

REPORT TO:	CABINET 14 DECEMBER 2020
SUBJECT:	Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2019/20
LEAD OFFICER:	Di Smith Independent Chair/Scrutineer, CSCP Debbie Jones Executive Director, Children, Families & Education
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Alisa Flemming Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning
WARDS:	All
<p>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON</p> <p>To safeguard children and promote their welfare in line with the Council's ambition for independence of children and their families.</p> <p>Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-2022</p>	

<p>FINANCIAL IMPACT</p> <p>There are no direct financial implications arising from this report</p>
<p>FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO: Not a key decision</p>

<p>The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below</p> <p>1. RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Cabinet is recommended to</p> <p>1.1 Cabinet is asked to note the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) Annual Report for 2019/20 which sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transition achieved to the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. • The CSCP contribution to the improvement journey of Children's Social Care. • The Good Ofsted inspection outcome for Children's Social Care • The progress relating to the priorities of the CSCP • The assessment and scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements against the six safeguarding standards • Summary of safeguarding issues across the CSCP
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2 EXECUTIVE

- 2.1. The CSCP Annual Report 2019/20 fulfils the statutory duty required of all LSCPs to publish an annual account of the work undertaken to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. It is customary for LSCPs to publish their reports in the autumn following information gathering over the summer.
- 2.2 This is the first Annual Report of the CSCP as the legislation in respect of Local Safeguarding Partnerships came into effect from September 2019. This report covers the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The report also includes, wherever relevant, work undertaken in respect of Covid 19 and Black Lives Matter up until August 2020.
- 2.3 The Annual Report contains an evaluation of the progress made by partners through the transition from the previous Board to the new Partnership arrangements and reports on their priorities.

3. STATUTORY ROLE OF THE LSCP AND INDEPENDENT CHAIR/SCRUTINEER

- 3.1 The statutory roles, objectives and functions of LSCPs are set out in Section 14 of the Children Act 2004, (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017). The three safeguarding partners have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. The three safeguarding partners are:
- a) the local authority
 - b) a clinical commissioning group
 - c) the chief officer of police

They partners are kept appraised of work of the CSCP and of child safeguarding matters through the Lead Representative Safeguarding Partners/ Oversight and Accountability Group. Each partner is represented by their Deputy on the CSCP Executive which meets monthly, although met weekly from March to July 2020, during the Covid 19 pandemic lockdown period.

- 3.2 The three safeguarding partners have agreed on ways to
- co-ordinate their safeguarding services;
 - act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others;
 - and to implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents
- 3.3 The purpose of these arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:
- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
 - partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
 - organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
 - there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats

- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

3.4 The three safeguarding partners have continued to employ the independent chair as the CSCP Scrutineer to ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.

4. PERFORMANCE OF THE CSCP

4.1 Throughout 2019/20 the CSCP has continued to make a significant contribution to the development, monitoring and implementation of the Improvement Plan and to the work of Croydon Children's Improvement Board. The role of the CSCP has been pivotal in terms of securing improvements in multi-agency working and promoting and embedding learning from serious case reviews.

4.2 The Annual Report also outlines progress and achievements in relation to the three CSCP priorities; Neglect, Vulnerable Adolescents and Children with Disabilities.

4.3 The report provides account of the work of each of the individual partner agencies in respect of safeguarding children, their success and the areas that require further attention. Specifically noting the success of Children's Social Care in achieving a Good Ofsted result in their February 2020 inspection.

5. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

5.1 The CSCP Annual Report was presented to Scrutiny Committee on 3 November 2020, the main points highlighted from the meeting are:-

- They recognised the progress that priority groups have had, however more detail in relation to the measurable outcomes of the work should be included next year
- In relation to the Neglect priority group greater context was required to understand the 'partially met' outcomes.
- In relation to the Vulnerable Adolescent priority group a stricter adherence to a 'Public Health Model' was recommended.
- The poor performance of ante-natal and follow up visits through mid-wifery and health visitors compared to other boroughs was raised as a concern and requested more information in relation to actions to address this.
- The lack of information in relation to the impact of work for children with an autistic spectrum dis-order and the 'voice of the child' for children with a disability was noted.
- The positive impact and role of the partnership in improving outcomes for children was noted and thanked.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report, as this is a retrospective report. The CSCB operates within a budget to which partner agencies contribute.
- 6.2 The total budget within which the Board is operating in 2020/21 is £418,000, with Croydon Council being the majority contributor at £328,000 which 79% of the budget.
- 6.3 It is anticipated that the budget will be fully spent in 2020/21, with the majority of that (69%) on staffing.

Approved by: Kate Bingham, Head of Finance Children Families & Education on behalf of Lisa Taylor – Director, Finance, Investment and Risk and Section 151 Officer

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Head of Social Care and Education Law comments on behalf of the Interim Director of Law and Governance.
- 7.2 Section 16E of the Children Act 2004 requires the safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England to work together to exercise their functions in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area. The safeguarding partners include the local authority.
- 7.3 Section 16G of the Children Act 2004 requires the safeguarding partners to prepare and publish a report at least every 12 months on what the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies have done as a result of the children's safeguarding arrangements, and how effective the arrangements have been in practice.
- 7.4 There is also statutory guidance on the working of local safeguarding arrangements in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018, updated 2019).
- 7.5 The matters set out in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance.

Approved by: Doutimi Aseh, Head of Social Care and Education Law on behalf of the Interim Director of Law and Governance & Deputy 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 The role of the CSCP is to safeguard all children and promote their welfare. The CSCP has played a leading role in challenging inequalities and in safeguarding protected groups. For example the three CSCP Priority Groups have championed the needs of
- children with disabilities,
 - vulnerable adolescents and
 - Children suffering neglect.
- 9.2 The vulnerable adolescent priority group has encouraged agencies across Croydon to identify and challenge disproportionality in particular in respect of BAME children. This has evidenced over-representation in many areas, such as school exclusion and criminal justice yet under-representation in receiving support. This is a core approach across the work of the CSCP.
- 9.3 The CSCP has recently provided Unconscious Bias Awareness training, funded by Crystal Palace Football Club. Hundreds have already completed the training and commitment given that every Croydon School staff team will complete this online course.
- 9.4 The CSCP Annual Report was presented to Scrutiny Committee on 3 November 2020, the main points highlighted from the meeting are:-
- They recognised the progress that priority groups have had, however more detail in relation to the measurable outcomes of the work should be included next year
 - In relation to the Neglect priority group greater context was required to understand the 'partially met' outcomes.
 - In relation to the Vulnerable Adolescent priority group a stricter adherence to a 'Public Health Model' was recommended.
 - The lack of information in relation to the impact of work for children with an autistic spectrum dis-order and the 'voice of the child' for children with a disability was noted.

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

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 is asked to note the CSCP Annual Report 2019/20.

13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

13.1 Not applicable

14. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

14.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?

NO

14.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?

NO

The Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care comments: There is no individual or confidential information contained within the report. Information has been provided in summary form from each of the relevant agencies.

Approved by: Nick Pendry, Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care.

CONTACT OFFICER:

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Mobile: 07742405203

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

Appendix 1 – CSCP Annual Report 2019/20

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None