



Islington Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2014 - 2015

Executive Summary

Islington Safeguarding Children Board

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1. Introduction

This executive summary presents the key points from Islington Safeguarding Children Board's 2014-2015 Annual Report. The full report is available on the ISCB website www.islingtonscb.org.uk

1.1 *ISCB's objectives and functions:*

The Children Act 2004, section 14(1) describes the objective of the LSCB as co-ordinating what is done by each person or body represented on the board for the purpose of promoting the welfare of children in the area and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person. Regulations set out the statutory functions to reach those objectives.

Previously, national guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010) comprehensively described the duties of safeguarding board but when Working Together (2013) came in to force on 15th of April 2013, prescriptive guidance was much reduced, allowing boards to take a more 'local' approach to achieving its statutory objectives.

2. Effectiveness of safeguarding – ISCB Priorities 2015 Onwards

Previously, the board set itself the task to effectively identify children who were abused and neglected. Next, the board agreed in January, to set priorities that will ensure we are more effective in intervening to reverse the harm that children and young people have suffered as a result of abuse / neglect and, where that is not possible, to help them become more resilient.

In future, we want to improve the collective effectiveness of agencies in:

- 1.) Addressing the impact of neglect on children, including by helping them to become more resilient.
- 2.) Addressing the consequences / harm suffered as a result of domestic violence, parental mental health and substance abuse.
- 3.) Identification of children who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and holding perpetrators to account.

2.1 *Evaluate the effectiveness of training*

- The training sub-group has identified that multi-agency safeguarding training is not consistently delivered in all settings. Although agencies provide staff with safeguarding training, at different levels, the content of training is not always consistent with the Board's minimum requirements.
- The sub-group has revised the training strategy (Competence Still Matters) that clearly sets out the expectations of training for staff in different roles. As a result of this work, the training to schools is reviewed so that they also receive multi-agency training.
- The core safeguarding training has also been redesigned to be more skills-based and now focusses on the roles and responsibilities of professionals who are involved in the child protection process.

2.2 *Domestic violence (core business)*

- The ISCB Examined process and procedure for DV between peers, which led to new procedures and training implemented leading to a rise in those considered at MARAC

- The Deep Dive Audit action plan has been implemented. The learning from the Domestic Violence Deep Dive has gone on to inform the strategic planning of the Children and Families Trust.
- Moorfields NHS Trust has introduced the SPECCS assessment tool in the adult accident and emergency department.
- The VAWG strategy has been overseen by the Safer Islington Partnership. In May the ISCB decided to improve the governance arrangements between the Harmful Practices Steering Group and the Safeguarding Board. The current VAWG strategy has come to an end and has been implemented. The Harmful Practices sub-group has commissioned a task and finish group to ascertain the views of victims of violence, including those who are children. This will inform the VAWG strategy that is currently being developed.
- Moorfields NHS Trust has undertaken an audit of all their referrals in relations to domestic abuse, which lead to training improvements within the trust.
- 347 high risk cases (involving 430 children) were referred to the Islington MARAC which represent a 41% increase compared to last year. This is clear evidence that MARAC is embedded and protecting more children and families from domestic violence.
- In Moorfields NHS Trust a Domestic Abuse and Violence policy was developed and as part of CQUIN training was put in place to assist with the identification and management of domestic violence. Awareness raising posters were also circulated in the trust. Domestic abuse training is now included in all Level 2 safeguarding training in the Trust.

2.3 *Neglect (core business)*

- Promoting the use of early Help Assessments to identify neglected children is now part of business as usual. Moorfields NHS trust has continued work on implement the neglect toolkit this year.
- This board has reported on this previously, after the toolkit was launched. Moorfields NHS trust has continued work on implementing the neglect toolkit this year and work has been undertaken with staff who attended multi-agency meetings to promote multi-agency working and information-sharing.
- This work has been reported on in previous years, work around the Neglect Toolkit is maintained in the board's day-to-day training and awareness raising.
- A multi-agency audit of the neglect action plan has been completed which evidenced the use of the Neglect Toolkit, good information sharing by agencies, launch of escalation procedure and confirmation to chair about use of early help assessments.

2.4 *Child protection*

- The ISCB is pleased to report that it is now possible to distinguish between Early Help Assessments and requests for service. During last year there were 1789 Early Help assessments undertaken for children over 5 years. There were 286 eCAFs used as a request for service. Most requests for service are still paper-based and not included in these numbers.
- 547 new CAFs have opened during the year, a 12% increase on last year. The number of Early Help Assessments done by agencies other than the Local Authority remains low by comparison (85)

- A recent independent evaluation of early help services showed a wide reach (12% of the population) and that services are effectively stepped up and down, which means the right families receive the right service. Generally, families benefit from an effective single front door (Children's Services Contact Team) and do not have to wait long for a service.
- Children's Services have established a single point of contact, Children's Services Contact Team (CSCT), for all requests for service at Targeted and Specialist levels. The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is located in the same team. CSCT received 13,240 contacts during the year, which is nearly 11% more than the previous year.
- One in five contacts lead to a statutory referral, which is a 13% decrease from the previous year. Like the year before, the majority, 27%, of contacts came from the police

3. Progress on other key work

3.1 *Children looked after (CLA) and care leavers*

- In 2014/15 The CLA population has increased from 307 to 354 children.
- Islington have 96/10,000 (2014: 84/10 000) CLA compared to 76/10,000 for SN.
- Data shows that increases are due to Un-accompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), homeless 16+ and those remanded to custody.
- Audits have concluded that the threshold for becoming looked after is sound. The increase in the numbers of CLA is mainly as a result of issues beyond the control of the LA, new legislation, and London wide agreements about the care of UASC

3.2 *Child sexual exploitation (CSE)*

- CSC presented an audit of case where CSE had been an issue, the audit showed that the referrals regarding concern about CSE had been spread across all agencies, and that multi agency working had been sound in sharing information, identifying those at risk and ensuring protective actions had been taken
- CSE London was to enable each borough to scrutinise the depth, quality and range of their work to prevent, disrupt and protect children from sexual exploitation. The findings from this peer review included:
 - Partnerships are strong and have delivered demonstrable improvements in the identification of children at risk and the disruption of perpetrators.
 - All agencies have senior representative who lead on CSE and Police have a very strong leadership role in the MASE and Missing Children.

3.3 *Private fostering*

- Through data analysis the quality assurance sub-group were concerned about the low number of arrangements identified, even though a full awareness raising programme was in place as well as a multi-agency action plan, it did not seem to be identifying new cases. As a result CSC, Early Help and Youth Offending services were asked to screen every open case to ensure that no arrangements were slipping through the net. A screening tool was developed and used and 4 new cases were identified.
- In total, the LA received 11 new notifications this year, an increase of 2 over the last year.

- There is now routine screening for private fostering cases taking place on the schools admissions board; with screening questions being added to all in-form admissions papers. A screening tool has been developed to ensure that Private Fostering cases are being recognised and it has been made available to all agencies on the ISCB website.

3.4 *Child death overview panel (CDOP)*

- In 2014/15 there were 18 deaths of Islington residents under the age of 18 years; the average for the previous 6 years being 14 deaths per year, with a range of 9 to 19 deaths.
- The Panel discussed 15 deaths in 2014/5 , of which 3 were identified as having modifiable factors.
- During the course of the year two young people were victims of knife crime, which CDOP brought to the attention of the ISCB chair. The ISCB and partners are working on an action to plan to raise awareness about knife and weapon crime in school.

3.5 *Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)*

- The LADO has undertaken a substantial amount of raising awareness with all agencies; maintaining the year-on year referral increase that started in 2012/13. As with last year, there were a variety of referrals from different agencies about different professionals and this is likely to be as a direct result of the awareness raising that took place in the 2 years previous.
- The production of posters about the LADO continue to be distributed in council buildings, community centres, housing offices, youth centres, early years settings, custody suites, prisons, GPs, dentists, opticians and pharmacists.
- Procedures amended to include what employer records need to cover, especially where an allegation does not meet LADO criteria.
- ISCB has run 2 training sessions attended by a number of different agencies. The training was very well received and a number of organisations changed their policies and procedures as a result.

3.6 *ISCB/Children's Services annual conference*

- The theme of the conference held in February 2015 looked at:
 - Identifying and responding to Child Sexual Exploitation -Working together to make Islington safer for Children and Young People
- The day was very well attended and feedback was overwhelmingly positive

4. Multi-agency inspections and audits

4.1 *Section 11 Audit*

- The Section 11 safeguarding audit (self assessment against standards in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 – duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children), has been repeated this year. The LSCB has agreed a new method for challenging these assessments which are now presented by the relevant agency to the Core Business and Improvement Sub Group.

4.2 *Multi-agency audit: unborn children subject to CP plans*

- This multi-agency audit has been carried but reporting falls outside the scope of the annual report.

4.3 Inspection of Lough Road Children's Home

- Lough Road had their Ofsted annual unannounced inspection in January 2015. Inspectors rated the services as Good for 'overall effectiveness', 'outcomes', 'management and leadership' and 'safeguarding' and 'quality of care'

4.4 Involvement of parents and carers

- The social care complaints manager had conducted a survey of parents whose children had been subject of a child protection enquiry, which had not ended in a child protection conference, as this could suggest unnecessary intrusiveness into family life. 50 families were invited to express their views and 6 responded. All were interviewed and 2 completed a questionnaire. All 6 families reported a positive experience and most welcomed the intervention. Given the limited number of respondents it is difficult to draw firm conclusions. One recommendation was that families should be given an alternative contact for use when their social worker is not in the office.

4.5 Looked After Children Placed at a Distance (Children's Social Care)

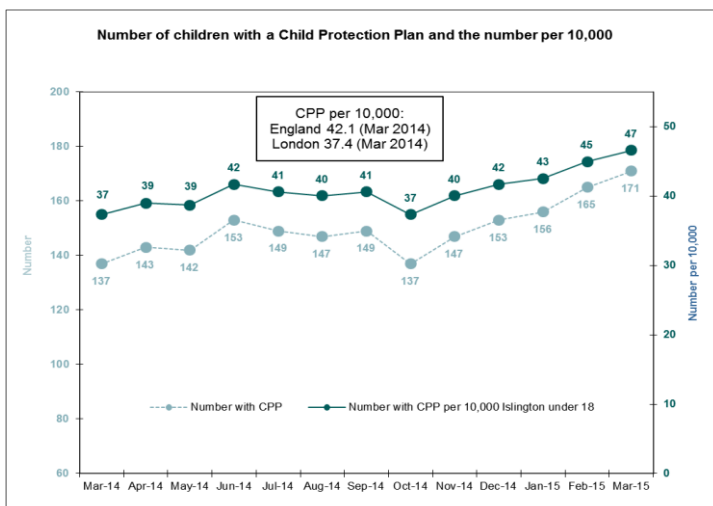
- Audit undertaken to measure how well Pan London Child Protection Procedures and CSE supplementary procedures were embedded. Audit found that a wide range of agencies could identify a risk of CSE and knew how to make appropriate referrals.

4.6 CSE audit

- Children's Social Care presented an audit of case where CSE had been an issue, the audit showed that the referrals regarding concern about CSE had been spread across all agencies, and that multi agency working had been sound in sharing information, identifying those at risk and ensuring protective actions had been taken

5. Child protection data

5.1 Number of children with a Child Protection Plan and the number per 10,000



Categories of abuse for children subject to CP arrangements

Category	Mar-14	Feb-15	Mar-15
Emotional	62	73	75
Neglect	64	76	79
Physical	10	14	13
Sexual	0	2	2
Multiple Categories	1	0	2
Total	137	165	171

6. 2015/18 Priorities

- Addressing the impact of neglect on children, including by helping them to become more resilient
- Addressing the consequences /harm suffered as a result of domestic violence, parental mental health and substance abuse.
- Identification of children who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and holding perpetrators to account.

7. Conclusion

This report has provided an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of Islington's children. It has evidenced that safeguarding activity is progressing well locally and that the Islington Safeguarding Children Board has a clear consensus on the strategic priorities for the coming year as articulated in the ISCB Business Plan 2015 - 2018

The ISCB has worked well in fulfilling its statutory functions under the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015). Statutory and non-statutory members are consistently participating towards the same goals in partnership and within their individual agencies

In conclusion as a Board we would like to see partners in universal agencies improve their engagement with the Early Help Assessment (formally referred to as CAF) which would enable partners agencies to take greater ownership of, and be proactive in, providing services to help children at the earliest opportunity and that they are not just completed and seen as a request for service.

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.

As a Board 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.

As a Board we want to see individual agencies, especially, health, education and 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

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.

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 in-telligence so that agencies can deploy their resources effectively to prevent CSE and target offenders.

The Board needs to build better partnerships with the CPS to better understand the issues surrounding the small number of offenders who are prosecuted in cases of child abuse and neglect.

8. Resources and Capacity

	12/13	13/14	14/15
INCOME			
Agreed contributions			
London Borough of Islington	118 754.00	118 754.00	118 754.00
Islington PCT	33 456.00	-	-
Islington CCG	-	6 500.00	6 500.00
NHS England (London)	-	6 500.00	6 500.00
Camden and Islington NHS Trust	-	5 500.00	5 500.00
Whittington NHS Trust	-	10 000.00	10 000.00
Moorfields NHS		5 000.00	5 000.00
Probation	2 000.00	2 000.00	2 000.00
Metropolitan Police (MOPAC)	5 000.00	5 000.00	5 000.00
CAFCASS	1 100.00	550.00	550.00
Sub-total	160 310.00	159 804.00	159 804.00
Other income			
Other grants, reimb &	31 882.00	28,271.72	-
Carry over from previous year	5 453.00	38 370.00	28 221.15
Sub-total	37 335.00	66 641.72	28 221.15
TOTAL INCOME	197 645.00	198 895.72	188 025.15
EXPENDITURE			
Staff:			
Salaries, 2.5 staff, Chair	122 148.00	147 546.42	148 984.94
Training / conferences	575.00	8.33	
Travel	290.00	172.10	220.00
Agency		6 241.25	4 045.05
Sub-total	123 013.00	153 968.10	153 249.99
Board courses:			
Hire facilities	2 187.00	1319.75	3 807.10
External trainers / e-learning	900.00	853.00	1 818.00
Refreshments	2 806.00	262.50	-
Printing (leaflets, newsletter)	4 012.00	5 032.00	955.00
Sub-total	9 905.00	7 467.25	6580.10
Board Expenses:			
SCRs	-	-	13 351.40
Legal costs	-	-	19,327.99
Annual conference	-	-	-
Board development	-	-	1 231.75
Sub-total	24 599	8 469.77	33 911.14
Office expenses:			
Stationary	1 758.00	768.45	2412.00
Sub-total	1 758.00	768.45	2412.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	159 275.00	170 673.57	196 153.23
Total income	197 645.00	198 895.72	188 025.15
Total expenditure	159 275.00	170 673.57	196 153.23
Surplus / shortfall	38 370.00	28 222.15	(8128.08)

9. Glossary of terms

ABE	Achieving Best Evidence
AMASS	Adolescent Multi-Agency Specialist Service
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
C&IFT	Camden & Islington Foundation Trust
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAIC	Child Abuse Investigation Command
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CFAB	Children and Families across Borders
CiN	Children in Need
CLA	Children Looked After
CMHT	Community Mental Health Team
CP	Child Protection
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSCT	Children's Services Contact Team
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSU	Community Safety Unit
CSV	Community Service Volunteers
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DV	Domestic Violence
ECPB	Executive Corporate Parenting Board
EET	Education, Employment and Training
EIP	Early Intervention and Prevention
ESLOs	E-Safety Safeguarding Lead Officers
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FIP	Family Intervention Project
FISS	Family Intervention Specialist Service
FNP	Family Nurse Partnership
FOSS	Family Outreach Support Service
GP	General Practitioner
HASS	Housing and Adult Social Services
ICDOP	Islington Child Death Overview Panel
ICS	Integrated Children's System
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
ISCB	Islington Safeguarding Children Board
IYSS	Integrated Youth Support Services
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LAS	London Ambulance Service
LBI	London Borough of Islington
LGID	Local Government Improvement and Development

LP	Lead professional
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MAP	Muti-Agency Plan
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MI	Motivational Interviewing
MPS	Metropolitan Police Service
NEET	Not in Education, Employment and Training
NFA	No Further Action
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PCP	Person Centred Planning
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PEP	Parental Employment Partnership
PEPs	Personal Education Plans
PPD	Public Protection Desk
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
QA	Quality Assurance
R&A	Referral and Advice
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SIP	Safer Islington Partnership
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable; Realistic, Timely
SN	Statistical Neighbour
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
TAF	Team around the Family
TYS	Targeted Youth Services
UKBA	UK Border Agency
VAI	Voluntary Action Islington
YJS	Youth Justice System
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YPDAS	Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service