

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/2017 REPORT NO. 96

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet 19th October 2016
Council 9 November 2016

REPORT OF: Tony

Theodoulou

Interim Director of
Children's Services

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 9

**Subject: Enfield Safeguarding Children
Board Annual Report 2015 - 2016**

Wards: All

Non Key

**Cabinet Member consulted: Cllr Ayfer
Orhan**

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 2015-2016 has been a successful year for the work of the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) with continued effectiveness in assessing and driving forward safeguarding practice which keeps children and young people at risk safe. There is a good multi-agency response to safeguarding concerns with strong systems and structures in place across the partnership. The commitment to workforce development and improving practice remains a priority with a comprehensive learning and development programme and a clear performance management framework in place.
- 1.2 The Enfield Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report covering 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 is attached as a background paper. It describes the Board's structure, activity and progress during 2015/16. The Board has followed through on the priority areas in the Business Plan 2014-2016.
- 1.3 The Board met 8 times during 2015/16 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, there is recognition by all Chairs that the success, effectiveness and thoroughness of the Board require each Subcommittee interacting with that of the others.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council to note the progress being made to safeguard children and young people and specifically note this report and the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report which is attached as an appendix to this document.

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
- 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 review 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 review of the threshold document and development of the one front door (**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 2016/17.

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 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.

There were no serious case reviews commissioned in 2015/16 but 2 cases were published during this period relating to events in 2013 and 2014. Action plans have been put into place and multi-agency learning events have been delivered with regard to both cases.

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 CSE members task group has met regularly reviewing and scrutinising all matters relating to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The group report to Council and has made specific recommendations to be put into place during 2016/17.

3.10 The ESCB now has a fantastic network of young people's Safeguarding Champions; they are a group of young people committed to promoting the protection of Enfield's children and young people. More work is to be done to promote the direct participation and input of more of our children and young people in the work of Enfield at a strategic and operational level. This remains an area of challenge for the Board.

3.11 The Board is proud of its successes there have been many achievements over the year these can be found in the ESCB annual report pages 4 to 6. There is no room for complacency, the economic situation and organisational change affecting public services in Enfield and across the country continues to be a challenge for the Board.

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

6.1.2 In 2015/16 the ESCB had a budget of £184,910 of which £144,310 was contributed by the London Borough of Enfield and the remainder from various partners, the largest of which was the CCG contributing £33,600.

6.1.2 The ESCB managed to spend within budget during the year primarily because there were no new Serious Care Reviews in 2015/16 which are regularly a high area of expenditure for Safeguarding Boards. **88%** of the overall budget was spent on staffing costs including the independent chair and the remainder was spent on Serious Case Reviews and Learning & Development.

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' at least once in every 12 month period. The report must be submitted to the local Children's Trust Board. The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 govern the running of an LSCB. 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.

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 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 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 the Annual report. Safeguarding forms part of the Council's 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. A programme of actions to address adverse impacts are devised and implemented where appropriate throughout the delivery of the project.

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 the Female Genital Mutilation task group, which is chaired by a Consultant in Public Health, has become an established sub-committee of the Health and wellbeing Board.

The ESCB is working closely with the Adult Safeguarding Children Board to further strengthen 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 Children Board Annual Report 2015- 2016