

# HILLINGDON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

<b>Committee</b>	Children, Young People and Learning POC
<b>Officer Reporting</b>	Steve Ashley
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix 1- LSCB annual report

## SUMMARY

The Hillingdon Local Safeguarding Children Board (HLSCB) has a statutory duty to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the Borough. Once agreed by the HLSCB, the report is submitted each year to the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Health and wellbeing Board.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) notes the report; and
- b) asks any questions it may have.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The annual report lays out the work undertaken by the Board this year, and includes specific reports from each of the agencies that make up the Board. The purpose of the annual report is to provide evidence about the standard to which the agencies responsible for safeguarding children in the London Borough of Hillingdon have performed.

This year we have developed progressive training packages for all agencies and provided administrative and project management skill to move the Board forward including the development of our audit and performance processes to ensure we are able to properly hold agencies to account. In the coming year the Board will develop the auditing agenda further to include analysis of own agency as well as multi agency audits.

We are all aware that austerity measures have placed huge pressures on all agencies. Whilst we accept that this makes safeguarding children more difficult, it is not an excuse for failure and there is no doubt that organisations working together will be more likely to reach acceptable standards of safeguarding.

We have published serious case reviews, some of which are historical, this year relating to occasions where a child or children have been injured or lost their lives. These reports are a sad reminder that safeguarding children is a difficult task and those organisations and individuals make mistakes that can have tragic consequences. These reports speak for themselves, but we are determined that where we have fallen short of the required standard we are able to ensure that the same mistakes are not repeated. This requires a multi-agency approach and a vigorous

governance system holding agencies to account. The Board continues to provide this scrutiny, together with its partners, across the sector.

The report lays out in detail the areas where we need to make further progress, but the Board are satisfied that, despite the difficult financial circumstances, agencies in the Borough of Hillingdon are providing services that ensure our children are properly safeguarded.

We have looked again at our priorities this year and they are set out in the report. We are determined that we do more work to listen to the views of children and young people and will be exploring ways in which we can be more responsive and better engaged with all our communities; particularly young people.