

REPORT TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (CROYDON) 19 October 2016
AGENDA ITEM:	10
SUBJECT:	Croydon Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015 - 16
BOARD SPONSOR:	Barbara Peacock, executive director of people, Croydon Council

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:

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.

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: -

- 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

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Health & Wellbeing Board notes the annual report of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board and that this report will be scrutinised by the Children and Families Scrutiny 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 – CSCB

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.

- 3.4 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

3.5 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.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Relevant local agencies contributed to the annual report.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

7.1 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.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Sarah Baker, Independent Chair for CSAB– telephone
 Email sarah.baker@croydon.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972