

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/2019 REPORT NO. 120

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet – 12 December
2018
Council – 30 January 2019

REPORT OF:

Executive Director of People

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 9

**Subject: Enfield Safeguarding Children
Board Annual Report 2017/18**

**Wards: All
Non Key**

**Cabinet Member consulted: Cllr Achilleas
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1. EXECUTIVE 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 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 and includes an "At a glance" annual summary.

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 a background paper to this document.

3. 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 Board's 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 partner 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 Radicalisation 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: "Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation and Abuse".
- This year the ESCB and the ESAB progressed the merger of their respective Learning and Development subcommittees. There has been improved engagement from across all agencies and the group is now 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.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

This report is for information.

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 FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

The ESCB is funded by its partner agencies with the London Borough of Enfield being significantly the biggest contributor.

The ESCB managed to spend within budget during the year. The majority of the overall budget is spent on staffing and the Independent Chair, which this year was lower than originally projected. This was due to a reduction in ESCB support team following the departures of the Child Death Overview Panel coordinator post and the Service Manager for Practice and Partnership.

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 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

There are no property implications.

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. This will be mitigated by seeking agreement from partners of their financial contributions in advance of the upcoming year to enable forward planning of activities and commitments.

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES – CREATING A LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITIES IN ENFIELD

8.1 Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods

8.2 Sustain strong and healthy communities

8.3 Build our local economy to create a thriving place

The work of the ESCB meets the council's priority of Sustain strong and healthy communities, and its key aims within the Corporate 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

However, it should be noted that partners that we engage with are required to assist us in meeting our obligations under the Equalities Act 2010.

10. PERFORMANCE AND DATA 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 works closely with the Adult Safeguarding Board (EASB) and of September 2018 both boards have been chaired by the same Independent Chair and of October 2018 the business support functions will be delivered by one team for both boards.

Partnership working between both boards has strengthened the partnership working with specific emphasis upon the health areas that are key priorities for both Boards such as Modern Slavery, 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

1. Draft Enfield Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2017- 2018 (attached)

