

**Report of: Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills**

<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>	<b>Date: 4 November 2020</b>	<b>Ward(s): All</b>
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**SUBJECT: Islington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report  
2018/19****1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 The attached report shows that safeguarding activity is progressing well locally and that the Islington Safeguarding Children Board (ISCB) will continue with its strategic priorities for the coming year (p.15)
- 1.2 The ISCB has worked well in fulfilling its statutory functions under *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015* statutory guidance. Statutory and non-statutory members are consistently participating towards the same goals in partnership and within their individual agencies.
- 1.3 This report covers an 18-month period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019. This covers the period under old legislative requirements contained in *Working Together 2015*. This has since been superseded by *Working Together 2018*. New multi-agency safeguarding arrangements were introduced in Islington on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Islington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018/19 and the Key Messages (pp. 57-59) be noted:
  - Support and champion staff to share and record information at the earliest opportunity, and proactively challenge decisions that fail to adequately address the needs of children and young people and their parents or carers.
  - Make sure that help for parents and children is provided early in life and as soon as problems emerge so that children get the right help, at the right time.
  - Ensure that the priority given to child sexual exploitation by the Safeguarding Board is reflected in organisational plans, and that partners play their part in the work of The Board's sub-groups.
  - Ensure that work continues to address domestic abuse and that the evaluation of the local approach recognises the needs and risks to children and young people.
  - Ensure work being undertaken to tackle neglect is evaluated and evidence of its impact on

children and young people informs both strategic planning and service delivery.

- Ensure that substance misuse services continue to develop their role in respect of safeguarding children and young people and that greater evaluation is undertaken in regard to the links between parents and carers' substance misuse and the high number of children and young people at risk of significant harm.
- Focus on young people who may be at risk and vulnerable as a result of disabilities, caring responsibilities, radicalisation and female genital mutilation.
- Make sure that young people going into Adult Services for the first time get the help they need and that there is clarity about the different processes and timescales involved.
- Ensure that agencies commissioning and delivering services to adults with mental health issues need to ensure mechanisms are in place for the monitoring and reporting of their performance in respect of safeguarding children and young people.
- Ensure that performance information is developed, collected and monitored and that this is provided with a narrative that helps everyone understand how effective safe-guarding services

### **3. Background**

3.1 The Independent Chair of the ISCB has a statutory obligation to prepare an annual report on the work of the ISCB and the safety of children in the Local Authority.

3.2 The Board has done well to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding within Islington. The ISCB was subject to an Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspection in December 2018, looking specifically at the multi-agency response to sexual abuse in the family in Islington. The final report concluded that *'partners have good engagement with the board. Their consistent attendance and ownership of the work of the board's subgroups demonstrate a shared responsibility to improving outcomes for children and help agencies to hold each other to account. ISCB partners have created a learning environment with constructive challenge that drives continuous improvements in operational practice. An example of this is the effective monitoring of partners' engagement in child protection processes. This has improved information-sharing by strengthening levels of reporting and attendance at child protection case conferences.*

### **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 and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:**

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the report. The board itself has some minor environmental impacts from its building use and member travel.

#### **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. Reason for recommendations

5.1 The LSCB Annual Report 2018/19 is for information and consideration by the Committee

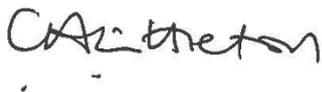
### Appendices

- Appendix 1: ISCB Annual Report 2018/19

**Background papers:** None

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**



Carmel Littleton, Corporate Director of  
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Date: 11 June 2020

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