

Assembly

30 November 2016

Title: Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Reports	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Director: Anne Bristow, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Service Development and Integration	
Summary: <p>Local Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) and Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have a statutory obligation to compile and publish an Annual Report and to provide this to me as the Chair of the local Health and Wellbeing Board. The reports are expected to provide an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable adults and children respectively and these reports were considered by our Health and Wellbeing Board on 22 November 2016. Cabinet also considered the Safeguarding Children's report at its October meeting.</p> <p>The Annual Reports highlight the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) between April 2015 and March 2016. They set out the key achievements, work of the partners and future priorities and seek to demonstrate how the Safeguarding Boards have worked to improve the protection of vulnerable adults and children across Barking and Dagenham.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Annual reports are published on behalf of the LSCB and SAB partnerships and are an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of 2015 - 16 and plan for the year ahead. The annual reports contain contributions from a range of organisations who are involved in safeguarding vulnerable adults and children in Barking and Dagenham.</p> <p>Partners have worked successfully together over the past year. The statutory partners have provided financial resources to support the SAB and the LSCB to fulfil their functions and to support the undertaking of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and children's Serious Case Reviews.</p>	
Recommendation(s) Assembly is recommended to:	
(i) receive the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Reports, and	
(ii) comment on the reports and the safeguarding arrangements in place in the borough.	

Reason(s)

For the Assembly to have an opportunity to consider and comment on the work of both the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Board.

1. Introduction and Legislative Background**1.1 Safeguarding Adults Board**

The Care Act 2014 requires that local partners must co-operate around the protection of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Although the SAB has been operating for a number of years the Care Act put it on a statutory footing. The statutory partners are the Local Authority, the Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other Board members include the chairs of the sub committees and advisors.

1.1.1 The objectives of the SAB are to:

- ensure that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014;
- embed good safeguarding practices, that put people at the centre of its duties;
- work in partnership with other agencies to prevent abuse and neglect where possible;
- ensure that services and individuals respond quickly and responsibly when abuse or neglect has occurred; and
- continually improve safeguarding practices and enhance the quality of life of adults in the local area.

1.2 Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**1.2.1 Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 set out the statutory objectives and functions for an LSCB as follows:**

- To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

1.2.2 Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:

- developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - > the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - > training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;

- > recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
- > investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
- > safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
- > cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners.

- communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve.
- participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

1.2.3 Regulation 5 (2) which relates to the LSCB Serious Case Reviews function and regulation 6 which relates to the LSCB Child Death functions are covered in chapter 4 of the Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance. Regulation 5 (3) provides that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.

1.2.4 In order to fulfil its statutory function under regulation 5 an LSCB should use data and, as a minimum, should:

- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations;
- quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned;
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multiagency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

1.2.5 In 2015/16 the government issued additional guidance to all LSCBs in respect of radicalisation and extremism which needs to be recognised as a safeguarding issue and should be included in the quality assurance work undertaken by the Board. Additionally the government contacted all LSCB Chairs and Chief Executives of Councils in 2015 following publication of the Jay report reinforcing the importance of ensuring robust responses to Child Sexual Exploitation.

1.3 Publication of Annual Reports

1.3.1 The Chair of the LSCB and SAB must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults in the local area (this is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014). The annual reports should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The reports should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

1.3.2 All partners were consulted as part of the development of the report process and the Annual Reports have been agreed and signed off by the SAB on 21st September and the LSCB on 22nd September. All member agencies of the SAB and LSCB have contributed to the reports which are now public documents.

1.4 Oversight of Safeguarding work

1.4.1 Within the Council the Corporate Assurance Group are kept abreast of developments around safeguarding issues on a monthly basis. The Leader and I meet on a quarterly basis with the Independent Chair, the Chief Executive, the Strategic Director for Service Development and Integration and her Operational Directors for Care and Support to satisfy ourselves about our safeguarding functions and provide challenge and support.

1.5 Community impact

1.5.1 The work of the statutory partners and wider agencies have an impact on how we commission and provide services to protect vulnerable children, young people and adults. The engagement of the local community in the work of the safeguarding boards is critical to partners understanding the safeguarding issues they face.

2. Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report

2.1 This is the second Annual Report that has been produced by the Safeguarding Adults Board under its statutory status. Taking into account the feedback received and discussions with regards to the 2014-15 annual report, the chapters are themed around the six safeguarding principles which are accountability, empowerment, protection, prevention, proportionality and partnership. There is information about the activity of the Board and of partner agencies. These follow a foreword by the Independent Chair of the Board, information about the Board structure and its committees and safeguarding data. There is also an account of the outcomes and recommendations from the Safeguarding Adult Review that was undertaken by the Board, information around the learning and development undertaken by the Board and partner organisations in relation to safeguarding, a statement from Healthwatch and a chapter around the Board's priorities for the coming year.

2.2 Key Achievements for the Safeguarding Adults Board 2015 – 2016

2.2.1 Public Awareness Raising:

Work to raise the awareness of safeguarding issues included the relaunch of the 'I Care' Campaign to raise the profile of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse to support concerns to be raised by local communities and professionals. Leaflets and posters were produced and have been distributed to partner organisation and it has a presence on the safeguarding website.

2.2.2 Safeguarding Performance:

The annual report summarises performance during 2015/16 in the 'safeguarding at a glance' chapter.

In summary, for the year, the Council received and processed 1,362 alerts. 492 of these concerns were progressed to an enquiry and 87 resulted in safeguarding investigations. The number of alerts is comparable to the previous year, however a higher number of cases were progressed to the enquiry stage.

The Performance and Assurance committee is developing a performance framework to assist the Board in understanding safeguarding issues across partner organisations and in the community and to highlight areas of risk and concern.

2.2.3 Safeguarding Adults Reviews:

The Safeguarding Adults Board has a duty to carry out Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) where an adult in the local authority area:

- Has died as a result of abuse or risk (either known or suspected) and there are concerns that partner organisations could have worked together more effectively to protect that adult; or
- Has not died but the Safeguarding Adults Board knows or suspects that an adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

Each member of the Safeguarding Adults Board must co-operate and contribute to the review. The recommendations of a Safeguarding Adults Review must be reported in the Safeguarding Adults Board's Annual Report. A robust SAR process is now in place for the consideration of cases.

In 2015/16 one Safeguarding Adult Review was undertaken. This concluded and reported to the SAB in December 2015 and is reported in the annual report. A learning event was undertaken to share outcomes with practitioners from across all partner agencies. The review made a number of recommendations and the action plan has been monitored by the Safeguarding Adult Review committee. The actions are almost all complete. The SAB itself and its SAR committee lead on embedding the learning from SARs across all partner agencies.

So far in 2016/17 a number of cases have been considered via the SAR process. Two SARs have been commissioned along with a Single Agency Management Review.

2.2.4 Strategic Plan:

A three year strategic plan has been developed which includes actions for the Board overall and the committees. The actions are set out under the safeguarding principles and the strategic objectives. The actions form part of the committee's work plans and updates against the actions are reported to the SAB every 6 months. The plan will be refreshed on an annual basis.

2.3 Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults Policies & Procedures

- 2.3.1 The SAB signed up to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Policies and Procedures in March 2016. The Board has since developed an action for implementation of these.

2.4 SAB Priorities for 2016 – 17

2.4.1 The SAB has set a number of priorities for 2016/17. These were discussed and endorsed at the SAB development session in April 2016. The key areas the SAB will be focussing on in 2016/17 are:

- Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) – It is recognised that some development is required to be confident that Barking and Dagenham and its partners have fully embedded the principles of MSP. The ADASS roadmap has been adopted to guide further work.
- Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Compliance – although a considerable amount of MCA training has taken place with staff across all agencies, there is still some way to go in raising the confidence of staff to undertake MCA assessments.
- Learning from SARs – The SAB will continue to lead on embedding the learning from SARs and other reviews across all agencies.
- Joint safeguarding training – The SAB will lead on providing joint training opportunities across partner agencies.
- Performance Framework – the development of a performance management framework is a key focus to assist the Board in understanding safeguarding issues across partner organisations and in the community and to highlight areas of risk and concern.

3. Local Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report

3.1 The LSCB Annual report provides an account of the work of partners in safeguarding children across Barking and Dagenham. The report sets out the demographics and associated safeguarding issues facing children – poverty, domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation (CSE). A safeguarding snap shot provides the context for the partnership response to safeguarding work across Barking and Dagenham. The report focuses on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Arrangements in Barking & Dagenham, Early Intervention and Domestic Violence. We describe the partnership response to CSE, Children Missing Home, Care and Education and Prevent.

3.2 Key Achievements for the Safeguarding Children’s Board 2015 - 2016

3.2.1 Engagement of Children and Young people:

The Young People’s Safety Group enables children from senior schools across the borough to meet each term to discuss safeguarding issues identified by them. These have included mental health issues, sexual health and CSE and Prevent. The board engage in Young People’s Takeover Day and last year saw young people manage the LSCB board meeting giving them with the opportunity to challenge partners about safeguarding in Barking and Dagenham. Young People are leading Takeover Day for the LSCB again this year.

3.2.2 Children Missing from Home, Care and Education:

Going missing is a dangerous activity. There are particular concerns about the links between children running away and the risks of sexual exploitation, gangs and radicalisation. The LSCB has strengthened its oversight of the work of

partners to identify and protect children missing. The figures show that most children who go missing do so repeatedly continuing to put themselves at risk.

3.2.3 Early Help:

The report highlights the increasing number of contacts to children's social care but a drop in the number of referrals by 21% due to effective screening at the MASH and the provision of early help services.

The significant volume of Merlins (contacts from the Police) has led to positive collaborative working between Children's Social Care, Police and Early Help services. In particular, where there are concerns around low level domestic abuse, arrangements are now in place to visit and offer support at a Tier 2 level before considering a referral.

3.3 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)

3.3.1 There is a summary of the work of the Child Death Overview Panel which considers circumstances relating to the deaths of children and a section which describes Serious Case Reviews (SCRs). These are initiated where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected and the child has died or has been seriously harmed. One SCR commenced in the borough during the year and actions were taken in response to another one which was completed earlier. Key learning from the SCR were about:

- information sharing between professionals;
- compliance with procedures – national and local;
- the 'invisible' father;
- professional optimism; and
- disguised compliance.

3.3.2 The report concludes that the LSCB has a good overview of practice which protects and safeguards children and young people, has worked well to anticipate and respond to significant issues affecting their lives and has challenged LSCB members to promote the best outcomes for children and young people.

3.3.3 The report highlights areas where further development is required. These areas are reflected in the 2016/17 Safeguarding Business Plan which informs the current activities of the LSCB. Current priorities will respond to the need to continue to improve local practice in relation to national issues such as female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation, children who go missing and radicalisation of young people.

3.3.4 In Line with Working Together 2015 the LSCB ensures that learning from reviews and audit is shared and discussed across the partnership. Workshops for the serious case reviews enabled over 300 practitioners and managers to come together to reflect on the recommendations identified in the reviews and consider the implications for their practice.

3.4 LSCB Priorities for 2016 – 17

3.4.1. Based upon a review of progress to date as reflected in the report, the LSCB has identified its priorities for the current year which are listed at the end of the report and reflected in the 2016/17 Safeguarding Business Plan. The intention is to continue to address and make progress with these priorities whilst responding to emerging issues. These are developed through the strategic plan and work plans of the sub committees of the LSCB. The chairs of the sub committees meet with the LSCB chair six times a year to review progress and identify areas for development and joint working.

- Board members are assured that arrangements are in place to identify and safeguard groups of children who are particularly vulnerable.
- Board partners will own and share accurate information which informs understanding of safeguarding practice and improvement as a result.
- The Board will see children and young people as valued partners and consult with them so their views are heard and included in the work of the LSCB.
- Arrangements for Early Help will be embedded across agencies in Barking and Dagenham who work with children, young people and their families.
- Board partners will challenge practice through focused inquiries or reviews based on performance indicators, practitioner experience and views from children and young people. Collectively we will learn and improve from these reviews.

4. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Katherine Heffernan, Group Finance Manager

4.1 All statutory partners have contributed to the budget for the LSCB and SAB. In addition, resources have been received from the wider partnership of the LSCB which are reported on in the LSCB annual report.

5. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Eirini Exarchou, Senior Solicitor

5.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to review and take note of the LSCB and SAB's annual reports which aims to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services throughout the past year.

5.2 The legislative framework for the contents of the report for the SAB is set out in the Care Act 2014 which has been mentioned above. The annual report must contain details of the reviews that have been undertaken, what it has done to meet its strategy, objectives and any findings of reviews of past years. The report submitted to this Board fulfils those criteria.

5.3 The legislative framework for the contents of the report for the LSCB is set out in the Children Act 2004 and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2015). The report should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them; lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period; how the LSCBs partners' respond to child sexual exploitation; how to promote service improvement for vulnerable children and families; data on

children missing from care, and how the LSCB is addressing the issue. The report should also list the contributions made to the LSCB by partner agencies and details of what the LSCB has spent, including on Child Death Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and other specific expenditure such as learning events or training. The Annual Report should be published on the local LSCBs website and is drawn to the attention of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the local authority Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council. The reports provided to this Board fulfils those requirements.

6. Risk Management

- 6.1 An LSCB and SAB must be established for every local authority area. The LSCB and SAB have a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements.
- 6.2 The Local Safeguarding Children Board is a significant source of external assurance to the Council concerning the effectiveness of its Child Protection arrangements. Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals that should be represented on LSCBs.

7. Crime and Disorder

- 7.1 The Safeguarding Boards have links to the Community Safety Partnership Board and there is representation on the Boards from the Police Borough Commander.
- 7.2 Other representatives from the Police sit on the sub committees. For each Safeguarding Adult Review and Serious Case Review that is undertaken a Police Officer from the specialist central safeguarding adult review and children review unit is allocated to the case.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1** Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015 – 16
- Appendix 2** Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015 – 16