinda Beaton, LSCB Business Manager, on 020 8314 3391 or email marinda.beaton@lewisham.gov.uk

Background documents

Working Together to Safeguard Children

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children-2>

Children Act 2004

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/1106-2004PDF-EN-01.pdf>

Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/90/pdfs/ukxi_20060090_en.pdf