

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Cabinet Member	Councillor David Simmonds
Cabinet Portfolio	Deputy Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
Officer Contact	Paul Hewitt – Social Care, Health and Housing
Papers with report	LSCB Annual Report

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	This is the Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for the year 2010-11. It is for information and gives a view on effectiveness of children's safeguarding in Hillingdon, and identifies priorities for future action and attention.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	This report will contribute to the Children and Young People's Plan in order to ensure that Hillingdon's children and young people are kept safe.
Financial Cost	The LSCB is jointly funded by LBH, NHS Hillingdon and other partners, there are no additional costs linked to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Education and Children's Services
Ward(s) affected	All – Borough wide

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet note this report and takes account of its conclusions in future planning for children's services.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

The draft report was considered and noted by Education and Children's Services Policy Overview Committee on November 23rd 2011.

Supporting Information

1. LSCB is a statutory multi agency body established with the overall aim of monitoring, overseeing, supporting and challenging the work of all agencies with regard to their responsibilities to safeguard and protect children. LSCBs are required to produce an annual report which comments on the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard children. (The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) This is the second annual report under the new requirements, and we are required to publish this report by 1 April 2012.
2. The following areas are required elements of the Report (Working Together 2010)
 - An assessment of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, to include achievements and challenges
 - An assessment of the effectiveness of policies and procedures to recruit and train frontline staff
 - An assessment of progress in implementing lessons from Serious Case reviews and child death reviews
 - An assessment of progress in key priority areas (e.g. child trafficking)
 - A challenge to the work of the Children's Trust Board in driving improvements in safeguarding

3 Summary of conclusions

- 3.1 Overall, evidence available to the LSCB indicates that children are well safeguarded with some areas for development that are in hand. The LSCB supports the Ofsted findings of 'good' for safeguarding children in Hillingdon (announced inspection 2009, grade of good, Ofsted Children's Services Assessment 2011, provisional grade 3 – performs well, an organisation that exceeds minimum requirements) There is evidence of strong multi agency working and commitment and a large number of tasks and actions have been progressed under the auspices of the LSCB. A continuing and nationally recognised success is work that has taken place to reduce the numbers of children and young people who go missing at risk of trafficking through Heathrow Airport.
- 3.2 The increase in child protection activity noted in 2010 has stabilised at a high level. This increase in child protection activity has had an impact on all agencies, particularly specialist services. This workload has to be absorbed in order to ensure that children are kept safe, but the workload, along with staffing capacity to deal with it, is putting a strain on all services.
- 3.3 This will be exacerbated by reductions in available resources and in changes in partner agencies, particularly Health.
- 3.4 The LSCB is continually developing ways of scrutinising services to ensure that these changes do not place children at unnecessary risk, and the annual report includes in its recommendations those targeted areas of activity that are likely to achieve most benefit
- 3.5 The LSCB also strongly recommends that resources are secured and protected for specialist front line services who work with children at risk of harm.
- 3.6 The Council is currently leading on the development of early intervention services. The LSCB recommends that these are multi agency and that they have clear pathways and provision for co-ordinated plans and services, targeted at those most in need .

- 3.7 The LSCB would also welcome the opportunity to contribute to service commissioning, particularly health services for under fives and mental health services.
- 3.8 The recent pilot Ofsted inspection of child protection has made various recommendations which are reflected in the LSCB Business Plan and will be monitored by the LSCB in accordance with the recommended timescales.

Financial Implications

The LSCB is jointly funded by LBH, NHS Hillingdon and other partners, there are no additional costs linked to this report.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The remit of the LSCB is to ensure that all agencies are working together effectively to keep children safe. It does this by monitoring the effectiveness of all agencies to this end, and by making recommendations for priority action. This ensures that all agencies which have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (Children Act 2004) are able to carry out their functions. The Board's work is therefore critical in ensuring that children and young people in Hillingdon are safeguarded, and that risks are minimised as much as possible.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

LSCB members and staff were consulted in preparation of the annual report. One of the continuing priorities for the LSCB is to engage better with children young people and their families, and with staff, in developing priorities and monitoring the effectiveness of services

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and is satisfied that there are no additional costs associated with the recommendations of this report.

Legal

The LSCB retains its statutory functions within Children's services, and is legally compliant in constitution and membership as reflected in Working Together 2010. This Guidance is being revised by the current Government, and new Guidance is likely to be published in early 2012.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010
http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/wt_2010.PDF