

Islington Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2012–2013

Executive Summary

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1. Introduction

This executive summary presents the key points from Islington Safeguarding Children Board's (ISCB) 2012 - 2013 Annual Report. The full report and plan can be accessed on the ISCB website www.islingtonscb.org.uk

ISCB's objectives and functions are to:

- Co-ordinate 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
- Ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose
- Develop and agree thresholds, policies and procedures
- Communicate and raise awareness of safeguarding and child protection
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of practice to safeguard children
- Contribute to the planning of services and ensure participation by parents and children
- Undertake functions related to child death
- Undertake Serious Case Reviews as necessary

2. Effectiveness of safeguarding - Delivery of ISCB priorities 2012/13

There is evidence that outcomes for children are improving in Islington as a result of the work done by the children's partnership and the ISCB.

The 2012/13 Annual Plan identified 7 key priorities. Below are the priorities and some of the outcomes for children and families as a result of actions taken by ISCB member agencies.

Development of early intervention

- Early intervention services have been transformed by creating 3 Families First (FF) early intervention teams based in 3 localities across Islington. The FF teams provide a coherent offer and support up to 1,000 families per year. The teams work closely with schools in identifying families who can benefit from early help. Evidence shows that FF is identifying families earlier when potential problems can be more easily resolved and is reaching vulnerable families
- There has been a 95% increase in the volume of Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs) completed since 2012; 618 completed in 2012 and 1205 in 2013. This has been achieved predominantly through our FF early intervention teams, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and early years' services
- Islington's 16 children's centres have seen an increase in reach to all families from 74% (April-March 2011-12) to 89% (April-March.2012-13)
- The Parental Employment Programme (PEP) helps low-income or workless parents back in to employment. Between April to December 2012, 104 parents were helped into paid employment

This early intervention work is effective in reducing some of the pressures on families and in achieving better outcomes for children. Ways of measuring the impact more specifically will need to be further developed over the next year.

Core business (child protection)

- Contacts by other agencies to children's social care (CSC) have decreased by 6.53%. This is likely to be due to the implementation of Families First who work to support families below the social care threshold. Twenty-one point eight per cent of contacts progressed to assessments. This increase of 5.25% over last year is likely to be due to social care receiving a higher number of appropriate contacts and the overall reduction in volume noted above

This early intervention work is effective in reducing some of the pressures on families and in achieving better outcomes for children. Ways of measuring the impact more specifically will need to be further developed over the next year.

- There was a 1.8% decrease in the number of re-referrals between 2010/12 and 2011/13
- There was a low number of repeat child protection plans comparable with Statistical Neighbours (SN), 10.4% for Islington in 2012-13 and 14.9% for SN for 2011/12
- The length of time with a CP plan is short. The percentage of those ceasing to be the subject of a CP Plan in 2012-13 who had been the subject of a plan for 2 years or more was 7.7% for Islington and 7.8% for SN
- There has been a significant increase in the use of care proceedings. Islington has the 3rd highest rate in London at 16.3 per 10,000, an increase of 5 per 10,000 since the previous year

This early intervention work is effective in reducing some of the pressures on families and in achieving better outcomes for children. Ways of measuring the impact more specifically will need to be further developed over the next year.

- There was a reduction of 6% in children looked after (CLA) when comparing numbers from 30/03/12 (330) to 31/03/13 (310). There has been an overall decrease of 30% in CLA since 2005. Audits have concluded that the right children are looked after by the local authority

The decrease in the numbers of CLA demonstrates the effectiveness of early intervention, alternative solutions to becoming looked after and the timeliness of permanent solutions for those who do become looked after, for example, adoption, special guardianship and rehabilitation home.

- Fifty-six per cent of families with CP plans had domestic violence (DV) as a contributory factor, an increase of 18% on the previous year. This is followed by substance misuse, 26%, and mental health, 19%
- The predominant category of abuse is neglect, followed by emotional abuse. Children suffer neglect and emotional abuse due to witnessing domestic violence, or having their development impaired due to their parent's mental health and/or substance misuse
- Since February 2013 we have identified 26 children at risk of sexual exploitation of which 17 have had a multi-agency meeting to consider and manage risk

We have increased identification of young people at risk of sexual exploitation and increased protection of those at risk.

- Compared to 2011/12 there was a 44% decrease in serious youth violence, 36% reduction in knife crime, 46% reduction in gun crime and 3% reduction in robbery

This evidences effective multi-agency practice created through intelligence led and targeted partnership working, and by an appropriate balance of support and enforcement.

Teenage parents

- Conception rates have dramatically reduced. Conception rates for 15–17 year olds per 1,000 of the population decreased from 50.6 in 2007 to 34.4 in 2011
- There has been an increase in young mothers in employment with 35.7% in February 2012 and 42.4% in February 2013

Transition to adulthood

- Camden and Islington Foundation Trust (C&IFT) has a transition protocol with child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). This prevents young people slipping out of services
- The learning disability transitions team has been strengthened within the adult learning disability partnership and now works with young people from 14 years. This supports the smooth transition to adult services
- Children's Social Care's (CSC) 16+ team provided services to 16 and 17 year olds who faced issues related to homelessness and gaining independence. These young people and their families were provided with support and services to enable them to avoid homelessness, crime and gang involvement

Domestic violence (DV)

- The multi-agency deep dive into service provision for children affected by domestic abuse took place between October 2011 and May 2012. The resulting action plan included: ensuring routine questioning by health; increasing referrals to the multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC); training staff in the use of the appropriate risk assessment tool; further publicising DV services in all communities; Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) and children's services to develop a co-ordinated and tiered approach to treatments/programmes for perpetrators. The action plan is being monitored by the Quality Assurance Sub-group
- The Safe Landings programme for those who have experienced DV was run in children's centres. Most parents felt that their bond with their child, ability to parent and confidence in parenting had improved as a result of attending the Safe Landings group. Children who were unable to access services before the group because of their inability to separate from their parents or their aggression towards other children were able to participate in services after the group

The above points to significant improvements in the support offered to those subject to DV or at risk of suffering it.

Young people at risk

- Youth violence fell by 20%, robbery fell by 3%, gun crime by 46% and knife crime by 36%
- January to March 2012 recorded the lowest re-offending rate over 6 months since Islington started to record reoffending in 2008
- Targeted youth services (TYS) have been successful in diverting young people from the youth justice system (YJS). In 2011/12 63% of referred young people did not go on to offend. In 2012/13 the figure was 85%. There has been a 62% decrease in the number of first time entrants into the YJS since 2007/8

This is evidence of effective practice to divert young people from offending and to reduce serious youth crime

Effectiveness of training

- Member agencies completed the second ISCB audit of safeguarding training attended by their staff and volunteers covering the period from the 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012. This audit supports single agencies and the ISCB to identify training needs and levels and to plan courses accordingly
- All the agencies audited reported that they had their own safeguarding training plans to ensure that their staff and volunteers have access to the appropriate training
- ISCB training on managing allegations against staff resulted in a number of organisations changing their policies and procedures
- Joint achieving best evidence (ABE) training undertaken between the child abuse investigation team (CAIT) and ABE trained social workers has increased the number of interviews held with ABE trained social workers, enhancing the effectiveness of interviews of children and young people
- Training attended by staff at Moorfields Eye Hospital, particularly in relation to domestic violence (DV), has resulted in referrals to Children's Social Care (CSC) in homes where there is DV
- Training delivered by Arsenal Football Club to their coaches has resulted in a higher level of best practice examples

Training is having an impact on practice but further work needs to be done to evidence impact on skill development

3. Progress on other key work

Children looked after (CLA) and care leavers

- More children and young people are being placed closer to their home address
- More children needing permanency are receiving it; 19 children were adopted
- Ninety-two per cent of Year 11 young people in care transferred to further education or training in September 2012. Islington is one of the best nationally on this indicator
- Eighty-two per cent of CLA Key Stage 2 young people achieved the national benchmark in English. It was 84% for all Islington schools

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

- As a result of writing and disseminating our CSE strategy and a wide-spread awareness raising campaign, identification of possible CSE increased from 3 to 68 young people
- Twenty-three multi-agency plan (MAP) meetings took place with support for all 23 young people. Direct work with young people was undertaken by young people's advocates. Those who were being exploited are no longer exploited
- Through diversion plans risk was reduced for those at risk, high risk was reduced to medium risk and medium risk reduced to low risk

This is evidence that practice to protect young people from sexual exploitation has improved

Private fostering

- An audit of the children's centres demonstrated that good strategies for identifying private fostering arrangements were in place
- There are currently 10 active private fostering arrangements in place which are monitored by the private fostering panel and CiN teams
- In spite of numerous actions undertaken it has been difficult to increase notification rates
- There were 7 new notifications this year. This is not different from some other London authorities
- Future plans include continuing to raise awareness, target specific services and community and faith groups and provide GPs and health practices with good practice guides on registration via a newsletter and exploring joint work with Camden

Prisons

- Improved links have been developed with Pentonville and Holloway Prisons to safeguard children whose parents are in prison and children visiting parents in prison

Child death overview panel (CDOP)

- The total numbers of deaths was 8, the lowest recorded and below the average of 14 deaths per annum for a 5 year period
- There was an equal split between male and female deaths, but overall there is a preponderance of male deaths in a ratio of 2 males to 1 female
- The age at death remains skewed towards the younger age group. There were 2 deaths in the neonatal period and 2 deaths between 1 month and 1 year of age. Half the deaths were in the first year. The overall pattern over time has been 60% of deaths occurring in the under 1 year age group
- Three of the 8 deaths were classified as 'unexpected deaths' as defined in Working Together, and a multi-agency rapid response was conducted in all cases
- None of the deaths were the subject of a serious case review

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

- The LADO has management and oversight of individual cases where allegations are made against people who work with children
- In 2010/11, 41 allegations were referred to the LADO, 82 in 2011/12 and 99 in 2012/13
- This marked increase in referrals and an increase in the range of agencies referring about different professionals is the direct result of the awareness raising that has taken place over the last 2 years
- Sixty-four referrals were related to an allegation in the workplace
- Thirty-five referrals were related to an issue in private life that raised concern as to an individual's future suitability to work with children
- Twenty-two allegations were substantiated. Most resulted in no further action due to allegations being unfounded or unsubstantiated. Six cases resulted in a referral being made to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and subsequently the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to request that the professional was barred from working with children

Involvement of children/young people

- In November 2012 Year 6 pupils from Duncombe Primary School did a presentation to ISCB on the things that made them feel unsafe. The areas they highlighted were: teenagers hanging around parks and scaring younger children; safety on all estates; better lighting on quieter roads; protection from dangerous dogs. ISCB members followed up the issues raised and changes were made where possible

ISCB annual conference

- The theme of the conference held in June 2012 was neglect. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive and indicated some of the learning that they wanted to incorporate into their practice. A follow-up workshop was held that covered strategies for working with families where there is neglect. As with the conference, feedback from participants was very positive with participants highlighting strategies they intended to include in their practice

4. Inspections and audits

Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC): Thematic inspection of joint working between children's and adult services

- This inspection took place in September 2012 and focused on joint working between children's services and substance misuse services and children's services and adult mental health services. In line with the national picture, joint working between children's services and substance misuse services in Islington was more developed than between children's services and adult mental health services
- An action plan was developed to improve joint working between children's services and adult mental health services

Audits

- **Sexual abuse audit** of 12 cases found no cases that were viewed as inadequate and practice protected children where there was a known risk of sexual abuse.
- **Child on child sexually harmful behaviours referrals to CiN service audit** of 7 referrals found 6 cases where the management of the disclosure was good/adequate; in 1 case where inadequate practice was found this was remedied pro actively through quality assurance mechanisms.
- **Quality of GP reports to CP conferences audit** found that there has been significant progress with the arrangements for requesting reports from GPs and increased compliance by GPs in providing reports for conferences, a revised GP report template was drafted
- **Referral and advice (R&A) service audit** of 50 cases where it was decided that an assessment by Children in Need (CiN) was needed found good management oversight in the majority of cases and decisions to refer for assessment were appropriate. Areas for development included improved practice for giving feedback to referrers
- **Multi-agency audit** of 10 cases found prompt intervention, good information sharing, good evidence of working together and direct work with children. Areas for development included improved recording of the child's voice and further development of SMART plans
- **Bi-annual Section 11 audit** was completed by member agencies and commissioned children's services groups. Actions that agencies need to complete to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities are fed back to them. Their progress on completing these actions is monitored

5. Child protection data

Number of children with Child Protection Plans

Month	Number with CPP	Population under 18 years	Number with CPP per 10,000 Islington under 18
Mar-09	138	33,692	49 SN* (41)
Mar-10	132	33,743	53 SN* (33)
Mar-11	112	33,743	52 SN* (33)
Mar-12	141	34,297	46 SN*(41)
Mar-13	117	34,297	34

* Statistical neighbour

Category of Abuse

Category	Mar-09	Mar-10	Mar-11	Mar-12	Mar-13
Emotional	58	46	43	58	48
Neglect	75	79	61	70	60
Physical	4	7	4	6	6
Sexual	1	0	0	7	3
Multiple Categories	1	0	0	0	0
Total	138	132	112	141	117

Age range of children with Child Protection Plans

Age Range	Mar-10 %			Mar-11 %			Mar-12 %			Mar-13 %
	England	London	Islington	England	London	Islington	England	London	Islington	
Unborn	2	NA	0	2	3	2	2	2	4	1
Under 1	12	NA	9	11	11	12	11	11	9	13
1 to 4	31	NA	33	31	30	31	31	29	30	19
5 to 9	28	NA	31	28	29	31	29	29	30	38
10 to 15	26	NA	27	25	27	24	25	26	27	28
16+	2	NA	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	1
Total %	100	NA	100							

Ethnicity of children with Child Protection Plans

Ethnicity	Mar-10 %			Mar-11 %			Mar-12 %			Mar-13 %
	England	London	Islington	England	London	Islington	England	London	Islington	Islington
White	76.5	NA	50	76.8	43.5	54.5	75.9	45.1	43.3	52.1
Mixed	8.2		25.8	7.6	15.3	28.6	7.9	15.3	19.1	12.8
Asian or Asian British	5.4		0	5.3	13	0.9	5.4	12.2	3.5	4.3
Black or Black British	5.6		23.5	5.4	22.9	11.6	4.9	21.6	28.4	26.5
Other Ethnic Groups	1.4		0.8	1.2	2.9	2.7	1.2	2.8	2.8	1.7
Missing/Unknown	0.1		0	0	0	0	0	0	2.1	0
Refused/Not Obtained	2.8		0	3.6	2.3	1.8	4.6	3.1	0.7	2.6

Gender of children with Child Protection Plans

Gender	Mar-10 %			Mar-11 %			Mar-12 %			Mar-13 %
	England	London	Islington	England	London	Islington	England	London	Islington	Islington
Female	48	NA	50	48	48	51	48	48	46	43
Male	51	NA	50	50	49	47	50	49	50	56
Unborn/Unknown	2	NA	0	2	3	2	2	3	4	1

Percentage of children with Child Protection Plans who have a disability

Children with a disability	Mar 13
Children with a disability	3%

Characteristics/contributory factors of parents who have children with Child Protection Plans*

Parental Contributory Factor	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Alcohol	67	78	59	43	67
Adult Mental Health	67	84	88	57	57
Disabled adult	2	3	5	7	4
Domestic Violence	166	151	159	124	145
Drugs	90	68	85	46	73
Learning difficulties	24	20	22	15	13
Physical chastisement		17	10	14	8
Young parent under 18	15	10	16	14	13
Total	431	431	444	320	380

*A child with a child protection plan may have more than one child/parental characteristic/contributory factor

Characteristics of children with child protection plans*

Children's Characteristics	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Child mental health	12	15	15	19	6
Disabled child	8	16	10	6	4
Sexual exploitation	1		3	5	4
Suspected trafficking			3	3	1
Total	21	31	31	33	15

*A child with a child protection plan may have more than one child/parental characteristic/contributory factor

6. 2013/14 priorities and objectives

- Early intervention and the impact of early help, including families that are hard to engage
- Joint work with adult services focusing on:
 - Parents with learning difficulties
 - Transition to mental health services
- Core business including:
 - Neglect
 - Domestic Violence

7. Conclusion

This year there has been the development of a whole new approach to early intervention. The hope is that it will be preventative. There has been a dramatic decrease in teenage pregnancies as a result of the effectiveness of multi-agency approaches, services and support that have been put in place. Work to divert young people from crime, reduce repeat offending and serious youth violence is effective as evidenced by a dramatic decrease in serious youth violence. The effectiveness of our work to improve outcomes and permanency for children looked after is shown by the educational achievements of children looked after. The work undertaken this year around sexual exploitation has resulted in 68 young people at risk being identified and supported. The investigation into domestic violence has led to planned action to support victims better and ultimately reduce their number. These improved outcomes testify to the effectiveness of multi-agency approaches, services and support that have been put in place for children.

Appendix 1 – Budget 12/13

Below is the multi-agency financial contribution by partner agencies and expenditures.

Income 12/13

NHS North Central London (Islington)	33,456
Metropolitan Police	5,000
Probation	2,000
Children's Services	118,754
CAFCASS (11/12 & 12/13)	1,100
Munro grant	31,882
11/12 budget carry over	5,453
Total	197,645

Expenditure 12/13

Staff	Salaries – 2.5 staff	122,148
	Staff training/conferences	575
	Travel	290
	Total	123,013
ISCB courses	Hire of facilities	2,187
	External trainers, E-learning package	900
	Refreshments	2,806
	Printing – information packs, leaflets, newsletter	4,012
	Total	9,905
Board expenses	Independent chair	24,599
	Serious Case Review	
	Board development	
	Annual conference	
	Total	24,599
Office expenses	Stationery	1,758
	Total	1,758
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	159,275
Underspend	Munro grant	31,883
	General underspend	6,48
	TOTAL UNDERSPEND (carry over 13-14)	38,370

Appendix 2 – Glossary of acronyms

ABE	Achieving Best Evidence
C&IFT	Camden & Islington Foundation Trust
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CiN	Children in Need
CLA	Children Looked After
CP	Child Protection
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DV	Domestic Violence
FF	Families First
FNP	Family Nurse Partnership
GP	General Practitioner
ISA	Independent Safeguarding Authority
ISCB	Islington Safeguarding Children Board
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PEP	Parental Employment Programme
R&A	Referral and Advice
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SN	Statistical Neighbour

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