

# **Southwark Safeguarding Children Board**

**Draft Annual Safeguarding Board  
Report 2012/13**

# A changing landscape

- Nationally, radically altering national landscape:
  - Working Together 2013 guidance and revised Ofsted frameworks raising bar in terms of responsibilities of and requirements on safeguarding children board
  - National spotlight on areas such as child trafficking, private fostering and child sexual exploitation
  - New initiatives such as Troubled Families challenging system to work differently with its most vulnerable families
- Continuing high levels of local need and complexity:
  - Multiple and interconnected problems of most vulnerable families, including mental health, domestic abuse, disability, worklessness, criminal behaviour and substance misuse
  - Repeated involvement evident across statutory agencies

# Strong, visible local leadership

- Strengths:
  - Services for vulnerable children recognised by Ofsted as good with outstanding features in May 2012 inspection
  - Stronger interface between early help and statutory services
  - Compliant system and strengthening performance management
  - Good partner engagement, including through sub-groups
- Areas for development in 2013/14:
  - Further develop quality assurance and audit functions to focus on impact, progress and service user experience
  - Ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory frameworks, including development of single assessment and early help offer
  - Further embed the community in leadership of safeguarding locally
  - Build on mature partnerships to embed new relationships, such as with health and wellbeing board and CCG

# Effective oversight of multi-agency practice

- Strengths:
  - Overall good-quality and timely support that safeguards and makes a difference
  - Effective embedding of CAF and early help infrastructure, including triage and MASH arrangements
  - Better engagement and satisfaction of children and parents through the roll-out of Signs of Safety approach
  - Comprehensive and highly regarded partnership training and development offer
- Areas for development in 2013/14:
  - Develop further local systems to evidence impact of practice on outcomes for children and young people
  - Review and challenge local practice on emerging priority areas, including further developing early help and intervention choices
  - Increase number of children in stable homes