

**Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services**

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	11 January 2016	B1	All

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

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 The attached report shows that safeguarding activity is progressing well locally and that the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) has a clear consensus on the strategic priorities for the coming year (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2).
- 1.2 The ISCB has worked well in fulfilling its statutory functions under the revised 2015 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' statutory guidance. Statutory and non-statutory members are consistently participating towards the same goals in partnership and within their individual agencies.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Islington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and recommendations of the Board set out in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.10 be noted.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Independent Chair of the ISCB has a statutory duty to provide an annual report about the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of Islington's children.
- 3.2 The Board would like to see partners in universal agencies improve their engagement with the Early Help Assessment (formally referred to as the CAF) which would enable partner agencies to take greater ownership of, and be proactive in, providing services to help children at the earliest opportunity and that Early Help Assessments are not just seen as a request for service.
- 3.3 All services, but especially universal services can still do more to assist the good work that the local authority is doing to identify children and young people who are in private fostering arrangements.

- 3.4 We need to better understand the increase in serious youth violence and gang associations in Islington, to enable professionals to tackle this problem head-on and thereby reduce the harm that such activity causes.
- 3.5 The Board would like to that see individual agencies especially health, education and the police undertake and improve their single agency internal audits so that they can be scrutinised through the quality assurance framework and provide evidence of improved service provision to children and young people.
- 3.6 We would also want to see an increased overview of how the views of children are sought within agencies and how their voice is used to shape and influence service delivery.
- 3.7 In relation to child sexual exploitation, there is a well-established partnership approach to this issue in Islington. However the Board would like see greater analysis of this issue and a greater use of intelligence so that agencies can deploy their resources effectively to prevent child sexual exploitation (CSE) and target offenders.
- 3.8 The Board needs to build better partnerships with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to understand the issues surrounding the small number of offenders who are prosecuted in cases of child abuse and neglect.
- 3.9 Our aim year on year is to make sure that children in Islington are best protected from harm. This can only be achieved through ensuring the right systems are in place, that agencies work well together for each individual child and family and we develop our learning culture. We need to be constantly reflecting whether children in the area are safe and, if not, what more can be done to reduce incidents of child maltreatment and intervene when children are at risk of suffering significant harm.
- 3.10 We will continue to raise awareness within our local community that safeguarding children is everybody's business.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

### **4.2 Legal implications**

The Local Safeguarding Children Board must prepare and publish an annual report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Islington (section 14A Children Act 2004).

The objective of the LSCB is to co-ordinate what is done by public bodies offering safeguarding services to children who are being provided with care by others (section 14 (1) Children Act 2004; regulation 5 The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006/90).

The report should provide an assessment of the performance of local services, identify areas of weakness, set out proposals for action and include lessons from reviews (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015).

### **4.3 Environmental implications**

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the report.

### **4.4 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. The Committee is asked to receive the report, note the ISCB priorities and utilise the priorities to inform its future work. 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 Scrutiny Committee decide to take any other specific actions in response to the report, separate consideration of the impacts of these actions may be required.

## 5 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The LSCB Annual Report and Executive Summary are for information and consideration by the Committee.

### Appendices

- Appendix 1: ISCB Annual Report
- Appendix 2: ISCB Annual Report – executive summary

**Background papers:** None.

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**



Corporate Director of Children's Services

Date: 18 December 2015

**Received by:**

Head of Democratic Services

Date 18 December 2015

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