



Scrutiny Committee

1 October 2014

Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report for Scrutiny

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the independent chair of the Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to present the annual report to members.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee reviews and notes the contents of the annual report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013" is the statutory guidance issued by the Government with regard to effective multi-agency working to safeguard children. It addresses the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provides a framework for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's) to monitor the effectiveness of local services. It was published in March 2013 and came into force in April 2013.
- 3.2 The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board must publish "an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of

children in the local area". The report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year. This report covers the period April 2013 to March 2014. The format of the report is that recommended by the Independent Association of LSCB Chairs.

- 3.3 The guidance states that the report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and copies will be circulated in line with the 2013 guidance.
- 3.4 The present Chair joined the Board in May 2012 and restructured the Board, creating an Executive group, drafting a new constitution and a revised three year business plan.
- 3.5 This report covers year 2 of the three year business plan
- 3.6 The refreshed business plan was agreed by LSCB partners in September 2013
- 3.7 The work of the Board is taken forward by sub groups. Each of these sub groups are chaired by members of the Executive group.
- 3.8 The report reviews the progress of the Boards priorities addressed through seven sub groups, these are;
- Quality Audit and Outcomes;
This group encompasses the monitoring and evaluation function of the Board.
 - Vulnerable Groups;
This group focusses on ensuring the Board is aware of specific vulnerable groups of children and young people in the borough and having oversight of what safeguarding activities are taking place, working collaboratively with the Safer Brent Partnership.
 - The Voice of the Child:
The group is set up to ensure the voices of children and young people are listened to and inform the Board in considering safeguarding.
 - Developing a Learning Culture;
This group is the learning, development and communication arm of the Board.
 - Policies and Procedures,
Ensures partners have access to clear policies and procedures in line with statutory guidance
 - Serious Case Reviews,

Ensures Serious Case Reviews are undertaken and learning cascaded in line with national guidance.

- **Child Death Overview Panel**

This panel reviews all child deaths in Brent and the findings inform local strategic planning on how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people.

- 3.9 The report addresses the analysis of the sufficiency of arrangements to ensure the safety of the children and young people of Brent.
- 3.10 The report addresses the finances of the Board and how the budget is committed.
- 3.11 Future challenges facing the Board are identified with a view to identifying work to be addressed within the final year of the three year plan.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The requirement to publish an Annual Report is set out in “Working Together to Safeguard Children” (2013) which is statutory guidance published by the Department for Education.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 None

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 None

Background Papers -

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