

REPORT TO:	CABINET 14 NOVEMBER 2016
AGENDA ITEM:	8
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:	<i>Cllr Louisa Woodley, Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care</i> <i>Cllr Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning</i>
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 CSAB and the 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 possible, support victims and hold perpetrators to account. 	
FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	
KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: This is not a Key decision	

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the
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decisions set out in the recommendations below

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Cabinet notes the annual report of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board and that this report will be scrutinised by the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel.
- 1.2 That the Cabinet notes the annual report of the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board and that this report will be considered by the Adult Social Care Review Panel.

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 Adults Board)

- 3.1 The Adults' Annual Safeguarding Report is due for presentation at the Adults Social Services Review Panel on 9 November 2016. It is an important function of the 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. The Care Act 2014 has had a significant impact on Safeguarding Adults. The Board is now a statutory forum which has to produce an Annual Report.
- 3.3 The report identifies that key areas of development during the year April 2015 - March 2016 have been: Safeguarding Adult Reviews and ensuring continuing 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. In comparison to last year there has been an increase in safeguarding referrals (concerns) received. However, the number of these referrals/concerns which have gone on to be Safeguarding Enquiries has reduced. This is a positive feature as it indicates that the criteria set out in S42 of the Care Act is being more appropriately applied. This means resources are being more

focused on appropriate safeguarding actions and avoids people being needlessly brought into the safeguarding process. However there is a need for further work in this areas as the number of safeguarding referrals which go on to be Enquiries in Croydon is still above the nation rate. Furthermore, the number of safeguarding concerns received by Croydon is significantly higher than the national rate.

3.4 The business plan for 2016/17 sets the priorities going forward:

- Promoting self-referrals; informing people; checking out language used informaton (links to service user work stream in Board strategic plan)
- Commissioning focus including picking up on issues from the data re: self neglect and hoarding
- 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 (in partnership with GPs)
- Take forward partnership understanding and framework around working with risk (person centred approaches and embedding making safeguarding personal)
- Issues around constructive mutual challenge/candour and transparency
- Understanding of thresholds and the need to establish shared understanding of thresholds. This is important given the issues highlighted in paragraph 3.3.

3.5. A major initiative within the London Borough of Croydon People Directorate has been the Transformation of Adult Social Care (TRASC) programme. Within this programme is a key workstream which is focussing on integrating and mainstreaming of safeguarding practice into all social work practice, moving away from a centralised model. This will enable us to more effectively implement and embed making safeguarding personal (MSP), and making 'safeguarding everyone's business'. A plan is being implemented on a phased basis to main stream safeguarding work into all front line teams. A further part of this work has been to develop a safeguarding triage service which is beginning to have a positive impact on ensuring appropriate safeguarding thresholds are applied. The safeguarding triage function, based in our centralised duty team, has only been in place a few months but early indications show it is beginning to have a positive impact with fewer and more appropriate cases being referred to the safeguarding team.

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

4. DETAIL – CSCB (Croydon Safeguarding Children Board)

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.

Key achievements in the past year include:

- Improvements in the service that we offer children who are at risk of Sexual Exploitation. We have been successful in raising awareness across the authority, including holding a major Congress on this issue. We have improved information sharing and our analysis of the extent of the issue within Croydon and the partnership have improved their effectiveness at interventions with individual children
- Embedded arrangements for Return Home Interviews for children who have gone missing and ensured that these are directed at those who are most at risk.
- Established a targeted Project to improve services to women and children who have been affected or who may be at risk of Female Genital Mutilation. This has included training to 989 professionals within the authority.
- Ensuring that all agencies have completed their safeguarding audits under Section 11 and that there is a multi-agency quality assurance panel process for oversight of these reports. 100% of schools have successfully completed their audits.
- Continued with a comprehensive Learning and Development offer. This includes support for learning from Serious Case Reviews across the partnership.
- Held a major conference on Early Help. The multi-agency Best Start programme was launched in April 2016 following extensive partnership collaboration.
- Met our responsibilities to oversee the quality of multi-agency safeguarding work. We have undertaken or commissioned a number of multi-agency audits and ensured that there is oversight of the action plans that have been developed as a result of these audits. This includes working with children under the age of one and children with disabilities. As a result of previous audit findings a Fathers Project has been established that works across the partnership.
- Continued to raise awareness around the issue of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking within Croydon. This has resulted in a rise in the numbers of children identified as being at risk and referrals to the National Referral Mechanism.

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. These priorities were agreed across agencies following a detailed consultation process:

- 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. JOINT WORK

- 5.1 The establishment of the People's Department in Croydon and the appointment of a single chair across both Safeguarding Boards offers a major opportunity to plan collectively and strategically. Many safeguarding issues are closely connected and relate to both Adults and Children.
- 5.2 A series of meetings have been established through the joint Chair, bringing together key strategic managers across the Boards to consider issues and ensure that there is awareness across respective Partnerships. This will also provide a key link with strategic partnerships across the authority such as the Safer Croydon Partnership.
- 5.3 An example of this work has been the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Partnership, which will report to both Boards. Domestic Abuse remains a key priority for this Council and the Partnership will give further assurance that the strategic objectives, which have relevance for adults and for children, are being given sufficient oversight and challenge.
- 5.4 This is an exciting development that is an example of the way in which the new structures will enable joint working and objectives.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Relevant local agencies contributed to the annual report.

7. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

8. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

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

(Approved by: J Harris Baker, Acting Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 9.1 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)

10. EQUALITIES IMPACT

10.1 CSAB

A key priority for the Council is ensuring that 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).

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).

All statutory partner agencies will have their distinctive organisational equality objectives and policies to meet their obligations of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The equality objectives for 2016-20 with which this work is particularly aligned are on community safety (domestic abuse), and social isolation. It also aligns with the Independence and Liveability objectives of the Corporate Plan.

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.

10.2 CSCB

There is no specific section within the Annual Report on issues of Equality and Diversity as these issues are incorporated throughout the report.

All constituent agencies are required to meet their duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Each will have specific objectives according to their respective organisational priorities and duties.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

11.1 None

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

12.1 None

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

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

13.2 That the Council notes the effectiveness of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board in ensuring the safeguarding of vulnerable children in Croydon.

14. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

14.1 None

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BACKGROUND PAPERS - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: none

Appendices: printed separately