

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/2016 REPORT NO. 79

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet 21st October 2015

REPORT OF: Tony Theodoulou

Interim Director of
Children's Services

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 7

**Subject: Enfield Safeguarding Children
Board Annual Report 2014 - 2015**

Wards: All

Non key

**Cabinet Member consulted: Cllr Ayfer
Orhan**

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 2014-2015 has been a successful year for the work of the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB). The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) carried out an inspection in Enfield from **20 January 2015 to 11 February 2015** the report was published **27 March 2015**. Ofsted found the work of the Board as **Good** and the overall judgement of Enfield Local Authority also **Good**. Whilst there are areas that we need to improve on, the Ofsted judgement does illustrate that the Safeguarding Children Board partnership is a strong one.
- 1.2 The Enfield Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report covering 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 is attached as a background paper. It describes the Board's structure, activity and progress during 2014/15. The Board has followed through on the priority areas in the Business Plan 2014-2016 which still has another year to run.
- 1.3 The Board met 8 times during 2014/15 and was attended by senior managers from statutory and voluntary organisations, and by Lay Members. Enfield's Lead Member for Education, Children Services and Protection, Cllr Ayfer Orhan attends each board meeting and continues to challenge the work of the ESCB through discussion, asking questions and seeking clarity. This provides an important scrutiny and challenge function to the Board and further ensures the Board is supported by the Council.
- 1.4 There are currently five Subcommittees operating within ESCB, in which a significant amount of the Board's work is progressed. As with the full Board, membership is multi-agency. All Terms of Reference have been updated within the last year and there is recognition by all Chairs that the success, effectiveness and thoroughness of the Board require each Subcommittee interacting with that of the others.

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2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet to note for information this report and the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report which is attached as a background paper to this document.
- 2.2 Cabinet to specifically note the summary of achievements on page 10 of the ESCB Annual Report.
- 2.3 Cabinet to refer the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report to full Council.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Children Act 2004 places a duty on every local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board. Enfield Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) is made up of statutory and voluntary partners. These include representatives from Health, Education, Children's Services, Police, Probation, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), Youth Offending, the Community & Voluntary Sector as well as Lay Members.
- 3.2 The main role of the ESCB is to coordinate what is done locally to protect and promote the welfare of children and young people in Enfield and to monitor the effectiveness of those arrangements to ensure better outcomes for children and young people. The effectiveness of ESCB relies upon its ability to champion the safeguarding agenda through exercising an independent voice.
- 3.3 There are currently five Sub Committees operating within ESCB, in which a significant amount of the board's work is progressed. The subcommittees are:
 - Quality Assurance
 - Learning and Development
 - Serious Case Reviews
 - Child Death Overview Panel
 - Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Missing

There is also a Female Genital Mutilation task group that meets regularly.

- 3.4 **The Quality Assurance Sub Committee** has worked hard to improve the quality of service improvement and delivery of outcomes consistently across the partnership. The majority of monitoring and evaluation of multi-agency practice is monitored through the subcommittee which meets on a six-weekly basis. The group's key areas of focus are;

- To monitor and ensure compliance with the ESCB Performance Dataset and to report key findings and areas of concern to the board.
- To ensure partner agencies' compliance with Section 11 Audit Tool.
- To commission and oversee focused audits regarding performance and compliance with procedures and policies as necessary.
- To closely monitor compliance with performance around the child protection processes, such as agency attendance at conference and core groups, numbers of children subject to CP Plans.
- To oversee the development and review of multi-agency policies and protocols and sign them off when completed.
- To oversee Peer audits carried out on individual cases to identify learning points and areas for improvement.

3.5 **The Learning and Development Sub Committee** key drivers and priorities for the Training Programme have included;

- The development of the **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** Strategy and activity to identify and tackle CSE in Enfield.
- Awareness raising around the issue of **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**
- Increasing awareness of understanding of gang related issues and links with other issues, such as CSE.
- The development of the **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** and the **Single Point of Entry (SPOE)** service
- The ongoing issue of neglect
- **Domestic Abuse** and **Violence Against Women and Girls**
- **PREVENT** – The national anti-radicalisation agenda

All evaluation reports are sent to training providers and all are analysed by the Training and Workforce Group. This analysis has resulted in amendments to course content over the course of the year and has informed the Training Needs analysis for 2015/16.

3.6 **The Serious Case Review Sub Committee** must consider whether to initiate a serious case review when a child dies (including death by suspected suicide) or is seriously injured, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor. The main purpose of a serious case review which is to learn lessons to improve the way in which agencies and professionals work both individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

In 2014/15 one new Serious Case Review was initiated with close collaboration with neighbouring London Borough of Barnet. Publication is planned for summer 2015. A number of learning points have been identified during the process of the review and an action plan is already being implemented and monitored through the subcommittee.

A SCR, which was undertaken jointly with neighbouring London Borough of Haringey which commenced in 2013, this was published just after the end of the year in May 2015. Most of the work was undertaken during 2014 –

2015. There are proposed learning events to take place in 2015 with regard to both serious case reviews.

3.7 **The Enfield Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)** reviews the deaths of all children normally resident in Enfield. The panel looks to identify any issues that could require a Serious Case Review (SCR); any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area; or any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in the area; and will make specific recommendation to the ESCB.

3.8 The **Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Missing (TSEM)** subgroup of the ESCB has existed since early 2012. It is a multi-agency group which coordinates and oversees our operational and strategic response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) and other associated vulnerabilities including the implementation of the CSE strategy and action plan.

Meetings provide a forum for agencies to:

- share operational issues with each other
 - provide transparent information on issues within their own agencies
 - develop strategy and protocols where required to deal more effectively with the issues
 - highlight any specific areas of risk
- It has representation from all agencies working with children and young people in Enfield.

3.9 In February 2015 Enfield councilors demonstrated a strong commitment to tackling CSE by agreeing to establish a specialist dedicated members Task Group with a clear focus on Child Sexual Exploitation and associated risks for children and young people. The aim was to review and scrutinise all matters relating to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The terms of reference were agreed in early 2015 and the group had its first meeting in June 2015.

3.10 **The Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) task group** has progressed work in supporting the identification, assessment and safeguarding of children and risk of female genital mutilation through the completion of a Health Needs Assessment and FGM Strategy. A very successful conference focussing upon FGM was held on the Borough in early 2015.

3.11 The ESCB now has a fantastic network of young people's Safeguarding Champions who have produced a film as well as other activities. The Safeguarding Champions are a group of young people committed to promoting the protection of Enfield's children and young people. The Champions programme facilitates young people to get involved in working directly with the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board. This ensures the voice of children and young people informs

strategy, priorities and interventions that are designed to safeguard them.

3.12 In 2015 Ofsted judged the ESCB to be **GOOD**. The inspectors highlighted a number of strengths as follows:

A. Partnership arrangements

- Strong and effective partnerships meaning that partners are holding each other to account for the delivery of good multi-agency services to children and families in need of help and protection.
- Thresholds are understood, embedded and applied well by partner agencies. They are supported by an escalation policy that is well understood.
- The Board is pro-active in seeking to work with neighbouring safeguarding boards to protect vulnerable children and young people most effectively. The two most recent serious case reviews (SCRs) have been undertaken in partnership with neighbouring LSCBs.
- The multi-agency training plan is comprehensive and well evaluated. Training is responsive to emerging need, including learning from SCRs.

B. Scrutiny and challenge

- Annual Section 11 audits are conducted well. They feature peer review and challenge to identify gaps in agency safeguarding practice, policies or procedures. Gaps are addressed effectively.

C. Policies and procedures

- ESCB policies and procedures are routinely updated and responsive to local and national developments. A recent focus on child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation has accelerated and improved practice in these domains.

D. Children's views

- The ESCB ensures that the views of children and young people play a pivotal role in the work of the Board and have influence over service developments.

3.13 Four areas for improvement were identified as follows:

- Ensure that the ESCB robustly monitors, evaluates and influences the effectiveness of early help services.
- Improve the scrutiny of multi-agency audit activity to evidence effective oversight of the Board's priorities.
- Ensure that the current data set is refined to provide analytical commentary from contributing agencies and the quality assurance sub-

group, so that the Board will be better able to identify themes and trends and take necessary actions as required.

- Ensure that the Board demonstrates influence with Enfield Council to use its powers under the Licensing Act 2003 so that taxi companies and taxi drivers are subject to appropriate scrutiny.

Each of these areas has been directly addressed in the Enfield Ofsted Improvement Plan and activity is already underway to ensure that actions are completed quickly and robustly.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Enfield Safeguarding Children Board will require the commitment and support from multiple partners and from colleagues across the Council in order to continue to focus on improvements with the clear aim of reducing harm.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

The Enfield Safeguarding Children Board is financed through contributions from partner agencies. The contributions for 2015 – 2016 are as follows:

Agency	Contribution
Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group	33,600
North Middlesex University Hospital	3,000
Royal Free Hospital	3,000
Barnet Enfield Mental Health Trust	3,000
Met Police	5,000
CAFCASS	550
London Borough of Enfield	135,943
Total	184,093

The contribution from the London Borough of Enfield is funded by a revenue budget specifically for this purpose within Children's Services.

6.2 Legal Implications

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 ('the Act') places a duty on every Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Section 14 of the Children Act sets out the objective of a LSCB. Section 14A of the Act requires a LSCB to 'prepare and publish a report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its local area' which must be submitted to the local Children's Trust Board. The Government's Statutory Guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), gives guidance on the operation of LSCBs.

The proposals set out in this report comply with the above legislation.

The Ofsted review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board was carried out under section 15A of the Children Act 2004 and Regulation 2 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (Review) Regulations 2013.

6.3 Property Implications

Not applicable.

6.4 HR Implications

Not applicable.

7. KEY RISKS

The Enfield Safeguarding Children Board is reliant upon a strong commitment from partners and is financed through contributions from partner agencies. There are risks that the austere climate may impact upon the financial contributions and reduce the ability to deliver on the key priorities within the business plan. Failure to deliver the business plan would have a detrimental impact upon the Council's reputation.

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All, Growth and Sustainability and Strong Communities

The work of the ESCB meets all 3 of the council's key aims and the 9 objectives within the Children and Young People's Plan. With particular emphasis and more weighting upon improving services to those

children, young people and families that require prevention and intervention from safeguarding services across a broad spectrum from early help to statutory interventions.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

Corporate advice has been sought in regard to equalities and an agreement has been reached that an equalities impact assessment is neither relevant nor proportionate for the approval of this report. Safeguarding forms part of the Councils programme of retrospective equalities impact assessments (EQIA) and this was completed in July 2015. The retrospective EQIA collates equalities monitoring of service users, and consider how the service impacts on disadvantaged, vulnerable and protected characteristic groups in the community.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This ESCB has a robust data set and annual audit programme supporting the continuous drive for improvement by the Council and its partners in relation to outcomes for children.

11. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

The ESCB has strong links with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Director of Public Health is a standing member of the Safeguarding Children Board. The ESCB has promoted and supported a number of public health issues and specifically coordinated the Female Genital Mutilation task group, which is chaired by a Consultant in Public Health. The ESCB is working closely with the Adult Safeguarding Children Board to look at strengthening the partnership working with specific emphasis upon the health areas that are key priorities for both Boards such as Domestic Abuse and Female Genital Mutilation.

The ESCB coordinates local programmes to protect and promote the welfare of children and young people in Enfield and to monitor the effectiveness of those arrangements. Improved outcomes in early life and childhood lead to healthier, successful adults and improve the health of the population. For example: protecting children and young people results in improved population health outcomes by reducing mental health issues, sexually transmitted diseases and other issues e.g. obstetric complications in FGM victims.

The work of the Child Death Overview Committee contributes to reducing infant mortality in the borough by recognising risk factors and acting to prevent such deaths where possible. This increases life expectancy in the borough population.

Background Papers

None

Appendix

1. Enfield Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2014- 2015