

	<p align="center">Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 26 November 2019</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Independent Chair of Brent Safeguarding Children Board</p>
<p align="center">Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board Closing Report 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2019</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	1 – Appendix 1 - Final Closing Brent LSCB Annual Report Apr 18-Sept 19
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To enable members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to consider the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Closing Report covering the period from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2019 (18 months).
- 1.2 Members are asked to note that with effect from 21 September 2019, in light of new legislation the LSCB ceased to exist and has been replaced by new safeguarding arrangements (further details in section 5 of this briefing note).

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 exploitation
- 3.8 During the period under review, Brent LSCB carried out a range of activities in response to these priorities. Further details of the activity are noted in section 3 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 Section 2.4 of the LSCB Closing Report gives a full breakdown of Brent LSCB's income and expenditure.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 In 2017, the Government passed the Children and Social Work Act, which repealed the statutory requirement, contained in the Children Act 2004 for the establishment of a LSCB in each local authority area.
- 5.2 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 co-ordinate multi-agency work to safeguard children and ensuring their effectiveness.
- 5.3 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. The 2015 edition of this guidance was significantly revised in 2018 to reflect the legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 5.4 In light of these national changes, Brent LSCB entered a transitional period during 2018-19 and continued to carry out all statutory functions, including commissioning SCRs until the point at which safeguarding partner arrangements began to operate in Brent on 21 September 2019.

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 because 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.