



Report of: Corporate Director of People Directorate

Children's Services Scrutiny	Date: 9 March 2021	Ward(s): All
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SUBJECT: ISCB Annual Report 2019/20

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.
- 1.2 The ISCB has worked well in fulfilling its statutory functions under *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018* statutory guidance. Statutory and non-statutory members are consistently participating towards the same goals in partnership and within their individual agencies.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Islington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2019/20 and the Key Messages (pp. 71-72) 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' sub-stance 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 safeguarding services are.

3. Background

- 3.1 The safeguarding partners of the ISCB have a statutory obligation to prepare an annual report on the work of the ISCB and the safety of children in the Local Authority.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The Islington 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 role of the Islington Safeguarding Arrangements is;

To support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where;

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively

- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

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 2018*).

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.

4.4 **Resident Impact Assessment:**

Please retain this standard paragraph and add relevant text about specific impacts and mitigation below:

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. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

5.1 The LSCB Annual Report 2019/20 is for information and consideration by the Committee

Appendices

- Appendix 1: ISCB Annual Report 2019/20

Background papers:

- None

Signed by:

Carmel Littleton,
Corporate Director People

Date

Date

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