



**Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee**

8 October 2018

**Report from the Independent Chair of
Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board**

For Information

Wards Affected: ALL

**Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
Annual Report 2017-18**

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| Wards Affected: | All |
| Key or Non-Key Decision: | N/A |
| Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small> | Open |
| No. of Appendices: | 1 – Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18 |
| Background Papers: | None |
| Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small> | Wendy Proctor Strategic Partnerships Lead Safeguarding Children and Young People Wendy.Proctor@brent.gov.uk 020 8937 4237 Mike Howard Independent Chair Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board |

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To enable members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to review the Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-18.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Brent LSCB is a multi-agency partnership board consisting of a range of organisations delivering services to the borough's children and young people.

- 3.2 Brent LSCB members represent their organisations on the Board. These organisations include Brent Council, schools and colleges, the Police, a range of local health service providers and health commissioners, probation, the voluntary sector and lay members (lay members represent and advocate for the community).
- 3.3 Brent LSCB's role is to coordinate and measure the effectiveness of the services which are provided to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Brent. Its main functions are to:
- develop local safeguarding children policies and procedures
 - raise awareness of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
 - monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done across the partnership in Brent to safeguard children
 - participate in the planning of services for children in Brent
 - undertake reviews of serious cases and advise on lessons to be learned
- 3.4 In order to provide effective scrutiny, LSCBs must be independent and every LSCB must have an independent chair who can hold all agencies to account.
- 3.5 Brent LSCB's Independent Chair, Mike Howard is held to account for the effective working of the LSCB by the Chief Executive of Brent Council and must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of Brent LSCB.
- 3.6 It is important to note that LSCBs do not commission or deliver direct frontline services and each Board partner agency retains its own existing line of accountability for safeguarding children and young people in Brent (as laid out in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004).
- 3.7 The focus of Brent LSCB's work is identified through agreed priorities influenced by both local and national safeguarding agendas. The areas taken as the Board's priorities for 2017-18 were:
- domestic abuse
 - neglect
 - child sexual abuse
 - child & parental mental ill health
- 3.8 During 2017-18 Brent LSCB carried out a range of activities in response to these priorities. Further details of the activity are noted in section 5 of the Annual Report.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide the Board with resources to enable it to carry out its functions. These contributions can include money, staff time (representation at the Board and sub groups) or 'in kind'.

- 4.2 The main financial contributor to the LSCB continues to be Brent Council. This contribution funds the staff support arrangements delivered through the Strategic Partnerships team.
- 4.3 Brent NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are the second largest funding contributor. Additionally, Brent CCG manage and fund the management and support arrangements of the Children Death Overview Panel (CDOP).
- 4.4 All London LSCBs, regardless of size, continue to receive the same level of financial contribution from the Metropolitan Police, CAFCASS and Probation Services.
- 4.5 A full breakdown of Brent LSCB's 2017-18 income and expenditure is noted in section 4.6 of the LSCB Annual Report.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 In December 2015, the Government commissioned Alan Wood CBE to undertake a fundamental review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) within the context of local strategic multi-agency working.
- 5.2 The Wood review was published in May 2016 and found widespread agreement that the current system needs to change in favour of a new model that will ensure collective accountability across the system.
- 5.3 During 2017, in response to the Wood review recommendations, the Government passed the Children and Social Work Act in 2017. The guidance repeals the statutory requirement contained in the Children Act 2004 for the establishment of an LSCB in each local authority area.
- 5.4 The Act defines a set of 'safeguarding partners' for each area – the local authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and the Police. These three partners are jointly responsible for agreeing local arrangements to coordinate multi-agency work to safeguard children and ensuring their effectiveness.
- 5.5 Working Together to Safeguard Children is the statutory guidance which sets out what is expected of organisations, individually and jointly, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 5.6 Work to significantly revise the 2015 edition of this guidance begun in 2017-18, this was to reflect the legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 5.7 The Board responded to the Government's consultation document and the final Working Together 2018 guidance was published in July 2018.

- 5.8 From April 2018, Brent LSCB has entered a transitional period in line with the national guidance. Brent LSCB will continue to carry out all statutory functions, including commissioning SCRs where the criteria are met, until the point at which safeguarding partner arrangements begin to operate in Brent.
- 5.9 Further details of how the Board will carry out its functions during this transitional period are noted in section 6.3 of the Annual Report.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The role of Brent LSCB is to co-ordinate and measure the effectiveness of the services provided to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Brent.
- 6.2 In exercising its statutory functions, Brent LSCB must be assured that the multi-agency services are accessible, inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of Brent's children and young people, including those with additional needs and/or vulnerabilities. It also aims to ensure that services are culturally aware and skilled in identifying, assessing and meeting the individual needs of Brent children and their families.
- 6.3 There are no equality implications as a result of this report.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 All members of the LSCB have all contributed to the annual report.