

	<p>Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 23 November 2016</p> <p>Report from the Independent Chair of Brent Local Safeguarding Children's Board</p>
<p>Wards affected: ALL</p>	
<p>Brent Local Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2015-16</p>	

1.0 Summary

1.1. The attached annual report details the work of Brent LSCB during 2015-16 identifying what went well, what the challenges were and key actions to progress the LSCB business in 2016-17.

1.2 There is currently a statutory responsibility for all local authority areas to have a LSCB to provide assurance that multi-agency working ensures children are safeguarded.

1.3 The key achievements in 2015-16 were:

- the review of existing arrangements, and the implementation of a revised structure, to support LSCB in meeting its statutory responsibilities, and providing assurance that children in Brent are effectively safeguarded and their well-being promoted.
- sustaining a wide Board and sub-group membership of statutory and voluntary partners.
- the delivery of a comprehensive training programme that saw over 2000 participants complete online or classroom based courses. Training evaluations were positive and received positive feedback from social workers during Ofsted inspection.
- the sub-groups driving forward work on progressing LSCB priorities particularly around the areas of FGM, CSE and radicalisation.
- arrangements to support the Child Death Overview Panel - resourced by the CCG - continued to robustly manage and review all child deaths.
- that robust systems were in place for the Serious Case Review sub-group ensuring that Brent LSCB is prepared for a SCR if required. The sub-group also

considers serious incidents referring two, in 2015-16, to the National SCR Panel who confirmed the decision that they did not meet SCR criteria.

- the completion of a range of multi-agency audits linked to LSCB priorities.
- a review of Brent Family Front Door referrals identified the 4 priority areas for 2016-17.
- Brent LSCB promoted the Signs of Safety approach within multi-agency practice.

1.4 An Ofsted Inspection report published in November 2015 rated Brent LSCB as 'requiring improvement to be good'.

1.5 The completion of the annual report, and current work during 2016-17, has raised questions about the robustness of current arrangements and commitment of partners.

1.6 Going forward more effective partnership working and engagement is required to ensure that Brent LSCB can be assured children in Brent are effectively safeguarded

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Scrutiny notes this report and the content.

2.2 Scrutiny acknowledges the need for key strategic boards i.e. Safer Brent Partnership, Adult Safeguarding Board and the Children's Trust to work closely with Brent LSCB.

2.3 Scrutiny supports the importance of partnership working to safeguarding children in Brent and the work of Brent LSCB.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The progress of LSCB business plan is detailed in the report as well as the key challenges and propose actions for 2016-17.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The LSCB budget is funded from financial contributions from the separate agencies. These contributions vary in size and are sometimes only agreed by the partner agencies towards the end of the financial year. The London Borough of Brent provides the largest contribution both in terms of budget and services provided in kind.

4.2 Benchmarking the LSCB budget has revealed it is in the lowest quartile nationally.

4.3 In order to plan a sufficient budget that meets the business needs of the LSCB, all agencies should agree an appropriate contribution in advance of the start of the financial year. For 2017/18 the LSCB can then operate a budget that is transparent and addresses priorities.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Currently all local authority areas have a statutory responsibility to have a LSCB that has a wide partner agency membership and is provided with assurance that children in Brent are safeguarded and their well-being promoted.

5.2 The Wood Review of safeguarding arrangements and the subsequent government response means future arrangements will need to:

- be a joint arrangement between the local authority, police and health.
- ensure there is independent scrutiny of safeguarding activity.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 Brent LSCB should be assured that arrangements for all children in Brent are safeguarded and their welfare promoted. This includes i) those children with additional needs or vulnerabilities that may make them more at risk, as well as ii) ensuring that given the population profile in Brent services are culturally competent in identifying, assessing and meeting the individual needs of children and their families.

Background Papers

Working Together to Safeguard Children – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – March 2015

Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers AND review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board – Report Published 30th November 2015.

Review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Board – The government's response to Alan Wood CBE – Published May 2016

Brent LSCB Business Plan – September 2016

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