

HILLINGDON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT 2015/6

Contact Officer: Andrea Nixon
Telephone: 01895 277260

REASON FOR ITEM

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.

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

It is recommended that the Committee notes the report and comments as appropriate on the suggested priorities for the current year.

INFORMATION

1. Background and context

Since the last annual report was presented to the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee in September 2015, there has been a lot of positive activity to improve not only the effectiveness of the HLSCB, but also to ensure that safeguarding children and young people remains a safeguarding priority in the Borough.

The HLSCB now has an established business unit that not only supports the work of the Children Board but is shared jointly with the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB). There is a dedicated board coordinator for each Board, whose role is to undertake administrative duties, including when there is a serious case review or serious adult review.

A shared training and quality assurance officer has responsibility for organising and monitoring multi agency training that is provided by the HLSCB. A training needs analysis is underway within children and adult services. A HLSCB Learning and Development Improvement Plan has been produced to ensure that relevant and quality training is offered and that there is effective evaluation following each course.

The business unit is managed by a joint business manager who has made links with other boards through the London network of business managers.

The HLSCB has established an Executive Board consisting of senior lead officers from each statutory agency; it includes the Lead Member for Children's services. This is the decision making body for the HLSCB and focuses on those issues that require senior level

decision making. The Operational Board includes additional non statutory partners, members of the third sector and those responsible for operational delivery. The Operational Board manages the sub-committees and ensures that the Board priorities are being supported and driven forward.

All sub-committees have been reviewed. Membership and terms of reference for each sub-committee have been reviewed and individual work plans have been agreed by the Operational Board.

The Training and Development Sub-Committee is a joint sub-committee with members from children and adult services. This is to ensure that training is available jointly across both services. This provides staff with a broader knowledge of children and vulnerable adult issues, providing more accurate risk assessments, resulting in more targeted and relevant services.

A Case Review Sub-Committee has been established jointly with adult services to ensure that learning and recommendations from serious case reviews, serious adult reviews and domestic homicide reviews are embedded into practice and are closely monitored. Progress reports are submitted to both the HLSCB and SAB operational boards to give assurance to members of activity that is taking place.

2. Summary

It needs to be noted that the HLSCB is in a very different position to September 2015. In a short space of time systems have been implemented to enable the Board to be reassured that agencies are striving to ensure that safeguarding remains a high priority. The budget for 2016/17 has been set and agencies continue to contribute to this with the addition of a £5,000 contribution from the London Fire Brigade. Monthly meetings are now held with the Local Authority financial team in order for regular reports to be presented to the Executive Board. The Board is now charging non contributing members for training.

One area that requires further development is the challenge that the Board offers to partners. The Chairman has developed a 'Chair's Challenge' for agencies to report back at the next Board. Through the performance web, section 11 audit and schools audit, data will be available for scrutiny and challenge by the board.

Stephen Ashley
Independent Chairman, Hillingdon Local safeguarding Children Board