

London Borough of Enfield

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 1st December 2021

Subject: Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Update report

Cabinet Member: Cllr Uddin

Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou

Purpose of Report

1. *For information*

Relevance to the Council Plan

2. **Safe, healthy and Confident communities** - The work of the Safeguarding Enfield Partnership meets the Council’s priority of “Safe, healthy and confident communities”.
3. The purpose of safeguarding work is to protect children, young people, adults at risk, and their carers and families so that they can all thrive in the borough. The Partnership’s approach to safeguarding focusses on well-trained staff who can effectively engage and manage the risks that may be present.
4. For Children, there is an emphasis on improving services for those children, young people and families that require prevention and intervention from safeguarding services across a broad spectrum, from early help to statutory interventions.

Background

5. In October 2018, the business unit for the Safeguarding Adults and Children’s Board merged. This was to develop opportunities to bring adults and children’s work together where there were shared issues that needed consideration – e.g. information sharing, risk management, cross cutting themes like domestic abuse, modern slavery and exploitation.
6. In September 2019, the new Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements came into force as required by Working Together 2018. The Safeguarding Children Board was changed into the Safeguarding Children’s Partnership.
7. The Safeguarding Children’s Partnership work is overseen by an Executive group of the three Safeguarding Partners – Enfield Council, Metropolitan Police Service, National Health Service (NHS) North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group. The meeting is currently chaired by Geraldine Gavin.
8. Recent additional resources from the Police, and the Clinical Commissioning Group have facilitated the development of the multi-agency training programme,

ensured better analysis of reviewed cases, and provided support to the insights work which is now providing data products which can improve understanding of risks.

9. In October 2021, the People's department approved the addition of a manager to the business unit which will mean the partnership will be able to make improvements from reviews and multi-agency audits more quickly.

Main Considerations for the Panel

10. Scrutiny:

- 10.1. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services scrutinises the work of the Safeguarding Children Partnership as part of his review of the annual report and as part of regular meetings with Executive Director – People.
- 10.2. For the 2020/21 Annual Report, this took place on the 22nd July 2021.
- 10.3. Since the new arrangements were established in September 2019, we have Children's Safeguarding Partnership events, these are chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services who would be involved in the agenda planning and preparation, ensuring key local safeguarding agenda issues are considered.
- 10.4. The Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report, though a partnership document, is presented to scrutiny panels, cabinet and council to ensure we have member oversight and feedback into the work we do.
- 10.5. The report is also presented to the NHS North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group's Quality Board and must be submitted annually to the National Panel (Department for Education) and the Centre for What Works in Children's Social Care.

11. Partnership Activity Groups:

- 11.1. There are 4 activity groups that meet regularly to drive forward the key priorities and workplan of the partnership these are:
 - Practice improvement group that oversees children's multi-agency audits, training and local learning
 - Insights group that considers data to horizon scan for risks and identify gaps in practice
 - Community engagement group that ensures the community are engaged in the activity of the children's safeguarding partnership for example they have developed the children and young people's safeguarding ambassadors programme.
 - Vulnerable young people's group that oversees the partnerships response to safeguarding young people.

The Annual Report will be published after its presentation at the Executive meeting on the 29th October. It will be available on the website from mid-November.

Conclusions

12. There are various layers of scrutiny and assurance in the Enfield Safeguarding Children's Partnership work, these are described in more detail in the attached chart.

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Appendices

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: