

Item No. 14.	Classification: Open	Date: 31 January 2016	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Southwark Safeguarding Children Board Annual report 2015-16	
Wards or groups affected:		All	
From:		Michael O' Connor Independent Chair, Southwark Safeguarding Children Board	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The board is requested to 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 2015-16 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 third 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 December 2016. The guidance also advises that the annual report is presented to the Chair of the Health and Well Being Board.
5. A protocol has also been agreed between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the SSCB as it is acknowledged that these two boards have a common purpose to promote joint working and co-operation between partners to improve the wellbeing of children in Southwark.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The SSCB Annual Report 2015-16 describes the effectiveness of partnership safeguarding activity undertaken over the past year. The Board has focused on five core thematic priority areas and these are reviewed in detail in the report, along with the impact of the work and next steps. The priorities are;
 - a) Improvement in the identification and challenge of multi-agency performance issues
 - b) Children at risk of sexual exploitation and who are missing

- c) Preventing violent extremism
 - d) Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
 - e) Families Matter
7. During 2015/16, the SSCB refreshed its multi agency performance management framework, providing a stronger data set to challenge local practice, provide greater assurance and understanding the impact of key developments locally. We consistently used performance intelligence and learning from practice to support and challenge how we can do things differently, taking an in-depth look at a number of areas to drive improvements and set priorities.
 8. Over the year, the SSCB worked jointly with the local authority children's service and oversaw a partnership-wide root and branch review of our approach to child sexual exploitation (CSE) arrangements. This resulted in changes to our strategic and operational frameworks supporting much greater visibility and partnership wide grip of the issue locally.
 9. The SSCB also commissioned a serious case review (SCR). Early findings from this review have led us to challenge and refocus our early help offer especially around adolescents. For 2016/17, the Board have planned audits of the efficacy of the pathways and processes to access safeguarding services including testing the effectiveness our multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) arrangements, and how we currently work as partners to support at risk adolescents.
 10. In March 2016 the Board held a well received conference focusing on female genital mutilation (FGM). The event was attended by 165 partners with strong engagement from health and children social care and supported the strategic and operational conversations about Southwark's response to the safeguarding challenges for adolescents.
 11. During 2015/16 the Board continued to work closely with the 'Changemakers', a group of young people who support the SSCB. The changemakers have developed a set of key principles and values for staff and volunteers working with children, as well as providing input to the SSCB annual conference.
 12. The annual report offers development areas for improvement for the Board to take forward in the 2016/17 work plan. The SSCB priorities for 2016/17 sit within this context, and are intended to ensure the SSCB can continue to respond to challenges, including forthcoming changes to the national policy framework both to local safeguarding children's boards, to the future of social care and safeguarding work, and how multi-agency partners work together to tackle complex child protection including missing children, risks from exploitation, chronic neglect and criminality.
 13. The SSCB's thematic priorities for 2016/17 include:
 - a) Continuing to improve engagement with children and young people
 - b) Undertaking local prevalence and development work around Female Genital Mutilation (joint priority with SSAB)
 - c) Delivering on the review of Child Sexual Exploitation and young people who go missing from home, care and school
 - d) Working jointly with the SSAB to build on the learning from the SCR, to develop a multi-agency action plan to tackle knife crime.
 - e) Preventing extremism – joint priority with Southwark Safeguarding Adults

Board (SSAB)

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	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children	Hannah Edwards Safeguarding Board Manager
Protecting children in Wales: Guidance for arrangements for multi agency child practice reviews	http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/wales/child-practice-reviews/	Hannah Edwards Safeguarding Board Manager

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/6

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Michael O'Connor, Chair of the Safeguarding Board	
Report Author	Hannah Edwards, Safeguarding Board Manager	
Version	Final report	
Dated	20 January 2017	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		20 January 2017