



**Report of: Director of Targeted and Specialist Children and Families Services**

| Meeting of                 | Date       | Agenda Item | Ward(s) |
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| Health and Wellbeing Board | 15/07/2015 | B2          | All     |

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## **SUBJECT: Draft Islington Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2014/15**

### **1. Synopsis**

The Independent Chair of the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) prepares a statutory report that provides a summary of the Board's work during the 2014/15 financial year. It is a requirement that the report be submitted to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

This year, the Draft ISCB report comes to the Health and Wellbeing Board earlier for consultation and observations. Once the ISCB has approved the Annual Report 2014/15, an executive summary will be prepared, circulated and published on the ISCB website.

The ISCB annual report contains three actions that pertain to the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. ISCB to present the annual report all strategic partnership boards and for partners to indicate what actions they intend to take in relation to the report's findings.
2. Other strategic partnerships, including the Youth Justice Management Board, Islington Children's Partnership Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Adult Safeguarding Board to consider the ISCB priorities and indicate what strategic steps they intend to take to ensure that services are planned and commissioned accordingly.
3. ISCB to receive the agreed joint *Islington CCG and Islington Council Child Health Strategy* and contribute to the accompanying action plan.

## 2. Recommendations

- a) That the draft ISCB annual report be received;
- b) That the future ISCB priorities be noted;
- c) That consideration be given to how, where appropriate, the ISCB priorities could be included and aligned with the strategic priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- d) That any relevant actions arising from the strategic priorities be agreed and implemented, and the ISCB be provided with an annual report about their effectiveness.

## 3. Background

### Main finding of the ISCB report

Islington partners are working well, and in a co-ordinated way to promote the welfare of children and safeguard them from harm when necessary. The report sets out how the board has monitored safeguarding arrangements and, where necessary, challenged partners about safeguarding responsibilities.

In the previous three years, the ISCB wanted to improve the identification of children who were suffering abuse through neglect and domestic violence – this has been done and mechanisms are in place to ensure this work continues.

### Future priorities

The ISCB agreed new priorities in January 2015. It wanted partners to be more effective in intervening to reverse the harm that children and young people have suffered as a result of abuse and neglect, and where that is not possible to help them become more resilient. Specifically, the ISCB agreed that it wants partners to:

- Address the impact of neglect on children and young people, including by helping them to become more resilient.
- Address the consequences and harm that children and young people suffered as a result of domestic violence, parental mental ill-health and substance abuse.
- Identify children and young people who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and to improve the prosecution of perpetrators.

The ISCB has a duty to ensure that children who suffer abuse are identified, but also that they receive services to help them cope with effects and consequences of abuse.

The most important consideration is that the priorities will reduce children's suffering and promote their life chances. Partners have identified that children and adult survivors of abuse place a higher demand on health, mental health and other statutory services such as the Police and Social Care.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1. Financial implications

None identified.

## **4.2. Legal Implications**

The Chair of the ISCB must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. This is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004 and is repeated in Working Together 2015. The ISCB should also work with the Health and Wellbeing Board, informing and drawing on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

## **4.3. Resident Impact Assessment**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An RIA has not been completed because an assessment is not necessary in this instance. There is a statutory duty for the independent Chair of the ICSB to submit the annual report to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board is asked to receive the report, note the ISCB priorities, consider how these could be aligned to the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and ensure that any relevant actions arising from the strategic priorities are agreed and implemented. No negative equalities implications for any protected characteristic, nor any human rights issues, are envisaged as a result of these recommendations. The report proposes actions which are intended to strengthen the Council's safeguarding measures. Should the Health and Wellbeing Board decide to take any other specific actions in response to the report, separate consideration of the impacts of these actions may be required.

## **4.4. Environmental Implications**

None identified.

## **5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

Synergies exist between striving for better health and mental health outcomes for children and adults and safeguarding children. The ISCB would be grateful for the Health and Wellbeing Board's consideration of this draft report and the ISCB priorities for 2015-2018.

**Background papers:** None

**Attachments:** ISCB Annual Report 2014/5

**Final Report Clearance**

**Signed by**

*C Blair*

10 July 2015

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Director of Targeted and Specialist Children and  
Families Services

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Date

**Received by**

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Head of Democratic Services

10 July 2015

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Date

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