

HILLINGDON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD: ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor David Simmonds CBE
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
Officer Contact(s)	Steve Ashley, Independent Chair of Hillingdon Safeguarding Children Board
Papers with report	Annual Report 2016/17

HEADLINES

Summary	It is a statutory requirement to publish the Annual Report. The report is a partnership document and describes the work of the local authority and partners engaged in children's safeguarding in the Borough.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objective of: <i>Our People</i> .
Financial Cost	There are no direct costs applicable with the publication of this Annual Report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Children, Young People and Learning
Relevant Ward(s)	The work of the Board covers all the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet note the content of the Annual Report and work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board during 2016/17

Reasons for recommendation

The Annual Report is a statutory requirement that requires publication on the LSCB website and consideration by the Council.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None.

Policy Overview Committee comments

The Independent Chairman of the Hillingdon Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) introduced the Annual Report 2016/17 to the Children, Young People and Policy Overview Committee on 31 July 2017. It was noted that the LSCB was determined to listen to the views of children and young people to ensure that their interests are safeguarded appropriately. Overall, it was reported that there was positive progress in the LSCB's work and child safeguarding in Hillingdon was meeting the standards expected. Areas of concerns were being managed and looked into as part of the LSCB's performance management framework to avoid repetition of any mistakes. The LSCB performance management framework had four key priorities focusing on neglect, partnerships working together, implementation of early help and intervention and safeguarding arrangements in Hillingdon.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Annual Report is attached for Cabinet to note. It 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, the Board has developed progressive training packages for all agencies and provided administrative and project management skill to move the Board forward including the development of its audit and performance processes to ensure it is able to properly hold agencies to account. In the coming year the Board will develop the auditing agenda further to include analysis of agencies as well as multi agency audits.

The Board is aware that a challenging financial environment has placed huge pressures on all agencies and so it has become increasingly the case that organisations working together will be more likely to reach standards of safeguarding we expect.

The Board has 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. These reports speak for themselves, but the Board is determined that where it has fallen short of the required standard, it is able to ensure that lessons are learnt. 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 it needs to make further progress, but the Board is 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. The Board is determined that it does more work to listen to the views of children and young people and will be exploring ways in which it can be more responsive and better engaged with all our communities; particularly young people.

Comments from Social Care

Children Services in the London Borough of Hillingdon has continued to receive the Member, corporate and financial support which has taken the service it directly provides into the safeguarding environment, through a period of stabilising, to one of shaping further improved outcomes for children and young people in the Borough. More directly, in relation to the LSCB itself, the Council continues to provide the bulk of the financial support which provides for the independent leadership of the Board and its infrastructure which supports other agencies in the Borough. All of this contributes to the strategic and operational development and coherence of safeguarding in Hillingdon.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising relating to the publishing of this report.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

The publication of this report will not directly affect service users. If the report is not seen in the context of the timeframe it covers it may cause some loss of confidence in the way in which children in the Borough are safeguarded by partners.

Consultation carried out or required

The report contains information from each of the agencies that form the partnership.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report, confirming that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendation that Cabinet note the content of the annual report

Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report. The report has been developed to ensure that all agencies engage in child safeguarding and working together to protect children from harm in line with statutory obligations and good practice.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL