



Health and Wellbeing Board

Lewisham Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2018-19

Date: 12 March 2020

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Nicky Pace, Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Independent Chair & Mick Brims, Strategic Safeguarding Lead, Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

Outline and recommendations

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) were established with the purpose of ensuring that agencies keep local children and young people safe and that where they have intervened they have made a positive difference in children's lives. The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the work of the LSCB for the period 2018-19.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to note the contents of this report.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

In addition to the work of Lewisham Council, the annual report includes contributions from the following partner agencies that highlight their respective activities to safeguard children:

- Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust (LGT)
- Safer Lewisham Partnership
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- London Ambulance Service (LAS)
- London Community Rehabilitation Company
- Phoenix Community Housing
- Metropolitan Police Service - South East Basic Command Unit
- NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Lay Members
- National Probation Service
- Youth First

1. Summary

- 1.1. This Annual Report covers the period April 2018 to March 2019. The LSCB is required to report on progress against the priorities set for the previous year and plan any changes to local safeguarding priorities for the next year, taking into account national priorities and local needs, and any issues arising from Serious Case Reviews and multi-agency audits.
- 1.2. At the ending of this reporting period, the LSCB was preparing to transfer to the new national arrangements of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership in July 2019. Therefore, the next Annual Report (2019-20) will encompass the final quarter of the LSCB before transfer.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are requested to note the contents of this 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.
- 3.2. The work of the LSCB directly contributes towards the priority of '*Giving children and young people the best start in life*' within the Corporate Strategy. This priority aims to ensure that every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.

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4. Background

- 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 2018-19.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. The operation of the LSCB is funded 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 2015 guidance 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.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. 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.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1. There are no specific climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

9. Crime and disorder implications

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

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10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1 Lewisham LSCB is focused on enhancing the safeguarding of children within Lewisham through multi-agency communication and collaboration to create positive outcomes for children and families. A focal element of LSCB work is facilitation and promotion of effective multi-agency co-operation, to ensure the continuing good health, safety and well-being of children within the aegis of LSCB safeguarding priorities.
- 10.2 Each contributing agency to this annual report has reported on progress against LSCB safeguarding priorities for the 2018-19 year, with improved health and well-being outcomes an integral aspect of positive safeguarding outcomes.
- 10.3 Whilst there are no specific health or well-being implications arising from this report, achieving positive health and well-being outcomes remains a key element of the LSCB multi-agency approach to safeguarding children in Lewisham.

11. Report author and contact

- 11.1. If there are any queries about this report then please contact Eileen Bezuidenhout on 020 8314 3396 or email Eileen.Bezuidenhout@lewisham.gov.uk.

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