

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Scrutiny
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Safeguarding Children Board Annual report 2014-15	
<b>Wards or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Michael O' Connor Independent Chair, Southwark Safeguarding Children Board	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Scrutiny is requested to:
  - a) Note the Annual Southwark Safeguarding Children Board Report at appendix 1.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. This report relates to the work of the Board and its partner agencies in the financial year 2014-15 and all agencies represented on the Board have contributed to the writing of this report and had an opportunity for comment on the final draft.
3. Statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) requires that the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) be independent and not subordinate to other local structures. As such, LSCBs are required to have an independent chair which can hold all agencies to account. The current chair has been in post since May 2013 and this is his second annual report to the Board.
4. Section 14A of the Children Act 2004 and paragraph 16 of Chapter 3, *Working Together* require that the Independent Chair of the LSCB publishes an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The Annual Report was agreed by the SSCB in September 2015.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The 2014/15 SSCB annual report provides information on the effectiveness of partnership working in Southwark and evidence of a busy and productive year. The main priorities of the Board have included the prevention and response to neglect, early help, and child sexual exploitation.
6. During 2014/15, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has become more established, with the SSCB reviewing the multi agency thresholds and work on Families Matter which created debate and discussions about thresholds. There have been signs of improvements in the number and appropriateness of referrals from contact. With changes and systems for completing assessments

brought in through Social Work Matters, timescales for completing the assessments should improve.

7. In 2014/15 Southwark met the Troubled Families phase 1 target and the SSCB led the next phase of development of Family Matters. Two multi agency events took place in June and July 2015, chaired by the SSCB Independent chair. This is in addition to the continued focus on the core business of the Board - child protection and the safety of looked after children
8. The Board held a well received conference focusing on working with young people, including child sexual exploitation and missing from home, school or care. The event was attended by 165 partners with strong engagement from health, children social care and education and supported the strategic and operational conversations about Southwark's response to the safeguarding challenges for adolescents.
9. During 2014/15 the Board has established the 'Changemakers' group of young people. The changemakers have attended two board meetings and also provided input to the SSCB annual conference.
10. The annual report offers development areas for improvement for the Board to take forward in the 2015/16 work plan. These include:
  - a) Continuing to improve engagement with children and young people
  - b) Undertaking the local prevalence and development work around Female Genital Mutilation such as developing referral pathways and sharing good practice between partner agencies to safeguard children at risk of FGM
  - c) Combining the SSCB training strategy with the learning and improvement framework.
  - d) Developing local practice from intervention to enforcement around multi agency Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy, including children and young people missing from home, care and school.
  - e) Continuing to raise awareness on private fostering and increase the rate of notification and support to children in these arrangements.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Working together to safeguard children: A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children</a>	Hannah Edwards SSCB Development Manager
Protecting children in Wales: Guidance for arrangements for multi agency child practice reviews	<a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/wales/child-practice-reviews/">http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/wales/child-practice-reviews/</a>	Hannah Edwards SSCB Development Manager

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/5

## AUDIT TRAIL

*This section must be included in all reports.*

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Michael O’Connor, Chair of the Safeguarding Board		
<b>Report Author</b>	Hannah Edwards, Development Manager Safeguarding Board		
<b>Version</b>	Final report		
<b>Dated</b>	January 2016		
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No		
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>			
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>	
Director of Legal Services	No	No	
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No	
List other officers here			