

**For General Release**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET</b> <b>15 October 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Croydon Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Di Smith</b> <b>Independent Chair CSCB</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Alisa Flemming</b> <b>Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Learning</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:</b> To safeguard children and promote their welfare in line with the Council's ambition for independence of children and their families	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b> There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.	
<b>KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.:</b> Not applicable	
<p><b>1. Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Cabinet is asked to note the CSCB Annual Report for 2017/18 which sets out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The work undertaken by the CSCB to secure improvement following the Ofsted review published in August 2017</li><li>• Progress relating to the priorities of the CSCB</li><li>• Key issues and challenges around safeguarding children &amp; young people in Croydon</li></ul>	

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The CSCB Annual Report 2017/18 fulfils the statutory duty required of all LSCBs to publish an annual account of the work undertaken to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. This report also notes progress on the post Ofsted Improvement Plan for the Board to address the shortcomings identified at the June 2017 Ofsted Review. It is customary for LSCBs to publish their reports in the Autumn following information gathering over the Summer. Ofsted had commented that the previous Annual Report 2016/17 was overly optimistic, lacked rigour and was not evidence based. Those challenges have been given particular attention in this report.
- 2.2 The Annual Report of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) is an Evaluation of the progress made by partners against the CSCB Business Plan

2017/18 and sets out the priorities for 2018 onwards. The actions to improve the CSCB are included in Section 10 of Croydon Children's Improvement Plan and progress is monitored through the Children's Improvement Board. The Independent Chair of the CSCB is a member of the Children's Improvement Board and provides regular update reports at the monthly meetings.

- 2.4 The CSCB has restructured the Executive to reflect the new Safeguarding Partnership as required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Safeguarding Partnership will lead the transition from the LSCB to the new arrangements as required by the new 'Working Together 2018' guidance.

### **3. STATUTORY ROLE OF THE LSCB AND INDEPENDENT CHAIR**

- 3.1 The statutory roles, objectives and functions of LSCBs are set out in Section 14 of the Children Act 2004. An LSCB must be established for each local authority area. The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including the developing of local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements.
- 3.2 The statutory objectives of LSCBs are;
- to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area;
  - to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.
- 3.3 The functions are as follows:
- developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the local authority;
  - communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and protect the welfare of children, raising awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
  - monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard
  - and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
  - participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
  - undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and Board partners on lessons to be learned.
- 3.4 In order to provide effective scrutiny, the LSCB should be independent. It should not be subordinate to, or subsumed within, other local structures. Every LSCB should have an independent chair who can call all agencies to account.
- 3.5 The LSCB Chair reports to the Chief Executive and works closely with all LSCB partners, particularly the Director of Children's Services.
- 3.6 The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.

## **4. IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CSCB**

- 4.1 Since appointment in September 2017, the Independent Chair of CSCB has led the CSCB improvement in all areas identified by Ofsted and provided contribution to the development, monitoring and implementation of the Children's Improvement Plan.
- 4.2 The CSCB Annual report provides detail of those improvements in conjunction with identifying the areas which require further attention from Board members. Whilst there are improvements, the Business Plan priorities for 2017/18 remain as priorities for 2018/19. These are:

### **Strong partnership**

- The CSCB is committed to leading and developing a strong partnership to deliver the safeguarding agenda across Croydon in line with statutory guidance.
- The Safeguarding Partnership will ensure that the transition to the new safeguarding arrangements are developed in response to the revised statutory guidance in 'Working Together 2018'

### **Neglect**

- Children at risk of neglect are seen, heard and helped. They are effectively protected from harm of neglect by a robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.

### **Early Help**

- Children receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified. Evaluate the effectiveness of early help arrangements across Croydon

### **High risk vulnerable adolescents**

Develop a robust and co-ordinated multi-agency intervention and support with a focus on:-

- Understanding the concept of risk taking
- The impact of early maltreatment: the relationship between childhood experiences and adolescent risk-taking
- Risk factors for anti-social and offending behaviours
- Building the resilience in this group of young people

### **Children with disability**

- Children with disability are seen and heard. They are effectively protected from harm by a robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.

- 4.3 The innovative Thematic Learning Review of 60 Vulnerable Adolescents is a good example of a strong partnership response to the experiences of vulnerable adolescents who are currently of concern in Croydon. This is a comprehensive piece of work which should help our understanding of the needs of young people and improve the way we support them.
- 4.4 A significant area of challenge remaining for the CSCB is the large number of Serious Case Reviews and Learning Reviews in Croydon as these place

considerable time pressure on all partners and the board management team. An unintended consequence of the large volume of SCRs is that commissioning, management and monitoring of the SCR process can appear to take precedence over the learning.

- 4.5 The CSCB has aligned learning from SCRs with the Croydon Children's Improvement Plan. For example, in 2017/18 the introduction and implementation of the NSPCC Neglect tool, GCP2, is a key factor in both the Improvement Plan and the CSCB Business Plan. The tool has been adopted by the CSCB with more than 100 practitioners trained to use it with plans for further roll-out across the children's workforce already in place.

## **5. RESPONDING TO CHANGES IN LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY GUIDANCE**

- 5.1 The implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the proposed revisions to Working Together will have implications for the safeguarding arrangements in all local areas. The executive group will lead on behalf of the CSCB in considering the implications of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the revised 'Working Together' guidance including:
- the replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with local safeguarding partners (local authority, CCG and MPS)
  - the establishment of a new national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
  - the transfer of responsibility for child death reviews from Local Safeguarding Children Boards to new Child Death Review Partners
- 5.2 The executive group will propose suitable new oversight arrangements for safeguarding within Croydon, and these will be brought to Cabinet for approval of the Council's input by the end of March 2019.

## **6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 The CSCB is funded from a multi agency budget. Croydon Council contribute £205k per annum. All other key statutory partners contributes can be found on page 40 of the Annual Report.

Approved by Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER**

- 7.1 The Solicitor to the Council comments that there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Approved by: Ms Doutimi Aseh Head of Social Care & Education Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Monitoring Officer

## **8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 8.1 Whilst there are no direct human resources implications arising from this report the information presented will help to shape and influence HR practice, policy and procedures in relation to roles and responsibilities that are safeguarding children.

Approved by: Nadine Maloney, Head of HR, Children, Families and Education

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 9.1 Not applicable

## **10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 10.1 Not applicable

## **11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

- 11.1 Not applicable

## **12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION**

- 12.1 Cabinet are asked to note the CSCB Annual Report 2017/19

## **13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 13.1 Not applicable
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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Maureen Floyd, Manager, Croydon Safeguarding Children Board x 62366

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:** Appendix 1 – Croydon Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None