

Key communications Implications (Informal Cabinet only)	This is the annual report of Croydon’s Local Safeguarding Children’s Board, which summarises the work of the board over the past year.
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REPORT TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board – 23 October 2013
AGENDA ITEM:	12
SUBJECT:	Croydon Safeguarding Children Board, Annual Report 2012/13
BOARD SPONSOR:	Paul Greenhalgh, Executive Director for Children, Families and Learning

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:

1. The Local Safeguarding Board is a statutorily required body, which is independently chaired. Its key role is to enable agencies to hold each other to account to secure effective safeguarding arrangements for children in the local authority area.

- 1. draft RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 1.1 That the report be noted and support agreed for the areas of development set out in the plan for the engagement of health partners.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 The purpose of the report is to detail the activity and effectiveness of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) between April 2012 and March 2013. The report also includes the CSCB Business Plan for 2013 /14. The report identifies how relevant organisations, including health agencies have discharged their responsibilities both individually and as a group, how the CSCB functions as a conduit for learning and how it discharges its quality assurance responsibilities.

3. DETAIL

3.1 The CSCB was created in order to be compliant with the requirements of the Children Act 2004. Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards have the statutory functions of co-ordinating the work of local agencies in relation to safeguarding, promoting the welfare of children in the area and ensuring the effectiveness of agencies in this respect. Croydon’s Local Safeguarding Board is independently chaired, and the independent chair is accountable to the Council Chief Executive. The Council hosts the support functions of the board.

3.2 Developments

There have been significant developments in services to safeguard children during 2012-13:

- The continued development of the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH)
- Developed a framework for reflective supervision which has been agreed by agencies.
- Introduced a safeguarding profile which all agencies (except Probation) have completed. Focussed on Domestic Violence as one of the key priorities and held 12 multi-agency training days.
- Continued to develop our practice in tracking and protecting missing children and children who are sexually exploited by working closely with colleagues from police, health, education and voluntary agencies.
- Feedback from children and families involved in the child protection conference process which has given impetus to changing our child protection case conference model, which is now based on the 'Strengthening Families' approach.

3.3 Challenges

The CSCB also has to look forward and plan for future developments. The Business Plan for 2013-14 is attached to the Annual Report for 2012-13. The areas for future developments are:

- Further strengthening the early help process.
- Continue to improve social work practice in the areas of assessment, care planning and supervision.
- Strengthening the whole family approach, for example focussing on children where parents have mental health and substance abuse issues.
- Increase public awareness of safeguarding issues including children who are privately fostered.
- Strengthening the quality assurance work and training delivery.
- Embedding lessons learned from serious case reviews.
- The Council will continue with the implementation of the post Munro remodelling of Children's Social Care with an aim of securing significant improvement in safeguarding services to children and families.

CONTACT OFFICER: John Scott, Head of Service, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Extn.63161