

# HILLINGDON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

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| <b>Cabinet Member</b>     | Councillor David Simmonds CBE  |
| <b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>  | Deputy Leader of the Council<br>Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services |
| <b>Officer Contact</b>    | Zafer Yilkan, Social Care  |
| <b>Papers with report</b> | Annual Report 2018-2019  |

## HEADLINES

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| <b>Summary</b>                            | It is a statutory requirement to publish the Local Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB) Annual Report. The report reflects the work of the Local Authority and partner organisations engaged in children's safeguarding in the Borough. |
| <b>Putting our Residents First</b>        | This report supports the following Council objective of:<br><i>Our People.</i>  |
| <b>Financial Cost</b>                     | There are no direct financial implications arising from the publication of this Annual Report.  |
| <b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b> | Social Care, Housing and Public Health  |
| <b>Relevant Ward(s)</b>                   | The work of the Board covers the entire Borough.  |

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the Cabinet notes the content of the Annual Report and work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board during 2018/19.**

### Reasons for recommendation

The Annual Report is a statutory requirement that requires publication on the Local Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB) website and consideration by the Council.

### Alternative options considered / risk management

None.

## Policy Overview Committee comments

At its meeting on 31 July 2019, the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Committee considered the last Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) annual report under the current arrangements. The Committee considered the new governance arrangements to be a good opportunity to engage with partners in a more meaningful way, engage with senior bodies of organisations and add a whole new level of robust challenge. It was noted that two areas remained priorities namely child neglect and preventing the criminal exploitation of children and young people. Notwithstanding these priorities, Members welcomed the positive results so far and were pleased to see domestic violence being incorporated into day to day work. The Committee congratulated all bodies involved for their hard work and commitment with particular thanks to the LSCB's Independent Chairman.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### LSCB Activity

1. This is the final annual report produced by the Independent Chairman of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, reflecting its 2018-19 activity, as new arrangements for partnership safeguarding arrangements are now in place. At this time next year, a report will be published following an independent assurance review by an independent party.
2. The Annual Report details work undertaken by the Board last 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.
3. The report illustrates that this year the partnership has continued to work on its priorities; the neglect of children remained a focus which resulted in the development of a neglect strategy with the appropriate tools to enable front line professionals to identify cases of neglect and put resources in place to support and help families and children. Related to this, the report captures that evidence that progress has been made in developing early help solutions.
4. Preventing the criminal exploitation of children and young people remained a priority in the last year and progress in the way partners are working together is illustrated in the report, In particular, a multi-agency group are able to identify vulnerable young people and put protection in place for them.
5. During the year, there have been two learning reviews undertaken, and one serious case review is due to be finalised in 2019. Single and multi-agency audits of safeguarding practice have been completed with strengths identified, and reinforced. The identified areas of learning have been addressed via training programmes, specialist learning events and further service development.

6. The Independent Chairman states that the work undertaken by partners over the last three years has been remarkable and he states his view that Hillingdon stands out as one of the most effective boroughs in London, in terms of the way it safeguards its children.

### **Future safeguarding arrangements**

7. In 2015, the Secretary of State for Education and the Minister of State for Children and Families commissioned Alan Wood to lead the review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). The review recommended a fundamental reform of safeguarding arrangements, placing equal responsibility and freedom on the Local Authority, the Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group to organise their local arrangements according to local need.
8. The Children and Social Work Act 2017, Section 30, makes these recommendations statutory. Sections 16 to 23 introduce an equal duty on Local Authorities, Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups to make safeguarding arrangements for children within their geographical areas of responsibility.
9. In Hillingdon, the last LSCB meeting under the old arrangements took place on 1 May 2019 and the new arrangements are now implemented and the new Safeguarding Partnership arrangements will continue to focus on local priority areas, including neglect and young people affected by contextual risk factors.
10. The Act also places a duty on Child Death Review partners, Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups to review the deaths of children ordinarily resident in the local area. Hillingdon, alongside seven other West London Local Authorities, has formed a new partnership with the North West London Project in order to fulfil the new Child Death Review (CDR) legal requirements.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct 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; however, the work of the Board seeks to promote a joint multi-agency approach to safeguarding and protecting our most vulnerable residents.

### **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.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL