

## **REPORT TO: OSC**

**DATE:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**REPORT TITLE:** Draft ESCB Annual Report

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To update the committee on the Draft Enfield Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017 – 18.

### **SUMMARY:**

The ESCB annual report 2017/18 is an overview of the progress being made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people across Enfield during the past year.

The report is split in two parts:

- Part 1 – “At a glance” summary of activities
- Part 2 is a more detailed report

The main report is broken into the following sections:

**Section 2** of the report sets the context for safeguarding children and young people, by highlighting statistical information about Enfield

**Section 3** sets out the local governance and accountability arrangements for the ESCB and structures in place to support the ESCB to do its work effectively. It also provides information on the new Safeguarding Arrangements that will be introduced in 2018/19 through the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

**Section 4** highlights some of the achievements and the progress that has been made in the last year as well as reporting on the work undertaken across the partnership

**Section 5**, provides an overview of specific responses to safeguarding concerns, focusing on Vulnerable Young People and Early Help

**Section 6** highlights the lessons the ESCB has identified through its Learning and Improvement Framework and provides an overview of the multi-agency audits undertaken, Serious Case Reviews and child death.

**Section 7** describes the range and impact of the multi-agency learning and development training provision and describes the communication activity undertaken by the LSCB.

Lastly, **Section 8** sets out the priorities ESCB will take forward into 2018/19.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

Enfield Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which describes how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people.

Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local agencies that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure that they do so effectively.

2017/18 has been a busy year for the Safeguarding Board, despite changes and challenges that at times have impacted on the Boards ability to progress work, agencies across the partnership have continued to demonstrate strong commitment to the Board and its activities. The Board remains committed to a programme of scrutiny, monitoring and, quality assuring the quality of safeguarding activity across Enfield, and this programme of robust analysis and challenge will continue to ensure that children and young people who are at risk of exploitation or abuse are identified and responded to speedily and effectively, as we move forward and embrace the opportunities the new statutory guidance offers.

### **Report highlights**

- The ESCB considered what the future local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements could be following the legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017. There will be statutory changes with the abolishing of LSCBs and the introduction of new safeguarding arrangements, changes to the Serious Case Reviews and the introduction of Safeguarding Practice Reviews and the role of the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. There will also be changes around the Child Death reviews and the expectations that the number of deaths reviews should increase to between 80 – 120. Therefore, indicating a need for cross border Child Death panels. Over the next 12 months will see the partnership agreeing and publishing new local arrangements.
- No Serious Case Reviews have been commissioned this year, however one SCR that had commenced in the previous year was published and will remain on the website for a year. The Board commissioned one local learning case review, the learning from this will be disseminated across the partnership and included in next year's report. The reviews have been completed in a timely manner, learning was identified for partners to build on understanding the vulnerabilities of young asylum seekers and the importance of information sharing out of hours.
- The Quality Assurance Sub Committee continued to lead and scrutinise the ESCB learning and improvement framework. This involved leading on Section 11 interviews, case audits and reviewing multi-agency performance data to develop an understanding on how well the partnership identified and responded to safeguarding issues. The members scrutinised single agency audits and shared learning across organisations. Overall safeguarding performance data provides reassurance. There are gaps in data from partners agencies, there will be a focus on updating the dataset in 2018/19. The progress on multi-agency cases audits was impacted on by departure of the Service manager, practice and partnership. There will be a renewed focus on increasing the number of multi-agency case audits.
- This year the ESCB expanded its CSE group and established a new Vulnerable Young People Group, chaired by the Head of Community Safety. This has enabled partners to focus on understanding the issues that pose a risk to young people and how they impact on their lives - in a local context. The group has looked at a range of issues from Radiclisation to County Lines

and continued a specific focus on CSE. Overall it has identified that the complex vulnerabilities of young people frequently overlap. It was agreed that to approach these as separate need is less effective than considering the complexity to a young person needs as a whole. To support the partnership in understanding how these issues intersect and how we should locally respond, there will be a focus on developing an overarching Vulnerable Young Peoples Strategy: "Protecting Young People from Exploitation and Abuse".

- This year the ESCB and the ESAB progressed the merger of their respective Learning and Development subcommittees. There have been some challenges in the engagement of adults safeguarding, which has improved now the group is chaired by the adults safeguarding board manager. The financial resourcing and delivery of training are different and this year, there has been an acknowledgement of the differences, but a recognition that there are many areas of opportunity to join up learning and embed a Think Family approach. Moving forward the partners will strengthen the joint multi-agency learning and development offer and ensure despite who commissions training it will be available to all areas regardless if their primary focus is children or adults.

## **2. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017, has introduced legislative changes including the abolishing of LSCBs and identifying The Local Authority, CCG and Police as the 3 safeguarding partners responsible for

- Agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services;
- Act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and
- Implement local and national learning incl. serious child safeguarding incidents

Over the next year as decisions are made on what the new arrangements look like, it will be important this this is done without breaking the strengths of the current partnership working and ensuring the involvement of schools who are not mandatory partners.

Failure to deliver robust new set of arrangements would have a detrimental impact upon the Council's reputation.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

No specific recommendations. The report is circulated to Members for their information.

## **4. NEXT STEPS**

The final report will be circulated to ESCB members for comments and presented to the ESCB meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017 for sign off.