

REPORT TO:	Adult Social Services Review Panel – 9 November 2016
AGENDA ITEM:	9
SUBJECT:	Croydon Safeguarding Adults' Board Annual Report 2015-16 Croydon Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015 - 16
LEAD OFFICER:	Barbara Peacock Executive Director People Sarah Baker Independent Chair, Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB) and Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB)
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Louisa Woodley, Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care Cllr Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON: <p>The 2004 Children Act and the 2014 Care Act legislated for the requirement for local Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards. Both Boards are independently Chaired and made up from members of local statutory and voluntary agencies, and partners, with the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and protecting vulnerable adults from harm and exploitation, in the local area. The Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB) and the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) are each required by statute to publish an Annual Report.</p> <p>The key role of each Board is to enable agencies to hold each other to account to secure effective safeguarding arrangements for children and adults in the local authority area. This role accords with most of Croydon Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18 independence priorities, namely: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect children and vulnerable adults from harm and exploitation • To help families be healthy and resilient and able to maximise their life chances and independence • To help people from all communities live longer, healthier lives through positive lifestyle choices • To prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence where where possible, support victims and hold perpetrators to account 	
FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A	
KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: This is not a Key decision	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Adult Social Services Review Panel note the annual report of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board.
- 1.2 That the Adult Social Services Review Panel note the annual report of the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to detail the activity and effectiveness of the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board (CSAB) and the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) between April 2015 and March 2016. The reports are submitted by the independent chair of the Safeguarding Board, which ensures that the Council and other agencies are given objective feedback on the effectiveness of local arrangements for safeguarding adults and children. The reports also include the Strategic Plan objectives for 2016/17. The reports set out the key priorities for the Boards for the current year.

3. DETAIL - CSAB (Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board)

- 3.1 The Adults' Annual Safeguarding Report is due for presentation at the Adults Social Services Review Panel on 11 October 2016. It is an important function of Council's oversight of this vital activity that the safeguarding activity of our most vulnerable residents is given rigorous scrutiny by elected members.
- 3.2 The report is introduced by the Independent Chair of the Board, Sarah Baker. The independence of the Chair ensures that agencies receive the challenge and scrutiny required to ensure improvement. The report gives a comprehensive update on the multi-agency activity to safeguard adults.
- 3.3 The report identifies that key areas of development during the year April 2015 - March 2016 have been: Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Ensuring compliance to the Care Act 2014, section 14. The report includes data on safeguarding adults' referrals and activity. The data reveals 25% more females than males experience abuse, 2 in 5 adults who have reported abuse are over 75, 3 in 5 people reported abuse from those that they know.
- 3.4 The business plan for 2016/17 sets the priorities going forward:
 - Promoting self-referrals; informing people; checking out language used in information (links to service user work stream in Board strategic plan)
 - Commissioning focus including picking up on issues from the data re neglect
 - A continued focus on financial abuse/Scams
 - Continued focus on raising awareness in BME communities
 - Establishing a working relationship with Health and Wellbeing Board

- Prevention: focus on isolation (GPs)
- Take forward partnership understanding and framework around working with risk (person centred...links with MSP)
- Issues around constructive mutual challenge/candour and transparency
- Understanding of thresholds ...need to establish shared understanding

The Board recognises the importance of the partnership in working together to meet the above objectives.

4. DETAIL – CSCB

- 4.1 The Children's Safeguarding Annual Report is due for presentation at the Children and Family Scrutiny Panel on 11th October 2016. It is an important function of Council's oversight of this vital activity that the safeguarding activity of our most vulnerable residents is given rigorous scrutiny by elected members.
- 4.2 The report is introduced by the Independent Chair of the Board, Sarah Baker. The Chair is required to be independent and this ensures that agencies receive the challenge and scrutiny required to ensure improvement. The report gives a comprehensive update on the multi-agency activity to safeguard children.
- 4.3 The report outlines that considerable progress has been made against the ambitious set of priorities in the past year. The report is presented as a set of straightforward Questions and Answers in respect of the Board, its purpose, noting key responsibilities and how these have been achieved.

Information about Croydon children and the issues that impact upon them, form a large part of the report, pages 12 – 46. Demographic data about Croydon children including information of numbers of children looked after and of those with Child protection plans is helpfully presented, p 17. Impact of traditional topics such as Domestic Violence, p19 are noted alongside more recent emerging concerns such as Modern Slavery, p34 and Radicalisation, p38.

The formal responsibilities of the Board are noted from page 46- 72, and include the important learning from Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding audits. These all feed into the training programme which has had huge take-up from across the partnership.

Feedback from some sub-groups is captured from pages 72- 78, the QAPP sub-group notes achievements against the 2015-16 Business Plan, p72. These achievements alongside the issues identified across all of the sub-groups have contributed to developing the CSCB plan for 2016/17.

- 4.4 The report sets out the agreed priorities for the Board this year 2016/17:
 - Develop Joint working across the CSCB partnership on assessments, plans and interventions
 - Serious Case Reviews and Audits - Learning into practice, develop the CSCB approach to Commissioning Serious Case Reviews and Learning

Reviews to further develop local learning and practice development.
Review the changes that have taken place as a result of recent audits and the impact these changes have had.

- CSCB Conference and focus on Neglect.
- Respond to the recommendations of the Wood Review and Government reforms contained in the Children and Social Work Bill
- Child and Family Engagement – The insight offered by children and families provides a unique perspective which provides professional practice a further opportunity to improve and develop.
- A co-ordinated and comprehensive safeguarding focus within schools across Croydon in order to identify children at risk and ensure a comprehensive safeguarding response, with a focus on:-
 - Neglect
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - Peer on Peer Abuse
 - Harmful Sexual Behaviour
 - Radicalisation
 - Gangs
 - Knife Crime
 - Female Genital Mutilation

4.5 The Board recognises the need for further improvement in the current year and beyond. The report outlines where there remain issues of concern and what actions are planned to address these. The work of the Board is to bring agencies together to meet the requirements to protect children and to promote their wellbeing. In the circumstances where all agencies are increasingly under pressure of resources, this collective endeavour remains crucial.

5.1 CONSULTATION

5.1 Relevant local agencies contributed to the annual report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Approved by – Lisa Taylor- Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer

7. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Approved by: Jacqueline Harris – Baker, Lawyer on behalf of the Acting Council Solicitor and cting Monitoring Officer.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report for Croydon Council employees.

Approved by: Debbie Calliste, HR Business Partner, on behalf of the Director of Human Resources

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

9.1 SAB

- 9.1.1 A key priority for the Council is ensuring we work with our partners to make Croydon a stronger and fairer place for all our communities. The impact of the proposals that have been and / or will be delivered through the structures outlined in this report are expected to have a positive impact on residents with different protected characteristics, in particular older people (p.11 & p.19 of the report), women (p.11 of the report) and the BME communities (p.11 & p.19 of the report).
- 9.1.2 Quality assurance data provided in the annual report is designed as a summary set of information and is provided at a high level, without detailed breakdown of groups with various protected characteristics. However, as a multi-agency Board, and with an independent identity (p4 of report), the new performance dashboard will still enable the Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board to assess its impact against the Council's Equality Policy (2016/20) and statutory Equality Objectives (2016/20).
- 9.1.3 Although partner agencies cannot be held accountable to these, as statutory agencies they will have their distinctive organisational equality objectives and policies, under the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 9.1.4 The equality objectives for 2016-20 with which this work is particularly aligned are on community safety (domestic abuse), and social isolation.
- 9.1.5 It also aligns with the Independence and Liveability objectives of the Corporate Plan.
- 9.1.6 Going forward, the Board will need to consider which agency carries the corporate risk to show 'due regard', under the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act, as and when projects and programmes arise from the work of Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board.

9.2 CSCB

- 9.2.1 Quality assurance data provided in the annual review report is designed as a summary set of information and is provided at a high level, without detailed breakdown of groups with various protected characteristics
- 9.2.2 Promoting equality and diversity is absolutely inherent in the report as it makes

a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable children and young people - a key equality target group.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

10.1 None

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

11.1 None

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

12.1 That the Council notes the effectiveness of the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board in ensuring the safeguarding of vulnerable adults in Croydon.

13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

13.1 None

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BACKGROUND PAPERS - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: None

APPENDICES: Appendix 1 – Annual Report of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board

Appendix 2 – Annual Report of the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board