

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET
DATE OF DECISION:	30 October 2024
REPORT TITLE:	Croydon Safeguarding Annual Reports 2023/24 (Adults Board (CSAB) and Children’s Partnership (CSCP))
CORPORATE DIRECTORS:	Annette McPartland Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health Debbie Jones Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	David Williams Independent Chair, CSAB Fiona Martin Chair of the CSCP
LEAD MEMBERS:	Councillor Yvette Hopley Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care Councillor Maria Gatland Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Key Decision?	No
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No
WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to note the content of the Annual Reports for the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board (CSAB) and the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP). The Adult report was ratified by CSAB for publication in September 2024 as outlined by S43 Care Act and the Statutory Guidance. The Children Report was ratified by CSCP for publication in September 2024 as outlined by Working Together 2023.
- 1.2 Cabinet is also asked to note the proposal for a change to support how the Annual Reports are received at Cabinet as well as a change to the efficiency and allow better line of sight for Scrutiny and Cabinet to understand cross cutting themes affecting and influencing the work of the CSAB, CSCP and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). This is described in more detail at 4.5 and 4.6.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CABINET

For the reasons as set out in this report and appendices, Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1** Consider and note the Annual Reports of the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board 2023-24 (as attached as Appendix 1)
- 2.2** Consider and note the Annual Report of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership 2023-24 (as attached as Appendix 2).
- 2.3** Note the proposed development of the process of presenting annual reports for the CSAB, CSCP and Community Safety Partnership (as detailed in Sections 4.5 and 4.6 of this report).

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide Cabinet Members the line of sight to the published annual reports and comment on whether the reports provide sufficient reassurance of the performance and effectiveness of the CSAB and CSCP
- 3.2 To alert Cabinet Members to the proposed development of the process for presenting annual reports for the CSAB and CSCP in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAIL

- 4.1 The CSCP, CSAB and CSP are working closer together and recognise there are often cross-cutting themes which require our collaboration and attention. The Lead Professionals across all 3 Partnerships are often the same professional, for example, a senior officer (Police) is the CSCP Chair and Delegated Safeguarding Partner, the CSAB Police Representative and The CSP Police Representative.
- 4.2 There is no Statutory requirement for Cabinet or Scrutiny to review either the Safeguarding Children or Safeguarding Adult Annual Reports. There is a Statutory requirement for the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report to be reviewed by the Scrutiny & Overview Committee. This usually takes place in March each year.
- 4.3 Under Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014, a SAB may regulate its own procedure with a copy of the report being shared with the Local Authority (LA) Chief Executive, Leader of the LA, Local Policing body, Local Healthwatch and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 4.4 Under Working Together 2023, the CSCP must publish no later than September in each year. A copy of the report is shared with the LA Chief Executive, Leader of the LA, Local Policing Body, Chief Nurse ICB, Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board and the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

- 4.5 In line with the Executive Mayor's Business Plan to be more efficient and support more focused scrutiny of safeguarding themes affecting all 3 partnerships, we are proposing a different structure which will enable:
- Scrutiny and Cabinet to receive a more current report
 - ensure the deadlines for publishing are met
 - enable Scrutiny and Cabinet to have more opportunity to influence the current work plan, rather than comment on previous year's work
 - reduce the attendance of senior partnership officers at several meetings
- 4.6 The proposal for consideration is to support a more innovative and efficient process to ensure the benefits of the oversight of the LA governance layers are retained whilst adapting a more streamlined approach as follows:
- In January 2025 hold an informal meeting with Scrutiny representatives to agree which cross-cutting themes across the three partnerships to be highlighted within the Scrutiny template for a February/March 2025 meeting.
 - February/March 2025 Overview and Scrutiny meeting to be presented with an update on the cross-cutting themes but also include current and proposed priorities. The report will focus on progress made in relation to the previous report (2023/24) ensuring the content is more current, including how the work aligns with the Executive Mayor's priorities.
 - In March/April 2025 all three partnerships will present to Cabinet, again using a similar process to Scrutiny providing a progress report on current priorities with sight of the 2025/26 priorities, the Annual Reports will be appendices but with one overarching report from the CSAB/CSCP/CSP.
 - The respective Annual Reports for each partnership will be published in line with agreed process. (see 3.3 and 3.4 above)
- 4.7 Both annual reports are now being presented under this one cover Cabinet report. As described above, the cross-cutting themes will form part of the Scrutiny/Cabinet process scheduled for early 2025.
- 4.8 Summary information for the CSAB and CSCP is set out below. Examples of joint working across both the CSAB and CSCP include:
- Interface, pathways and protocol for suicide and Self-Harm Reduction
 - Transitional Safeguarding Panel
 - Contextual Safeguarding
 - Increased data/review sharing opportunities
 - Tackling Serious Youth Violence (engaging with the CSCP SYV Task & Finish Group)
 - Asylum Seekers and Displaced People
 - Designated Nurses for children who are looked after work closely with the Designated Nurses for Safeguarding Adults.

CROYDON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

- 4.9 The report will be introduced by David Williams, Independent Chair, with the strategic partners present – Adult Social Care & Health, and the Police. It provides an update on the multi-agency work undertaken across the partnership from the 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
- 4.10 The report covers the 2023/24 priorities demonstrating what has been achieved and the work has been continuing throughout 2024/25. It is important to note that the remit for producing this report is that it is a public facing, independent document.
- 4.11 The Performance and Quality Assurance sub-group continues the robust work to produce data to inform the CSAB on the trends and to identify the gaps in services across all sectors to address that all communities are reached. It has also moved the work forward on how best to present the data to CSAB members and a new, well received, visual format was delivered at the April 2024 quarterly meeting.
- 4.12 Following a review by the Partners in Care and Health (LGA) during 2022/23 we have taken forward the recommendations and developed an Action Plan which is regularly monitored and updated on the work progressed against each of the recommendations. The updated Plan is included within the report and work continues.
- 4.13 Engagement and communication across the partnership is key to the work of the CSAB. The level of engagement is evidenced within the report with more agencies being represented on the Board and its sub-groups but also the contributions received for the annual report. It can also be seen in both attendance at the CSAB quarterly meetings and sub-groups and events organised by the Board are well received.
- 4.14 Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 mandates that Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) must arrange for there to be a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) of a case involving an adult in its area with care and support needs (whether or not the local authority has been meeting any of their needs).
- 4.15 A SAR is considered in circumstances where there is reasonable concern about how the SAB, partner agencies or other persons with relevant functions worked together to safeguard the adult where an adult has died as a result of abuse or neglect (or suspected abuse or neglect) and/or the adult experienced serious abuse or neglect.
- 4.16 The overall purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review is to promote learning and improve practice, not to re-investigate or to apportion blame. The CSAB has seen an increase in Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) Requests which is seen as a positive following the work carried out raising awareness of the importance of the reviews but more importantly the learning shared following the reviews. One SAR was included in this report, 'Anthony' as it was concluded during the period of reporting.
- 4.17 The CSAB will continue to engage across the Croydon partnership, regionally and nationally through meetings and networks. We have a close working relationship with the Croydon Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CSCP) and more recently introduced a Joint Executive Partnership Network which includes strategic leads across the CSAB, CSCP and SCP.

- 4.18 CSAB Safeguarding statistics can be found on pages 7 – 9 and the data which is now being produced for the CSAB and this report has gone through a series of changes with the emphasis now being on the ‘board’s S42 statutory duty’ rather than the ‘board’s data’. The data is used to identify trends and gaps with the agreement for the data to be kept simple providing a comparison between the 2022/23 and 2023/24 data. It outlines the number of adult safeguarding concerns referred to the Council and how many S42s Care Act enquiries are concluded. It is important to learn that the person is asked what outcomes they wanted from the adult safeguarding work and were their outcomes achieved. Compared to the 2022/23 data there was a slight increase of 1% in 2023/24 regarding people being asked about their outcome and an increase of 5% in their outcomes being fully achieved.
- 4.19 The ethnicity data now includes a comparison to the general population of Croydon. The Voice of the People subgroup has continued to engage with both the BME Forum and the Asian Resource Centre Croydon (ARCC), with both being members of this subgroup, seeking to find ways to address proportional disparities. The BME Forum CEO has agreed to work with the CSAB and the ARCC to progress further meetings and hold a bespoke workshop as part of the continued VOTP ‘Keeping you Safe’ workstream.
- 4.20 The report covers work undertaken and identifies further actions required across each of the Board’s priorities. Examples have been listed below:
- a) **Voice of the People (VOTP)** [page 6]. The ‘Voice of the People’ subgroup has continued to develop their work raising awareness across all communities and encourages open discussions and challenge. The membership of this subgroup has continued to grow which includes Hear Us, Mind in Croydon, BME Forum, Advocacy for All etc. It continues to go out into the community sharing the ‘Keeping you Safe’ presentation with further visits planned for 2024/25. There is a key piece of work to complete with the ARCC which includes arranging workshops on raising awareness and to take this work forward we are working alongside both the BME Forum and ARCC Chief Executives.
 - b) **Prevention** [pages 16 – 17]. SARs have continued to be commissioned, with requests coming into the CSAB SAR sub-group from across the partnership. There are two SARs which are near completion, and one recently commissioned. These will be included in next year’s annual report. A SAR Comprehensive Action Plan has been developed which monitors the progress on recommendations from all completed SARs and is being used as a bi-annual audit. Partners will be asked to assure the CSAB that progress has been made, it requires evidence from across the partnership on the progress, how it was achieved, impact on the services and practice for the resident but also what were the challenges and barriers.

Prevention continues to take place across agencies for example Hear Us, a Mental Health service user group, who through connections from the VOTP has worked with advocacy services to increase the number of referrals to this service and they have seen a 25% increase. Hear Us also have held forums for their residents and Age UK continues to emphasise Making Safeguarding Personal throughout their training for all staff and volunteers. Health colleagues at CHS had a public/staff stall sharing training and resources during the National Safeguarding Adults week.

- c) **Commissioning** [Page 18]. The work of the CSAB Intelligence Sharing subgroup which meets bi-monthly with representatives across a wide range of agencies including the Care Quality Commission, Continuing Health Care, Pharmacy, SWL ICB, Care Home Intervention Team, Quality Monitoring, LD Health, Infection Control, Healthwatch, Mental Health, S42 plus others. The group is chaired by a senior nursing clinician from the SWL ICB and Vice Chair is the Local Authority's Head of Adults Placement, Brokerage and Market Management at the local authority.
- d) **Quality and improvement** [pages 19 – 24]. Adult Social Care reports [page 22] what the data is telling them regarding safeguarding enquires and reported that over 60% of the adult safeguarding enquiries resulted in people feeling safer as a result of that work. Of the remaining 40% most involve situations where the person did not feel unsafe and only 1% resulted in a person not feeling safer. 96% of those where an adult safeguarding enquiry was carried out said that the outcome they wanted was fully or partly achieved. Further work will take place in 2024/25 following an ASC Peer Review including the review of the operational model for adult safeguarding to ensure it is fit for purpose. The Principal Social Worker and the Professional Practice Team will be launching practice forums for staff and the Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance will be part of this work which will include learning from local and national SARs.

At Croydon's request in 2022/23 the LGA (Partners in Care and Health) undertook a three-day bespoke review of the CSAB (pages 24 - 27). These pages provide an update on the progress made across the partnership against each of the reviewers' recommendations.

- e) **Cross sector working** [pages 28 – 31]. These pages highlight the depth of cross sector working which partners wished to share for the purpose of this report. In summary examples include the work of Hear Us which is part of the VOTP group and due to this membership has worked with the local authority and Advocacy for All. The partnership work around tackling Violence against Women and Girls is clearly evidenced by the work of ASC, Health, Family Justice Service and the Police.
- f) **Communication and engagement** [page 32]. Engagement is excellent across the partnership with high attendance at meetings and events. Strong links are in place with other SABs both regionally and nationally with Croydon being very proactive in work undertaken by these networks.

- 4.21** The CSAB Chair and Board Manager have chaired and supported for this year the SW London Chairs and Managers network which includes Sutton, Kingston, Richmond & Wandsworth SABs which is the footprint of the SW London ICB.
- 4.22** A key area of engagement has been the partnership working between the BME Forum and the CSAB with the Chief Executive of the BME Forum being the Vice Chair of the Board and a key member of the VOTP subgroup. Page 34 provides information on the work carried out by the BME Forum. Also, on this page, reference to many of the other agencies which form the CSAB partnership.

5. CROYDON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

5.1 The CSCP provides assurance of the multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children and improve their outcomes. It achieves this by providing a framework where all agencies working with children and families can work together effectively; and tests whether this framework is successful. There are 3 main workstreams:

- Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- The Learning Offer
- Quality Assurance

5.2 This framework received a refresh in March 2023 and reassuringly, much of it was later found to align with the new Working Together 2023 guidance, when it was published in December 2023. There is a requirement to publish new arrangements no later than December 2024. This work is in hand and on target.

5.3 This report will be presented to Cabinet by Fiona Martin, Detective Superintendent Met Police, CSCP Designated Lead and Chair of the CSCP alongside the two CSCP Young Scrutineers. The CSCP Executives (the Delegated Safeguarding Partners from CYPE and Health) will also be present. This report provides a summary of the work detailed in the Annual Report, for the period April 2023-March 2024.

5.4 The CSCP Annual Report follows the format expected of the guidance from Working Together 2023. It comprises of 5 key parts:

PART 1: THE WHAT?

What have we done as a result of the arrangements, (including following Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews) - and how effective have these arrangements been in practice?

PART 2: THE SO WHAT?

Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to children looked after and care leavers.

PART 3: THE WHY NOT?

An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.

PART 4: THE WHAT NEXT?

An indication of the priorities and work planned for the coming year.

PART 5: THE VOICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service

- 5.5** The CSCP arrangements are set out on page 6 of the Annual Report. Key workstreams are overseen by the CSCP Executive and the Independent Scrutineer Keith Makin, via a monthly Executive Partner meeting.
- 5.6** The CSCP aligns its work with other multi-agency workstreams. The diagram on page 6 shows the links with other Boards and organisations to improve the line of sight to all areas in Croydon where there is an opportunity to influence the outcomes for children and families.
- 5.7** **Part 1 – The What? and Part 2 – The So What?** sections of the annual report, summarise the activity and impact throughout the year. Some key highlights include:
- 5.8** **Safeguarding Practice Reviews:** The CSCP conducted two Case of Concerns (under new arrangements to seek learning from cases which do not meet threshold for a Rapid Review) and Three Rapid Reviews - all had local actions but were not progressed to Local Safeguarding Practice Reviews as they mostly featured learning already in action in other reviews. Additionally, four Safeguarding Practice Review were concluded and published.
- 5.9** The published reviews related to 2 care experienced young people who took their own lives, a very young baby with non-accidental injuries and the nationally recognised Thematic Review which looked at the 7 young people who were charged in connection with the deaths of 3 young people who died in separate knife crime incidents in 2021.
- 5.10** By definition, safeguarding reviews take place for the most serious of harm cases and focus on a very small percentage of the work carried out to support children and young people. The findings are usually related to systems and processes which sometimes do not support professionals to do their best work. Individual practice is often an example of good practice and professionals are working hard to support families in a high-pressure system where professionals do not appear to have the capacity to extend their professional development by attending additional training. This is a weakness in the system which will only be overcome by a culture shift in the priority given to safeguarding training. However, it is the tenacious and new analysis of training data that has exposed this, and we are now better equipped to tackle this. Whilst there are a number of findings for each review, similar persistent themes are present such as:
- Poor quality information seeking and sharing
 - Insufficient professional curiosity
- 5.11** These themes are experienced nationally by other LSCPs, and work is occurring at national level to provide resources and guidance to support better practice across all agencies. The CSCP has supported this by sharing its own examples as well as its efforts to reduce the impact. We produced our own briefing on information sharing which has been adopted by other LSCPs.

5.12 The findings from the Thematic Review of Serious Youth Violence were aligned with many of the Executive Mayors Priorities.

Thematic Review Finding	Executive Mayor's Business Plan
The quality and effectiveness of early support (too little too late).	Outcome 3/Priority 3: Work closely with health services, Police and the VCFS to keep vulnerable children and young people safe from harm.
The poor visual condition of some areas in the borough that the young people affected call 'home.'	Outcome 4/Priority 1: Make our streets and open spaces cleaner so that Croydon is a place that residents and businesses can feel proud to call home.
A need to engage children, their families, and the wider community to support service design and delivery of services likely to impact outcomes for children and young people.	Outcome 1/Priority 2: Become a council which listens to, respects and works in partnership with Croydon's diverse communities and businesses. Outcome 3/Priority 3: Work closely with health services, Police and the VCFS to keep vulnerable children and young people safe from harm.
Council and partners collaborating with the community on a more equitable basis	Outcome 1/Priority 3: Strengthen collaboration and joint working with partner organisations and the voluntary, community and faith sectors.
Addressing youth involvement in knife related incidents often necessitates a swift and robust response	Outcome 3/Priority 2: Make Croydon safer for young people. Outcome 4/Priority 2: Tackle anti-social behaviour, knife crime and violence against women and girls so that Croydon feels safer.
Building trusted relationships demands both time and scope to develop. The importance of having an experienced workforce really hits home.	Outcome 1/Priority 5: Develop our workforce to deliver in a manner that respects the diversity of our communities.

5.13 There were 2 sessions provided for Members to alert them the publication of the Thematic Review and how the findings aligned with the Executive Mayors Business Plan. These were well attended and were followed up with a FAQ briefing. A Task & Finish Group is progressing the recommendations and more can be seen about this work on page 11 of the Annual Report.

5.14 The quality of the reviews themselves, particularly the Rapid Reviews are notably improved and have had positive feedback from the National Panel, including asking us to present one of our cases at a National Meeting to share good practice.

5.15 The Learning Offer: Providing a reliable Learning & Development offer for the partnership agencies, is a role for the CSCP. We have made excellent progress over the year in review. This has been achieved by new analysis by the CSCP Business Team to better understand the take up and impact of our training offer as well as being more strategic in the commissioning and creating of learning content, which is much more aligned with the findings from our reviews. Data not previously available has given us insight and evidence for a business case to source a new Learning Management

System which will save us money on content (as we are now able to write our own) as well as charge external agencies for our content.

- 5.16** We are currently working with Family Hubs to extend this system for their use, which will enable them to save money on how they deliver their specialist workforce training and increase our revenue.
- 5.17 Quality Assurance:** A number of statistics relevant to the work are shown on pages 8-9 of the annual report. The CSCP uses data to understand the safeguarding landscape for children in Croydon and to provide scrutiny or challenge of partner agencies. This is an area which has seen significant improvement in the last quarter and continues to improve for 24-25.
- 5.18 Part 3: The Why not?** We have become more forensic, and evidence based in our quest to show the difference we are making; where previously we provided partner agencies with resources and a request they shared them, we are now asking how they shared it, what has been the impact and how is it changing their work. We are not yet routinely receiving the right feedback, but it is an improvement.
- 5.19** The capacity of partner agencies to fully engage with CSCP activity is the most common barrier to work not being completed in a timely manner. This has impacted our audit program and the pace of some projects.
- 5.20** Our mechanisms for sharing learning have improved significantly as can be seen by the data now available to us to see the key themes from reviews, defined by age groups. This has been further developed and now includes ethnicity. The quality of the briefing materials also helps agencies to remember the key messages and are used widely across the partnership.
- 5.21** The value of the opportunity for ad-hoc conversations with CSCP Members who are seen as “experts in safeguarding” and their ability to influence workstreams outside of the CSCP core business cannot be under-estimated.
- 5.22 Part 4: The What Next?** In addition to the Business-as-usual items, key deliverables for the CSCP Business Plan for 2024-25 are:
- The MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs) Refresh Project
 - Annual Conference (November 2024)
 - Publish the new CSCP Arrangements (in accordance with WT 2023)
 - Engage and support the Early Help and Family Hubs projects
 - Progress the appointment of the Young Scrutineers (achieved in August 2024)
 - Refresh/relaunch the multi-agency Pre-Birth Guidance
 - Implement fee-based training model
 - Network oversight of Exploitation
 - Engaging with the Impower Review to ensure maximum join up and reduce duplication of multi-agency spaces
- 5.23** The key deliverables may be adjusted in the year dependent on emerging risk. These are tracked via the CSCP Business Plan, which is a live document, with quarterly updates to the CSCP Executive Officers.

- 5.24 Part 5: Voice of the Child & Families:** was an area that the CSCP pledged to evidence more impact in this year's annual report. There has been good progress in that the CSCP have now recruited to 2 Young Scrutineer roles who sit alongside the Independent Scrutineer to offer direct scrutiny and voice of the child/families experience to the day-to-day functions of the CSCP. They attended their first CSCP Executive Meeting in August 2024 and provided their own influence and feedback to this annual report and have started the design of a Young Persons version which will be published alongside the Annual Report.
- 5.25** The feedback in Part 5 is also much improved, with evidence of how multi-agency services have been shaped by the interactions with young people, rather than focusing on quotes which evidence how well professionals worked with young people. The most impactful example is the video produced by the family of "Jake" who was a looked after child who took his own life aged 17. He had complex needs, and the video is a powerful reminder of the need to see the whole child and not just the presenting need. This video has been shared across the Croydon network, but also via London and National forums and has been credited with having a profound impact on professionals to support their "whole family" approach.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1** The three strategic partners (Council, Health and Police), along with other CSAB and CSCP organisations (including the voluntary sector), residents and agencies; have contributed to the annual reports. On publication, both reports will be shared widely across the partnership and posted on the CSAB, CSCP and Local Authority websites and shared with relevant local and national networks.
- 6.2 CSAB:** Contributions are gathered by partners and also by continuous recording of work undertaken using the CSAB meeting structure of the Board's subgroups. Resident feedback and the Lay Member comments have also been included. More detailed contributions were received this year, e.g. Mind in Croydon, Age UK, Police, ICB, ASC and the BME Forum and each year the CSAB strives to improve further on the number of agencies who contribute to their report.
- 6.3** When asking for contributions CSAB ask agencies to provide evidence on how they measured impact on services and practices for residents, which is a key assurance element of the work of the CSAB.
- 6.4** The CSAB Annual Report was signed off at the CSAB quarterly meeting on 17 July 2024 following the drafts being shared across the partnership between March – August 2024 and due for publication in September. It has been agreed that going forward the CSAB will develop a more formal sign off by partners for future reports.
- 6.5 CSCP:** The Independent Scrutineer and Young Scrutineers have also provided their own reflections to the CSCP Annual Report.
- 6.5** The CSCP Annual Report was signed off at the CSCP Executive meeting on 17 September 2024 following the drafts being shared across the partnership between May and September and due for publication in September.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 CSAB:** As per the legal implications section, Pursuant to Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014, as soon as feasible after the end of each financial year, the CSAB must publish a report.
- 7.2 CSCP:** As per the legal implications section. Under Working Together 2023, every Local Safeguarding Children Partnership is required to publish their annual report by the end of September.

8. CONTRIBUTION TO EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S BUSINESS PLAN

- 8.1 CSAB:** The CSAB sets its priorities each year which are highlighted throughout the annual report which includes safeguarding vulnerable adults in Croydon from harm/abuse. The CSAB are aware of the Executive Mayor's Business Plan and priorities which this annual report aligns with many of these. For example, strengthening the collaboration and joint working with partners and the voluntary and community sector.
- 8.2** The tackling of anti-social behaviour, knife crime and VAWG which the CSAB will gain assurance from the Safer Croydon Partnership and their membership on the board. The key priority which links both is the working to keep vulnerable people safe. The current CSAB priorities will be reviewed at an event in November 2024.
- 8.3 CSCP:** The work of the CSCP supports the Council priorities and Executive Mayor's business plan in the following areas:
- Ensure children and young people have opportunities to learn, develop and fulfil their potential.
 - Make Croydon safer for young people.
 - Work closely with health services, Police and the VCFS to keep vulnerable children and young people safe from harm.
 - Strengthen collaboration and joint working with partner organisations and the voluntary, community and faith sectors.

9 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.2** Both the CSAB and CSCP are funded by the partnership agencies. There is an expectation of a "shared and equal partnership. However, historically this has not translated across financial contributions.
- 9.3** Significant pressure has been applied to Health and Police colleagues to level up financial contributions without success.

9.4 Contributions

CSCP Contributions	£	%
SLaM	£13,540	2.85%
MET Police	£5,000	1.05%
Croydon ICB	£33,850	7.12%
Croydon Health Service	£33,850	7.12%
National Probation Service	£3,897	0.82%
TOTAL PARTNER INCOME	£90,137	
LB CROYDON	£303,457	63.87%
LB CROYDON (IS COSTS)	£34,207	7.20%
DfE (WT 2023)	£47,300	9.96%
TOTAL INCOME	£475,101	
CSAB Contributions	£	%
South London & Maudsley	15,000	7.78
South West London ICB	21,670	11.25
Croydon Health Services	21,670	11.25
Police	5,000	2.6
Local Authority	129,328	67.12
TOTAL INCOME	192,668	

9.5 There are no other direct financial implications arising from the either the CSAB or CSCP report as it is retrospective and is funded through budget and allocations from the statutory partners.

9.6 Consideration should be given to how future budgets are set; in particular how other partners can contribute a more equal share. At a time of increasing financial pressure on local government, it is not sustainable for funding to continue in this way. Other partners will need to revisit their financial contributions.

Approved by Head of Strategic Finance for Adult Social Care & Health, on behalf of the Director of Finance. (2nd October 2024).

10 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Pursuant to Schedule 2 of the Care Act 2014, as soon as feasible after the end of each financial year, the CSAB must publish a report on:

- What it has done during the year to achieve its priorities.
- What has been done during that year to implement its Strategic Plan.
- What each member has done during that year to implement the strategy.
- The findings of reviews arranged by the CSAB under section 44 (Safeguarding Adult Reviews) which have concluded that year (whether or not they began in that year).
- What has been done during the year to implement the findings of a review arranged by it under that section.
- Where it decides during that year not to implement a finding of a review arranged by it under that section, the reasons for its decision.

- 10.2** The CSAB must send a copy of the report to the Chief Executive and the Lead of the Council, the local policing body the whole or part of whose area is in the local authority's area, the Local Healthwatch organisation for the local authority's area and the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board for that area.
- 10.3** 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.
- 10.4** 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 because of the children's safeguarding arrangements, and how effective the arrangements have been in practice.
- 10.5** There is also statutory guidance on the working of local safeguarding arrangements in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023).
- 10.6** The matters set out in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance.

Comments approved by Doutimi Aseh, Head of Social Care & Education Law on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (Date 1st October 2024).

11 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1** The Council has a statutory duty, when exercising its functions, to comply with the provisions set out in the Sec 149 Equality Act 2010. The Council must, in the performance of its functions, therefore, have due regard to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 11.2 CSAB:** A key priority for the Council and the CSAB is ensuring we work with our partners to make Croydon a stronger and fairer place for all our communities and be a more inclusive borough free from racism and discrimination. 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 the demographic groups which are underrepresented in the safeguarding data and this work has continued for the board.
- 11.3 CSCP:** 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 those children who have/are at risk related to their ethnicity and gender. For example, the work to provide LGBGTQ+ training for professionals working with young people who are self-harming or at risk of suicide.

Comments approved by Ken Orlukwu, Senior Equalities Officer, on behalf of Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy on 30/09/2024.

12. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 CSAB:** That the Council notes the work and effectiveness of the CSAB in ensuring the safeguarding of vulnerable adults in Croydon but also to note the planned work to take place in 2024/25 as the CSAB are still conscious of what work still needs to be done. The CSAB works to listen, respect and work in partnership across all communities.

Approved by Simon Robson, Director of Operations and Deputy DASS on behalf of Annette McPartland Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health.

- 12.2 CSCP:** That the Council notes the work and effectiveness of the CSAP to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

Approved by Kerry Crichlow (Director, Quality, Commissioning & Performance) on behalf of Debbie Jones, (Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education). (Date 09/09/24).

13 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24.

Appendix 2: Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023/24.