

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 24 November 2015

Wards: All

Subject: MSCB Annual Report 2015

Lead officer: Yvette Stanley

Lead member: Councillor Maxi Martin

Contact officer: Paul Bailey, MSCB Business Manger

Recommendations:

- A. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the MSCBs annual report and comment as appropriate.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Merton Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report is a statutory requirement under Working Together 2015; Chapter 3, paragraphs 16-17 which provides that

16. The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.⁴⁷ The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board.

17. The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period (see chapters 4 and 5).

On the evidence set out in this report we judge MSCBs current safeguarding arrangements to be effective. We are strengthening the Board's ability to enquire into and challenge frontline practice with children, young people and families through the work of the Quality Assurance Sub-Group; through single and multi-agency case audits, we are growing in our understanding of the intended and actual impact of safeguarding practice. Through the Section 11 and quality assurance challenge process we have been able to hold partners to account so that they provide the Board with assurance regarding the quality of safeguarding across the system. Learning from audits LIRs, SCRs etc., is fed back to the front line through training, briefings, conferences and other learning events. Attendance levels at training are good and continue to improve.

The Board has a good understanding of early help and child protection thresholds and ensures that children, young people and their families get right level of help at a time when this help is needed and that frontline practitioners are supported in using their professional judgment when working with families.

The Board has prioritised the safeguarding of children from CSE, exploitation through radicalisation and extremism, and FGM. With regard to CSE, robust strategic and operational measures are in place to ensure that the MSCB has a strong grasp of this issue and that children at risk are identified, supported and monitored to ensure that risks are reduced and

the activities of perpetrators are disrupted and, where there has been an offence, there are persecutions.

The commitment of the partnership to continuous improvements continues to be a positive feature and we aim to demonstrate our ability to monitor and challenge performance in the next year.

In conclusion the MSCB is compliant with statutory guidance and working well to protect children and young people in the London Borough of Merton.

Priorities for the 2015 calendar year are:

1. To evidence Board impact through Quality Assurance – Multi-Agency Audits/Learning reviews/Front line practice
2. To maintain strategic oversight of CSE including e-safety, missing young people, young people missing from education
3. To have a strategic multi-agency response to the issue of neglect
4. To have a strategic response to the prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
5. The Children and Families Act 2014, Supporting Children and Young People with Complex Needs and LASPO
6. Ensure that there is a strategic focus on and all children are safeguarded from radicalisation and violent extremism
7. MSCB Governance: Implement the revision of the MSCB Governance, Structure and Board Business Processes
8. Engage with Faith and BAME Communities on Safeguarding issues

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. It is a statutory requirement for all Safeguarding Children Boards to produce an annual report each calendar year. This report details the progress the MSCB is making on delivering its Working Together 2015 and other statutory duties.

3 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Information on the SCB budget is included in the report.

4 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. SCBs must have an Independent Chair and must produce an annual report.

5 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

Appendix 1 - MSCB annual report 2014/15

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1. None applicable