



Report of: Independent Chair of Islington Safeguarding Children Board

Health and Wellbeing Board	Date: 18 October 2017	Ward(s): All
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SUBJECT: Islington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report is to update the Board about the findings of the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) annual report which highlights the performance and effectiveness of agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. A full copy of the ISCB Annual Report 2016/17 is attached.
- 2.2 This report is also to update the Board on the inspection of the ISCB, by OFSTED, under the 'Single Inspection Framework' [SIF], which took place in Islington between 28.4.17 and 26.5.17. A full copy of the Inspection report is attached.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the findings of the Islington Safeguarding Children Board report and to comment on how the Board members intend to take forward the recommendations in the ISCB Annual Report.
- 2.2 To note and make any comment on the findings in the OFSTED inspection report.

3. Background

ISCB Annual Report 2016/17

- 3.1 The ISCB Annual Report sets out the work of the ISCB and its understanding of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across Islington.
- 3.2 The year was challenging for all of the partner agencies who continue to work in a context of shrinking

budgets and resources. However, whilst this has been the case for several years now, this report provides evidence of the commitment and determination amongst agencies and professionals to keep all of Islington's children and young people safe.

- 3.3 One of the roles of the ISCB is to influence and shape service delivery which it does this through effective single and multi-agency audits and by challenge and scrutiny of existing practice. During this reporting period specific audits were carried out with a focus on powers of police protection and child sexual exploitation. A comprehensive account of audits can be found on pages 32-37 of the attached report.
- 3.4 The ISCB challenged the authority and partners around the effectiveness and the data collection of return home interviews conducted with children who go missing. Although there had been a review of practice and a change in processes which should ultimately improve performance it remains an area that could be strengthened.
- 3.5 In line with the ISCB's priorities we are asking the board and partners to continue the focus on:
- Increasing the resilience of children who are vulnerable because of neglect,
 - parental factors that affect the wellbeing of children: domestic violence, parental mental ill-health and substance misuse.
 - Identification of children at risk of sexual exploitation and holding perpetrators to account.
- 3.6 The ISCB annual report finds that ISCB partners are effective in ensuring that front-line practice is good and keep children in Islington safe from harm and abuse.
- 3.7 The ISCB Report makes several recommendations for strategic partners to further improve practice (pages 47 – 48 of the ISCB Annual Report).
- OFSTED inspection of the LSCB**
- 3.7 The LSCB was judged to be GOOD, with strong evidence of partners working together to improve outcomes for children and to keep them safe. Please see full report attached
- 3.8 Inspectors found that the LSCB is ambitious with a clear sense of vision and purpose and is well led, well managed and well run.
- 3.9 The LSCB fulfils all of its statutory functions, including those relating to private fostering and allegations against people who work with children.
- 3.10 Early help, thresholds for access to children's social care services, children looked after and care leavers are very much in scope and constantly under review.
- 3.11 Partnerships, particularly with health, are well developed and effective. Governance arrangements are robust. The board makes a significant contribution to the development of services at both a strategic and an operational level.
- 3.12 Only 4 recommendations were made, all of which had been previously identified as areas for action and development and were already in progress. These recommendations can be seen on page 32 of the full report.
- 3.13 Ofsted found the Local Authority's Children's Services to be GOOD, which provides significant reassurance that the quality of social work and early help practice with children and families is robust, enhances children's safety and wellbeing and is compliant with statutory requirement and expectations.

4. Implications

Financial implications:

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications:

- 4.2 Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented on LSCBs.

The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements.

The Chair 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).

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 Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Environmental Implications

- 4.3 The main environmental impacts of the Islington Safeguarding Children Board are associated with normal office occupancy (i.e. energy, water and resource use and waste generation) as well as transport-related impacts such as emissions and congestion. The board also encourages agencies to work together, which potentially reduces duplication and therefore contributes to reducing their environmental impacts.

Resident Impact Assessment:

- 4.4 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.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The ISCB annual report finds that partnership working in Islington is robust and effective to keep children and young people safe. Leadership is particularly strong and this finding was supported by the recent inspection of Children's Services and the LSCB.

Appendices

Appendix A - Islington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17

Appendix B - Ofsted Inspection Report; London Borough of Islington; Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

Background papers:

None

Signed by:



10/10/2017

Corporate Director Children's Services

Date

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