



Report of: Chair of Islington Safeguarding Children Board

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Health and Wellbeing Board	10 October 2013	Item	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

SUBJECT: Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) Annual Report 12/13

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report fulfils the statutory requirement under the Children Act 2004 for the LSCB to provide an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.2 The evaluation of the effectiveness of safeguarding is complex and multi faceted. The ability to evaluate the impact of service inputs on families who have multi layered problems and who receive a range of services, can never be a precise science. Whilst the multi agency partnership is committed to the measurement of effectiveness, our understanding and ability to do this is evolving.
- 1.3 ISCB's Annual Report 12/13 covers its statutory responsibilities and governance arrangements, a review of the progress made on 12/13 priorities and other key areas of work, a summary of the work of the sub-groups, child protection data, training statistics, attendance at ISCB meetings, the 12/13 budget and priorities for 2013/14.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note ISCB's Annual Report 12/13
- 2.2 To note ISCB's 13/14 priorities and support agencies in the work required to address them

3. Background

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, Chapter 3, states the following:

- 3.1 The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and wellbeing board.
- 3.2 The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.
- 3.3 The report should also list the contributions made to the LSCB by partner agencies and details of what the LSCB has spent, including on Child Death Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and other specific expenditure such as learning events or training.

Evaluation of Effectiveness

- 3.4 The LSCB is ambitious about improving outcomes for local children and has in place a strong framework for learning and development, quality assurance (including audit and professional and service user feedback) and data analysis. These activities are triangulated to enable understanding of the impact of services on the safeguarding of Islington's children. Where shortfalls are identified in service standards, the LSCB ensures that agencies are held to account for implementing actions to address the identified issues, these are monitored through the subgroup structures.
- 3.5 The range and depth of quality assurance activity during the year has been comprehensive and has offered a good insight into the quality of practice undertaken by local agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children.
- 3.6 All agencies have been willing to expose their practices and to learn from areas identified for improvement. The partnership has the maturity to challenge poor practice and to learn from one another, a continuous cycle of improvement is evident from the outcomes of audit and performance activity.

Some of the key findings include:

- Transformation of early intervention services resulting in reaching vulnerable families and earlier identification of families when potential problems can be more easily resolved e.g. through Childrens Centres and Families First
- Use of Common Assessment Framework has increased by 95% since the previous year, this has been achieved predominantly through our Families First Early intervention teams, our SEN and Early Years services
- Over the past 24 months 75 evidence based parenting programmes have been delivered, 750 families have benefited with completion rates of 70%. Programmes have successfully reached workless and low income households, BME, lone parents, and those facing challenges with parenting
- One hundred and four parents have been helped into paid employment between April to December 2012
- Teenage conception rates have dramatically reduced. The rate for 2011 (34.4 per 1,000 population) represents a 41% decrease from the 1998 baseline

This is evidence of effective practice in Early Help

- Audit shows that most child in need cases now have a child in need plan and the quality of these plans are improving. There are 900 open cases of children in need
- 36% of S47 (child protection) enquiries led to an Initial Child Protection Conference in 2012-13 compared to 34% in 2011-12. This needs to be monitored during the forthcoming year as it is not helpful to draw families into child protection enquiries unnecessarily
- 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 number of children per 10,000 with child protection plans has reduced from 39 at 31 March 2012 to 34 at 31 March 2013
- Length of time with a child protection 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 two 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 have the 3rd highest rate in London at 16.3 per 10,000 an increase of 5 per 10,000 since the previous year.
- Significant improvement in the engagement of GPs with reporting to child protection case conferences

This is evidence of effective practice and shows that cases are effectively progressed within appropriate timescales, and that either parent's make the changes required of them or alternative plans are made for their children to ensure they are safe. Children are not removed from child protection plans prematurely

- There was a reduction of 6% in Children Looked After (CLA) when comparing number of 30/03/12 (330) to 31/03/13 (310). The CLA population remains stable and audits have concluded that the right children are looked after by the local authority
 - Overall decrease of 30% in CLA since 2005
 - We have reduced the number of newly looked after children who are required to be placed outside of the borough by 7%

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, rehabilitation home

- 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
- Serious youth violence fell overall last year by 44 per cent. There were 102 fewer incidents of serious youth violence in 2012/13, almost 2 fewer crimes every week. Youth violence fell by 20 per cent, robbery fell by 3 per cent, gun crime by 46% and knife crime by 36%

We have increased identification of young people at risk of sexual exploitation, and increased protection of those at risk, our practice and data systems have become more developed over the last year. This evidences effective multi agency practice created through intelligence led and targeted partnership working and by an appropriate balance of support and enforcement.

4. ISCB Priorities for 2013-2014

Early intervention and the impact of early help, including with families that are hard to engage

Joint work with adult services focussing on: parents with learning difficulties, transition to adult mental health services

Core business - including neglect and domestic abuse

5. Implications

5.1. Financial implications

None

5.2. Legal Implications

The Annual report of the LSCB is required to be presented to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. There is a duty on all services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

5.3. Equalities Impact Assessment

ISCB's work and annual report and that of member agencies always take into account and consider equality issues.

5.4. Environmental Implications

None.

6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 6.1 This has been a good year for Islington Safeguarding Children Board. Outcomes for children and young people have improved in some important ways, our partnerships have been as strong and effective as ever and the Board has done a lot of learning. We are getting better at focusing on outcomes and essentials and at evaluating what we are doing as a Board.
- 6.2 This year we can point to strong reductions in youth crime and teenage pregnancy, to large numbers of families with children getting early help and intervention, to fewer newly looked after children placed more than 20 miles from home and fewer young people not in education, employment or training. More teenaged parents are in education or training, Sixty three care leavers are in HE and 92% of Year 11 looked after children went on to further education or training. One hundred and two more parents are in work so their children are not growing up in workless households.
- 6.3 Our first annual conference focused on neglect, (which remains statistically the single most significant safeguarding issue in the borough) and was followed up by further work. Staff have said that the learning from these events will shape their practice and help them to be more effective in tackling neglect. We also devoted Board time to finding out how much we really know about each other's work, our ways of working together and the impact of these on improving the lives of children. This gave us valuable information on how to improve things and develop further.
- 6.4 Live input to the conference and to several Board meetings from Duncombe Primary School children gave us fresh insights into what frightens children and makes them feel unsafe. We took action on those things and reported back to the children. More work with a greater number of schools is planned for next year.
- 6.5 Nationally, this year has seen high levels of concern about child sexual exploitation. ISCB moved early in the year to develop a strategy and training and as a result, a significant number of children at risk have been identified and supported. We know that substance misuse, poor mental health and domestic violence are the key factors in most child protection cases. So this year we carried out an intensive investigation into domestic violence and action is now underway to try and reduce both its incidence and its impact.
- 6.6 After four years the Chair is stepping down, so this is her last annual report. The Board is in good shape and well placed to undertake the enhanced role now set out by central government. Islington is forging ahead with early intervention and by next year, it should be possible to measure the impact of

this work on safeguarding children. All of these positive things are entirely dependent on the hard work, expertise and dedication of the staff in all the services represented on the Board

6.7 ISCB's Annual Report contains all the areas required by Working Together 2013. Submitting the annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board fulfils the requirements this guidance.

HWBB supports agencies to help ensure that member agencies meet the ISCB's 13/14 priorities.

Attachments: ISCB Annual Report 2012/13

Final Report Clearance – ISCB's Annual Report was agreed by ISCB at the Board meeting on the 16th July 2013.

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