

Annual report of the
Merton Safeguarding Children Board
2014/15



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1.0 Chair's Introduction

It has been over a year since my appointment as the Independent Chair. The decision was taken by the Board to delay the publication of the report for 2013-2014 in order to enable me to review with the Board its effectiveness and to develop, agree and implement changes to the constitution. This report will overlap, in part, with the MSCB Annual Report for 2013-2014.

There remains much to do and there are many challenges ahead, including the challenge of delivering high quality services within the context of reduced resources, however, this report demonstrates how much can be achieved when we work together, both as individual agencies and in partnership. The report shows that the work that has been done in revising the constitution of the Board and having a more robust and rigorous focus on quality assurance is improving the way that the young and children are protected and their well-being is safeguarded.

A highlight of 2014-2015 was The Joint MSCB/ Children's Social Care/Children Schools and Families Conference held on the 5th March 2015, which had a focus on hearing the voices of children and young people. The theme for the Conference was '*W T F*' - *Working the Frontline* and the event focused on enhancing children and young people's participation. The event featured delightful presentations from children and young people from Merton primary and secondary schools and was chaired by representatives of Merton's Youth Parliament. This event was attended by 120 practitioners and managers from a range of multi-agency settings and was rated as very good.

In November 2014, the MSCB and Children's Trust also undertook a self evaluation of our work using the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework. We noted the Board strengths as:

- Senior representation and engagement from agencies
- A Lay member and a Young Member linking with the Children in Care Council
- A strong performance focus including the annual QA process
- Financial contributions from all relevant partners
- Annual conference and comprehensive training programme.

Our agreed areas of focus included:

- Building on the annual QA meetings and multi-agency auditing to further strengthen peer challenge;
- Implementing new sub Board structures¹ with a stronger QA Sub-Group;
- Reviewing our Board infrastructure to support the Board's extended role under Working Together 2013;
- Ensuring we maintain our focus on the voice of the child;
- Learning the lessons of SCRs nationally and from our local SCR and any learning reviews;
- Strengthening our links with the adult safeguarding Board; and
- Ensuring we are sighted on the issues for looked after children placed in our boroughs by others as well as maintaining our focus on Merton LAC.

¹ Children Act 2004 Section 14

The national attention on safeguarding issues has continued throughout the year with the publication of the Rotherham Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and heightened awareness of the Prevent agenda with young people being groomed to participate in wars overseas and terrorist activities at home. Towards the end of this reporting period, in March 2015, the MSCB appointed a new permanent Business Manager.

The focus of MSCB was to continue to drive through and embed the changes made as a result of the revised constitution and ensuring that the Board is able to maximise its impact. The questions that the Board is continuously seeking to answer are:

- Is there evidence that the right standards, policies, guidance, procedures, protocols are in place?
- Is there good evidence that these are being implemented and applied consistently?
- What impact/difference does this make in keeping Merton children and young people safe from harm and ensuring that their well-being is supported?

This report shows how the work we are doing as the MSCB seeks to answer these questions.

I would like to close by thanking all Merton SCB agencies for their hard work and continued commitment to making a difference for Merton's children, young people and their families.

Keith Makin
MSCB Chair
July 2015

2.0

Progress of MSCB Business Plan 2014 – 15

The MSCB is a statutory body established under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and the statutory guidance in Chapter 3 of Working Together 2015. The Independent Chair of the MSCB is Keith Makin.

The objectives of the Board as defined by statute are:

(a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and

(b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes².

² Children Act 2004 Section 14

The MSCB has a well established Business planning process, with the Business Plan receiving regular scrutiny at each meeting of the Board's Business Implementation Group. The last update received by the Board at its annual Away Day in March 2015 is attached as an appendix.

Key areas of focus in the plan over the period of this report have been:

- quality assurance and challenge to improve direct safeguarding with children, young people and their parents in all local agencies,
- engaging with and listening to children and young people,
- continuous learning and feedback,
- better understanding of our local needs, including children with particular vulnerabilities³, with particular emphasis on child sexual exploitation (CSE emphasis added Nov 2014)
- greater involvement of schools and early years services as places where children and young people are best safeguarded,
- increasing understanding about chronic neglect and working to safeguard children who are particularly vulnerable; and
- better communication to the local community and to practitioners about safeguarding.

³ e.g. domestic violence, sexual exploitation, parental mental ill-health, neglect, alcohol and substance misuse, abusive cultural practices.



3.0

Key Achievements and Challenges for the MSCB 2014 - 15

The key achievements of the Board during this period are detailed as follows:

3.1.1 Appointment of a Permanent Board Manager.

The Board was able to appoint a new permanent Business Manager who started in on 2nd March 2015. The Board also ensured that there was an effective handover process in order to secure a robust induction and transition process.

3.1.2 Learning and Improvement.

The Board has sought to embed and disseminate learning from Serious Case Reviews and Learning and Improvement Reviews (LIRs), by conducting regular briefings and learning events. These are aimed at keeping frontline staff and their managers informed on recent developments in relevant safeguarding topics (national and local policies, research, etc.), feedback from local learning (including audits and case reviews) as well as maintaining an open dialogue between practitioners and the Board; the Board has held two such events since Autumn 2014. The Board has signed off the Child J LIR with a briefing event delivered to Managers and frontline practitioners across the children's workforce.

3.1.3 The Annual Conference.

The Board held a very successful Joint Annual Conference. The theme for the Conference was 'WTF' - *Working the Frontline* and the event focused on enhancing children and young people's participation. The event featured keynote speeches from Professor Jan Horwath and Dr Alan Cooklin as well as delightful presentations from children and young People from Merton primary and secondary schools and was chaired by representatives of Merton's Youth Parliament. The Conference was attended by 120 practitioners and managers from a range of multi-agency settings and was rated as being very good.

3.1.4 Quality Assurance.

The Board has streamlined and embedded its multi-agency quality assurance process and delivered multi-agency audits.

Building on the experience of 2012-2013, the Board has improved the level of rigour in its QA Challenge process and conducted 5 challenge meetings across the MSCB Agency partnerships, to review each agency's compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. The Board used this process to hold partners to account regarding their work to ensure the safeguarding of children and young people, including, each agency's self-review of its work to safeguard children during period, April 2013 - March 2014. The Board asked each agency to provide relevant data, demonstrating impact of safeguarding activity from the agency's perspective, asking each agency to demonstrate its learning and improvement with regards to safeguarding (Agency and Multi-Agency Learning and Development; take up of MSCB Training/ Briefings). This includes implementing learning from SCRs, LIRs or Sudden Untoward Incidents, agency performance regarding the safeguarding of Care Leavers and Looked After Children (LAC), each agency was asked to provide an update of its work in relation to CSE and its work in relation to implementing statutory and other guidance.

The Board has also revised its Performance Dataset to ensure that our performance data is rich in both content and analysis.

3.1.5 Work on CSE.

In the autumn of 2014, the Board led a multi-agency challenge process to assess local agency understanding of and compliance with the findings of the Rotherham Inquiry. This was peer reviewed by other LSCBs. The MSCB's arrangements were found to be appropriate its CSE action plan was updated to implement the findings of this review. The Board held a National CSE Awareness Day on 18th March 2015. At this event, the Board re-launched its refreshed CSE Strategy, CSE Protocol and CSE Procedure. We have also established CSE champions in schools and Health. The event was attended by 101 participants from a range of agencies and partners including Children's Social Care (CSC), Education, Youth Services, Health, Probation, the Police and a number of Voluntary Organisations. The event also included the voice of a young person, by means of audio recording, who had experienced CSE; sharing with professionals her experience of the safeguarding process and what she felt would be helpful in supporting young people experiencing CSE. This was very powerful and well-received by participants.

3.1.6 The Business Implementation Group (BIG)

The Board established the BIG Sub-Group. The purpose of the BIG is to coordinate and prioritise key actions, to ensure coverage of the statutory functions of the Board and to monitor the implementation of the Board's Business Plan. The BIG also ensures that there is connectivity across the Sub-Groups and Task and Finish Groups. The BIG held its first meeting in February 2015 and will meet 4 times throughout each MSCB Business Year (March 15 to April 16).

3.1.7 Other Achievements

The Board has also developed the following initiatives, Guidance, Policies, and Protocols:

- Established the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Group in partnership with Merton Safer and Stronger to oversee MARAC and VAWG related activities
- Revised its Constitution including the revision of the terms of reference for all sub-groups
- Re-issued our Information Sharing Protocol
- Revised the Performance Dataset
- Revised the Learning and Improvement Framework
- Re-issued of the Safer Recruitment Strategy
- Revised the Participation Strategy
- Prepared Guidance for working with children and young people who are vulnerable to the messages of radicalisation and extremism and prepared advice for parents and carers which is due to be approved by the Board in May 2015.
- The Board developed a Communication Strategy which was approved at its meeting in January 2015 and is being implemented
- The Board appointed a second Lay Member.

3.2 The challenges for the Board

Whilst the Board has made great strides in embedding improvements in its constitution, we are not complacent and we have a number of key challenges; these are described as follows:

3.2.1 Consistency and membership

The Board has generally good membership and attendance, however, the representation of secondary education needs to be strengthened on the Board. The Board has taken action to address this by adding this to our risk register; the Chair has enlisted the support of the Assistant Director of Education and is arranging a series of meetings with Secondary Head Teachers in order to secure their full commitment and representation on the Board.

3.2.2 Demonstrating Impact by Improving Links with Frontline Practice

The Board is also seeking to demonstrate its impact by improving the inter-face between the Board and frontline practice. The Board is addressing this challenge through events such as the annual conference and termly practitioner briefings, feeding back learning from multi-agency audits; in addition we are improving our communication by reviewing the MSCB Website, contributing to workforce wide publications such as Young Merton and the development of an Escalation Protocol that will enable frontline practitioners to bring cases to the attention of the MSCB for audit.

3.2.3 Strengthening our ability to listen to children and take their views into consideration

The Board is always seeking to strengthen our ability to listen to children and take their views into consideration. The Board has developed a Children and Young People's Participation Strategy in partnership with Children's Schools Families (CSF) Department and the Children's Trust, which is due to be approved by the BIG in May 2015.

The Board has also commissioned research from London South Bank University (LSBU) on the theme Help Keep Us Safe. This is a collaborative, consultative project which is proposed between LSBU and MSCB. The project will consult young people who are at risk and/or have used Merton Safeguarding Services, using questionnaires, focus groups and semi-structured interviews.



The data gathered will be used to provide a contemporary knowledge-base of current risk issues in the area and to consider how young people want Merton children's services to work with them to best ensure their on-going safety. The project will also include the participation of young people in the design and analysis of questionnaires.

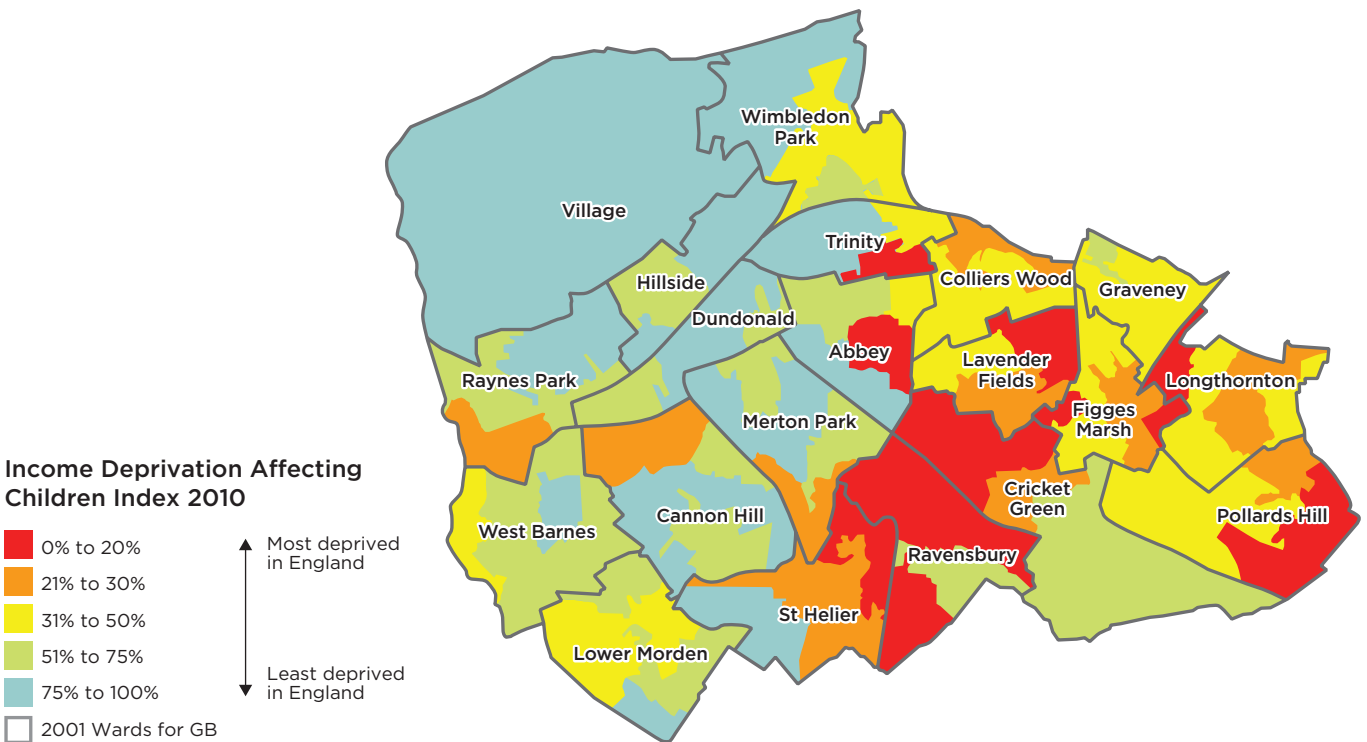
4.0

Local context and need of the childhood population for Merton

4.1 Merton the place

Merton is an outer London borough situated in south west London, covering 14.7 square miles. Merton has a total population of 200,543 including 47,499 children and young people aged 0-19 (Census 2011). The number of 0-19 year olds is forecast to increase by 3,180 (7%) by 2017, within which we forecast a 20% increase of children aged 5 to 9 (2,270). We have a younger population than the England average and have seen a 39% net increase of births over the last ten years (2,535 births in 2002 rising to 3,521 in 2010). The birth rate reduced in 2012/13 and again slightly in 2013/14 suggesting that the rate is stabilising. However the last ten years alongside other demographic factors has placed additional demand on all children's services.

Predominantly suburban in character, Merton is divided into 20 wards and has three main town centres; Wimbledon, Mitcham and Morden. A characteristic of the borough is the difference between the more deprived east (Mitcham/Morden) and the more affluent west (Wimbledon). There are a number of pockets of deprivation within the borough mainly in the eastern wards and some smaller pockets in the central wards. These wards have multiple deprivation, with high scores on income deprivation, unemployment and limited educational attainment. Merton has 39 Super Output Areas⁴ which are amongst the 30% most deprived areas across England for children. This means 45% of Merton school pupils are living in an area of deprivation (30% most deprived, IDACI 2010). Since 2010 we have seen an increase of 31% of children who are eligible for free school meals (2010, 2881 FSM children, 2015, 3796 FSM children).



⁴ Super Output Areas are a geographical area for the collection and publication of small area statistics.



Thirty five per cent of Merton’s total population is Black, Asian or Minority ethnic (BAME) this is expected to increase further to 39% by 2017. Pupils in Merton schools are more diverse still, with 66% from BAME communities, 42% with a first language which is not English, speaking over 124 languages (2015). The borough has concentrations of Urdu speaking communities, Sri Lankan, South African and Polish residents. The most prominent first languages for pupils apart from English are Tamil 5.7%, Urdu 5.8% and Polish 5.7%.

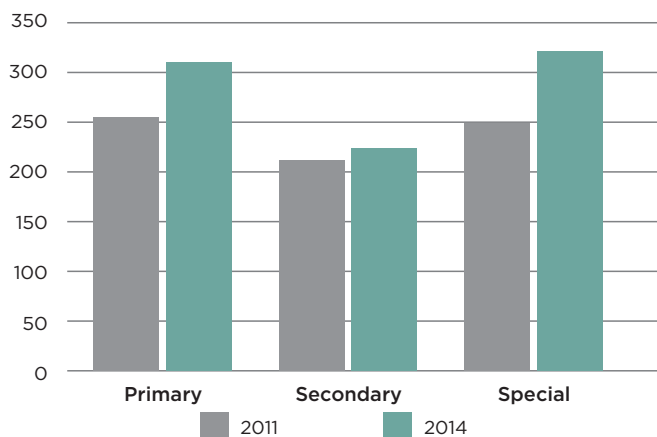
The number of pupils with Special Educational Needs is also rising, with SEN statements/EHC plans rising from 668 in January 2011 to 880 in January 2015 an increase of 32%.

We can also demonstrate a similar rise in pupils with School Action Plus cohorts in primary schools rising from 737 in Jan 2011 to 814 in Jan 2014 (+10%)

4.2 Merton’s Children in Need, Children with a Protection Plan and those Looked After

Merton’s children in need rate per 10,000 (2014/15, 335.8) is lower than the London average (367) and broadly in line with the National average (346.4), we remain close to our statistical neighbours (2013/14). Our CIN rate has increased over a number of years alongside our population changes from 171.0 in 2008/9, 276.8 in 2009/10, 288.3 in 2010/11, 371.3 in 2011/12, 336.8 in 2012/13 and 355.1 in 2013/14.

Number of Stated pupils 2011 to 2014
(Merton and non Merton residents)



Rates of Children subject of a child protection plan in Merton (2014/15, 38.5) are similar to London (37.4) and national (42.1). As at the end of 2014/15 16.4% of children became subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time, this in line with the increasing national benchmark (15.5%) and London (13%) averages (2013/14).

Nationally 4.5% (2013/14) of children were subject of a child protection plan lasting two years or more, in Merton this was 4.3% (2014/15) relating to 10 children.

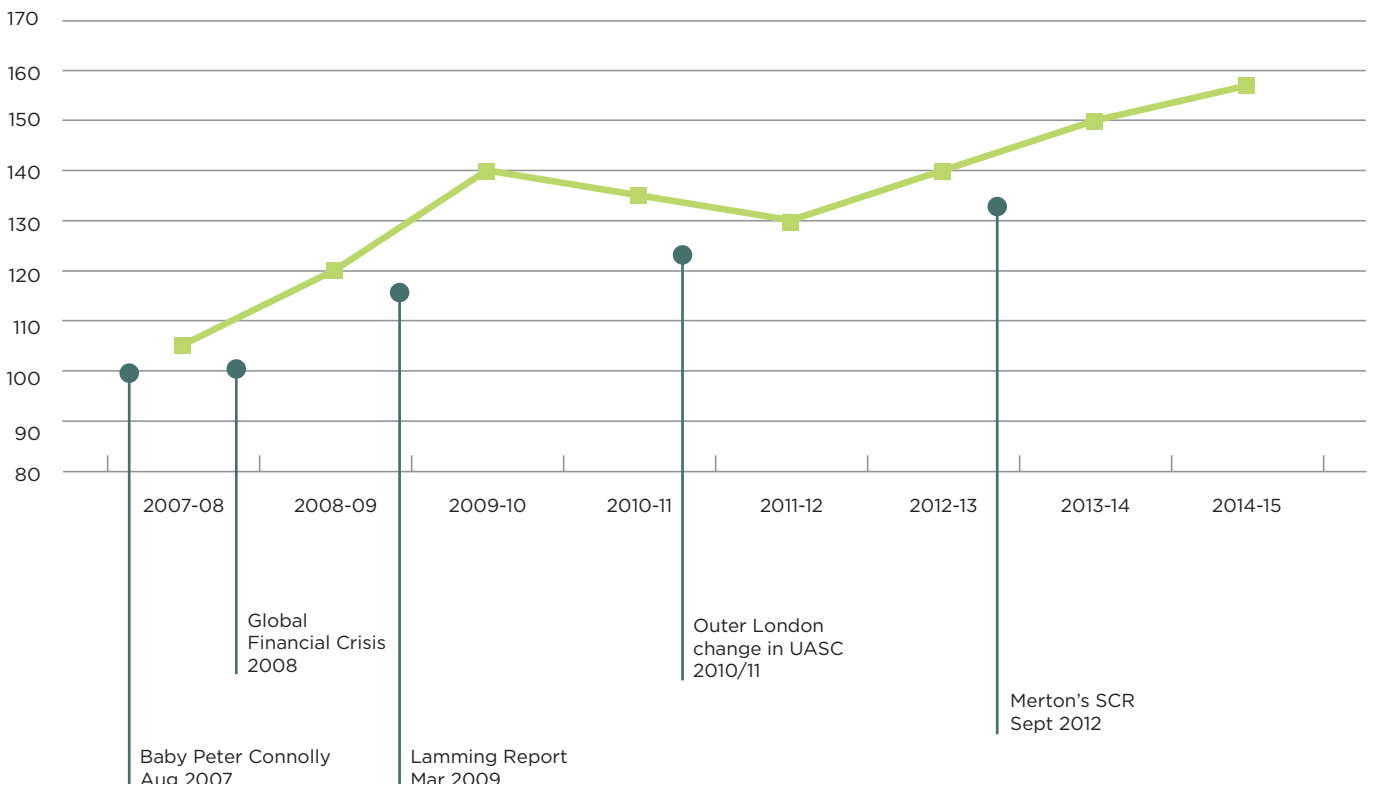
Merton's looked after children population in the last ten years has ranged from a low of 96 (2006/7) to 157 (2014/15), rising to 160(+) during 2013/14. This increase has been reviewed and audited to establish what is behind this trend. There are a number of reasons for this increase including increased national awareness of children's safeguarding, an increasing birth rate and more general demographic changes. Merton has a higher than average profile of looked after children at the older age range, including a significant increase in the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers, 32 during 2014/15.

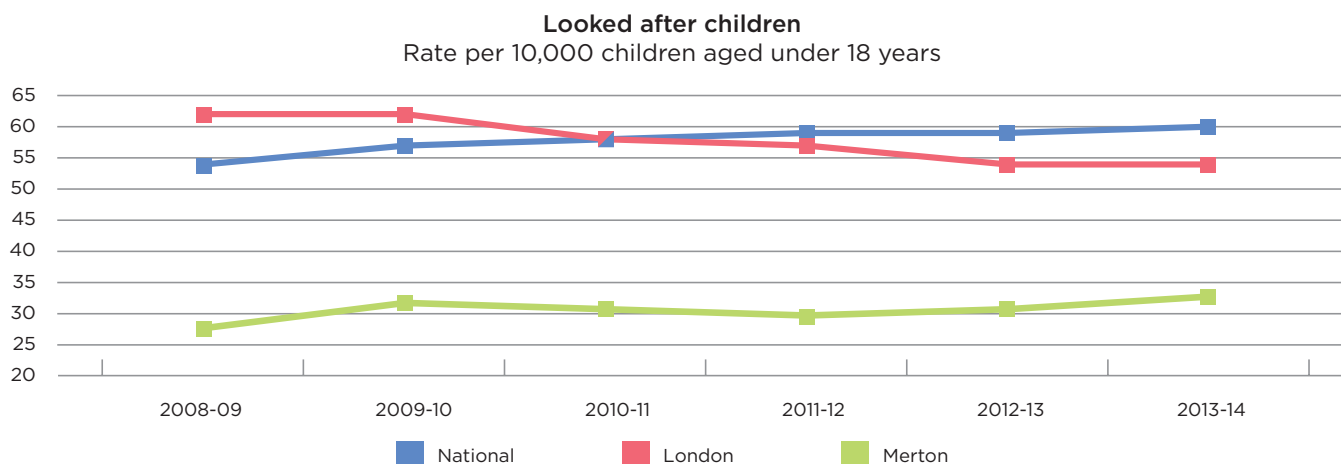
Merton's LAC rate per 10,000 remains within the range of its comparable statistical neighbours (2014/15). London's LAC rate per 10,000 ranges from the low 40s to the high 60s. Merton's rate per 10,000 in March 2014 was 34 (2014/15), this remains within the range of our statistical neighbours statistical neighbours.

Merton's LAC gender distributions are similar to national averages; we have more LAC boys than girls. The age profile of children looked after at 31 March in Merton varies from the national norm with Merton caring for a large number of older looked after children 24% are aged 10 - 15 and 23% are aged 16 and over.

Merton has a changing profile of ethnic groups for LAC. The majority of children looked after in Merton are from a White background, this is lower than the general resident population (48% 2014/15). There are fewer Asian or Asian British (8%) than the all persons Merton population. Mixed ethnic backgrounds, Black or Black British heritage and 'other ethnic groups' have looked after children in greater proportions than the resident population. We continue to report an increase in the category of 'other ethnic groups', the majority of which are known to the authority as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

Looked after children
Actual numbers





The total number of Children Looked After in Merton during 2014/15 was 255. On 31 March 2015 there were 157 children and young people looked after by Merton (34 rate per 10,000); 87 of these children were looked after for one year or more. We have lower rates of younger children in care and higher rates of older children in care compared to the national averages.

Merton expects the highest standards of care for all our looked after children and we have a policy of not using external placements which are not rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. There are no suitable children’s homes within Merton which we would choose to use (except Merton’s own respite unit for children with disabilities). There are limited placement options within neighbouring authorities. We use agency carers only when we are unable to place in-house or it is in the best interest of the child both in terms of safeguarding but also in terms of suitability of match. We continue to focus on increasing the numbers of in-house foster carers based on our LAC sufficiency needs analysis.

Merton’s fostering agency was rated ‘Good’ by Ofsted in November 2012, inspectors noting that “Children and young people are able to make good progress in relation to their starting points across all aspects of their care and effective arrangements are in place to support this. Children and young people have positive views about their care and their relationships with foster carers.”⁵

The total number of Children Looked After in Merton at any time during 2013/14 was 253. On 31 March 2014 there were 150 children and young people looked after by Merton (33 rate per 10,000); 83 of these children were looked after for one year or more. Our children have a range of complex needs at the point they become looked after 19% (2014) have SEN statements. Significant numbers of our LAC have experienced mental health and drugs or alcohol abuse issues within their families. We have lower rates of younger children in care and higher rates of older children in care compared to the national. Merton’s LAC age profile compared to national is as follows: 1-4 years olds (Merton 10%, National 17%), 5-9 year olds (Merton 13%, National 20%) and for 16+ (Merton 41%, National 21% all 2014).

At 31st March 2014, 53 of 150 looked after children were placed over 5 miles away. Of these 16 were placed 6-10 miles away

- (1/16) placed for adoption.
- (11/16) in foster care (10 agency; 1 in-house).
- (2/16) in children’s homes.
- (2/16) in residential accommodation not subject to children homes regulations (supported lodging).

Of our 150 looked after children, 37 were placed over 10 miles away:

- (2/37) placed for adoption.
- (1/37) fostered with a relative or friend.
- (16/37) in foster care (16 agency; 0 in house).
- (9/37) in a children's homes.
- (2/37) in a residential school.
- (1/37) in a YOI or prison.
- (2/37) in NHS/Health Trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care.
- (1/37) in residential accommodation not subject to children homes regulations (supported lodging).
- (2/37) in secure accommodation.
- (1/37) in a residential care home.



Merton's adoption agency was inspected in January 2013. Ofsted found that we provided an effective service to all affected by adoption and gave an overall judgement of Good. Inspectors noted that the DfE adoption scorecard published in 2012 highlighted historical poor timeliness issues but found that the authority had worked hard to improve. They recognised that subsequent year on year performance showed substantial improvements across all areas albeit that the impact of the rolling three year data would continue to impact on published performance tables for some time. We recognise the need to maintain our improvement trajectory and continue to act more quickly in our family finding and deliver our action plans to improve permanency and speed up care proceedings. Whilst we have achieved timely and effective placement for many of our children and this is evident in our data, sibling groups tend to take longer as do those with disabilities to secure permanency. Ofsted noted that Adoption is viewed as a positive option for all children needing permanency, whatever their needs or characteristics and that "the lifelong implications of adoption are fully understood and people's needs are catered for, whatever their age." ⁶

We remain fully committed to achieving timely permanency for all our children.

⁶ Inspection Report: London Borough of Merton Adoption Service, 01/02/2013, © Crown copyright 2013

4.3 Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation

Tackling the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a priority for the MSCB. The strategic intent of the Board is to clearly identify victims and perpetrators of CSE; to ensure that victims receive appropriate support and that the perpetrators of this crime are disrupted and prosecuted; the Board also monitors closely each young person at risk of CSE and to ensure that support is provided to prevent CSE.

During 2014 Merton undertook a CSE self review of the local arrangements to manage Child Sexual Exploitation. We also met with colleagues in Kingston, Sutton and Richmond to submit to a peer review in early December 2014. This was part of a pan-London review of CSE. Merton's arrangements to address CSE were found to be appropriate. The findings from this process contributed to the MSCB's CSE action plan.

CSE is a priority for the Promote and Protect Young People (PPYP) Sub-Group of the MSCB. The MSCB reviewed its CSE arrangements in 2012 putting in place a strategy and strengthening the work of the PPYP in 2013. It established the PPYP as a Sub-Group of the MSCB. The PPYP group has a broad multi-agency membership including representation from: Barnardos, Jigsaw4U, Catch22, Education Welfare, Youth Offending Service, Police, Primary Health (School Nursing and Health Visiting), Pupil Referral Unit, MASH and the 14+ Looked After Team.

In February 2015, the MSCB approved the refreshed CSE Strategy and Protocol which was formally launched on National CSE Awareness day in March 2015. As noted above, the event was attended by 101 professionals and frontline practitioners from a range of agencies including Children's Specialist Services, Health, the Police, Youth Services and Voluntary Organisations. The protocol sets out local guidance on the identification and referral of CSE concerns utilizing the screening and risk assessment tool which has also been reviewed and updated.

The work across the Borough and partnership has continued to improve practitioner awareness and skills in identifying and referring CSE concerns. The Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel continues to meet on a monthly basis and cases are routinely reviewed to ensure effective multi-agency collaboration, planning and intervention.

Other activities to raise awareness of CSE included:

- CSE and e-safety briefings to 100+ staff at the Merton Council Staff Annual Conference.
- 50 staff attended the first two of an ongoing monthly programme of CSE briefings to multi-agency staff focusing on identification and referral pathways.
- Over 100 staff attended the National CSE Awareness day event in March 2015.
- Over 2,500 students and staff from across MSCB agencies, attended CSE focused assemblies for National Awareness day.
- Leaflets on CSE were distributed to local businesses as part of Metropolitan Police's Operation Makesafe launch.
- The MSCB Multi-agency Training programme offers training for frontline practitioners and managers on CSE two times per year. The evaluation of this training includes workers commenting on how this training has improved/affected their practice in this area.
- There has been single agency training to police officers and social workers and specialist awareness raising training is being delivered by health safeguarding leads across key elements of the health economy.

Number of Young People Identified

For the year 2014-15 there were 56 cases open to the PPYP/MASE panel; 13 of which were judged to be High risk. We are working with neighbouring Boroughs to share information, expertise and data to improve our benchmarking. At the most recent MASE meeting 17 young people were reviewed 7 were identified as being at a high risk of CSE; 8 medium and 2 as low. The remaining 'on ice' cases represents those cases having been previously judged at risk of CSE that show no current indication of risk but are scheduled for review before being considered for closure. There are currently 30 cases 'on ice'.

Of the Open cases, 7 are assessed as High risk; 8 as Medium risk and 2 as Low risk. The CSE Strategy and Protocol in Merton incorporates the refreshed screening and risk assessment tool developed by Steven Rimmer and Birmingham LSCB.

4.4 CSE Cases

- All 30 cases are or have been open to Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion.
- 1 of the open cases is male.
- 12 cases have been or are subject to a child protection plan.
- 8 cases are looked after young people; 7 of which are placed out of Borough
- Ethnicity is broadly in line with the changing demographics in Merton with just over 50% from a White/British or White background
- The age distribution shows 13% of young people referred for possible sexual exploitation is aged 13 and under.
- 35% were aged 15 at the time of referral.
- Risk factors include 5 cases with drug and alcohol concerns and 6 with mental health issues.
- Routes of victimisation include 6 gang related: 14 older male and 9 victimised through peers and 1 trafficked young person.
- 5 of the cases have been identified as at risk because of images and messages posted on social media.

4.5 Children Missing from Home and School

In 2014/15 the Jigsaw4u project received 158 referrals and worked with 126 families. This is consistent with the previous year when 169 new referrals were received. Of these families, 27 (21%) were families previously known to the service, 70 were first time runaways and there were 17 repeat runaways on average each quarter. In this time period 64 young runaways were recorded as a Looked After Child and 32 were known to social care. An average of 27.2% engagement in the service was achieved over the year. While this may seem low, this should be read in the context of the high numbers of young people going missing only once that do not go on to receive an in-depth service.

As part of the National CSE Awareness Day campaign, schools in Merton conducted whole school assemblies. This included a specialist workshop and extensive PHSE briefings with a focus on CSE. CSE champions have reported that over 2,500 students and staff attended the focused events across all Secondary Schools across the LA. The campaign was well received by students and staff alike and as a result of our auditing we are especially aware that this work needs to be effectively targeted to our most vulnerable students in Specialist Education and Additionally Resourced Provision.

The London Borough of Merton operates a Children Missing Education panel, which reviews young people who have persistent absence – over 85%. This panel meets on a monthly basis and tracks a wide range of children noted to be missing education for a number of potential reasons such as ill health, newly arrived and placement change or disruption. The annual report on CSE shows increasing levels of referral with higher numbers of boys missing (55%) than girls (45%). It was also noted that the numbers of looked after children notified to be missing education had also increased. Recent checks of the respective database showed that there were three young people open to the MASE panel who had also been referred to the CME panel. The manager of the EWS team and the Schools Inclusion Manager sit on both the CME panel and PPYP Sub-Group.



Young people vulnerable to being out of education, employment or training are also identified and supported by the My Futures team providing systemic interventions and practical support to families and liaising with key professionals addressing concerns such as substance misuse and adolescent mental health.

4.6 Prevent ⁷

During 2014 the issue of young people becoming involved in extremist activity has become much more heightened and we will be reviewing our local strategy and policy in early 2015 to respond to the changing legislation and rising concerns.

Merton is not considered by the Home Office to be a priority Prevent borough. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel referrals have been relatively low but

as Prevent awareness increases the borough has seen an increase in the number of channel referrals being made. In 2014/15, 6 referrals were made, 2 of which became formal channel cases with interventions satisfactorily put in place (both have now been exited from the programme). None of the channel referrals involved children and young people.

When referrals are made an initial assessment is conducted by the Metropolitan Police Service's Prevent Engagement Officer who undertakes low level intelligence gathering and contacts the subject to have a discussion. Often the referrals do not become formal channel cases because they are assessed as not being a threat from a Prevent perspective. Most of the people referred have some form of mental illness and have been referred on to mental health teams in order to get the appropriate support from mental health practitioners.

Merton's Safeguarding Children Board has developed '*Guidance for working with children and young people who are vulnerable to the messages of radicalisation and extremism*'. This guidance was developed in the context of the Government's overarching counter-terrorism strategy '*CONTEST*' and the '*Prevent Strategy*' which was developed in 2011 to respond to the threat of extremist activity; the *Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015* has recently been passed, which places the Prevent Strategy onto a statutory footing. In addition the document is informed by *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015* and the *Pan London Child Protection Protocols for safeguarding*, to ensure that it implements good and best practice in safeguarding vulnerable children and young people. This guidance is due to be approved by the Board in May 2015.

As part of our work to raise awareness and support parents and carers on this issue, the Board has developed guidance for parents and carers, on *Keeping children and young people safe against radicalisation and extremism*. Subject to approval by the Board, this information will be distributed to all secondary and primary schools, as well as to special schools and PRUs and will be available online and in local libraries.

⁷ Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy; represented by the 4 Ps: **Pursue**: to stop terrorist attacks; **Prevent**: to stop people, becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism; **Protect**: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack; and **Prepare**: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack., *CONTEST: The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Terrorism, July 2011*

5.0 Statutory and Legislative Context

Merton Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) is the Local Safeguarding Children Board for Merton.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have a range of roles and statutory functions.

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that the Secretary of State may prescribe in regulations that should be represented on LSCBs.

Children Act 2004 Section 14 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

(a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and

(b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

The LSCB is not an operational body and has no direct responsibility for the provision of services to children, families or adults. Its responsibilities are strategic planning, co-ordination, advisory, policy, guidance, setting of standards and monitoring. It can commission multi-agency training but is not required to do so.

The delivery of services to children, families and adults is the responsibility of the commissioning and provider agencies, the **Partners**, not the LSCB itself.

Regulation 5 of the **Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006** sets out LSCB duties as:

- 5.1(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
- (i) the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - (ii) training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - (iii) recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - (iv) investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 - (v) safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
- 5.1(b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
- 5.1(c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve
- 5.1(d) participating in the planning of services for children

Regulation 5 (2) relates to the LSCB Serious Case Reviews function and regulation 6 relates to the LSCB Child Death functions.

Regulation 5 (3) offers that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.

These duties are further clarified in the statutory guidance: ***Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, 2015*** (WT 2015)

LSCB duties are specified in WT 2015, Chapters 3, 4 and 5, with a responsibility to have oversight of single agency and multi-agency safeguarding and promotion of children's welfare (under Children Act 2004, section 11, see the footnote on page 31) as set out in WT chapters 1 and 2.



6.0

MSCB Inter-relationships and Influence with other Key Partners

The Board has a rolling 24-month Business Plan, to be refreshed each March for the business year starting each April. The update of the MSCB Business Plan for 2014-2015, agreed by the Board in June 2015, is attached as Appendix 1. The Business Plan outlines the Board's priorities for 2015-2017 and was agreed by the Board at its annual Away Day in March 2015. Priority items can be added within the year.

The MSCB meets three times per year in half-day business meetings; and in a Business Planning Away Day once per year, in March. The Business Implementation Group of the Board meets four times per year. The progress of the actions agreed in the Business Plan is reviewed at each meeting. Each Sub Group has an agreed Work Plan and each Sub Group reports to the MSCB annually.



7.0 MSCB Sub-Groups

7.1 Quality Assurance Sub-Group

The purpose of the Quality Assurance (QA) Sub-Group is to ensure children and young people are safeguarded and protected by overseeing the quality of single and multi-agency work carried out in partnership across the children and young people sector.

During the period covered by this report the QA Sub-Group has been chaired by the Assistant Director of Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion and includes representation from relevant agencies including, Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, the Police, Children's Social Care, Education etc. The QA Sub-Group maintains and interrogates the MSCB dataset, monitors serious incidents and responses to local and national issues arising out of SCRs and oversees multi-agency audit activity for the Board. The Quality Assurance Sub-Group operates with the MSCB's Learning and Improvement System, agreed by the Board in July 2014 and the Board's Performance Management Framework agreed by the Board in September 2014.

In the period covered by this report, the QA Sub-Group (both Business and Audit) has met 9 times. The QA Sub-Group (Business) met to consider business items such as the MSCB performance data and to monitor learning from SCRs and LIRs and to review the work being done to safeguard children on 5 occasions. The QA Sub-Group (Audit) met on 6 occasions. These audits focused on a variety of safeguarding themes including, CSE, the effective working of Core Groups, etc. Each case is reviewed by a group of Senior Managers from a range of agencies in the MSCB partnership including Health, Mental Health Services, the Police, Children's Social Care and colleagues from Early Help and Education. Each case is used to provide a window into Merton's safeguarding system and allows the Board to be assured regarding the quality of safeguarding practice and to identify gaps and areas for improvement. Each case is assessed to see if learning from SCRs and LIRs is being implemented across the system. The learning from these audits is fed back to staff through MSCB briefings and through summary

reports on each audit process. We are working together to further strengthen our shared audit programme and to ensure audit informs practice improvement. The children's safeguarding performance dataset supports the MSCB in reviewing service access and thresholds as well as caseloads and access to supervision and training.

7.2 Promote and Protect Young People Sub-Group

The Promote and Protect Young People (PPYP) Sub-Group met 5 times in 2014-2015. The purpose of the PPYP is to take overall lead responsibility on behalf of the MSCB to ensure that there are effective and up-to-date multi-agency policies, protocols and procedures to ensure children and young people are safeguarded and protected and their welfare is promoted; *concentrating extra-familial* abuse where there is *risk of abuse outside the family*. PPYP is responsible for policies relating to issues like CSE, children missing from home, care or education, child on child abuse, other forms of exploitation (such as radicalization), e-safety, trafficking, abuse by those in a position of trust or in institutions – including faith organisations and community organisations; and policies and procedures in relation to allegations against those in a position of trust (LADO referrals).

PPYP also takes the lead responsibility for the MSCB's CSE Strategy, Procedures and Action Plan. This includes the direct management of the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel, which tracks and advises the multi-agency professional teams responsible for young people who are identified at serious risk of harm from sexual exploitation and/or who are at risk from going missing from time to time⁸. PPYP also oversees the work of the Person's of Concern Group which meets in order to identify, monitor and disrupt the activities of individual or groups who pose a risk of CSE. The PPYP refreshed the MSCB's CSE Protocol and CSE Strategy which was approved by the Board in February and re-launched as part of the CSE National

⁸ MASE Panels have their own Terms of Reference agreed at CASS London

Awareness Day. The Board continues to monitor Looked After Children identified as being at risk of CSE who are placed outside of the Borough of Merton.

This year PPYP oversaw the work of the Prevent Task and Finish Group which produced Guidance for professionals working with children and young people who are vulnerable to the messages of radicalisation and extremism. This guidance is to be presented to the Board for approval in May 2015. Similarly, the Task and Finish Group produced Advice to Parents and Carers regarding keeping children and young people safe from radicalisation and extremism of all forms; this advice will also be presented to the Board for approval in May 2015.

7.3 Learning and Development Sub Group

The purpose of the Learning and Development Sub-Group is to take overall lead responsibility on behalf of the MSCB, to ensure that there are effective arrangements to inform and keep up-to-date the multi-agency and multi-disciplinary workforce in knowledge and skills for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. The Learning and Development Sub-Group also plans and delivers the Joint MSCB/CSC/CSF Multi-Agency Annual Conference for practitioners and managers to increase awareness and dialogue with frontline practice and to ensure that young people are involved in commissioning and delivery.

The Learning and Development Sub-Group revised its terms of reference which was approved by the MSCB in March 2015.

New to 2014 has also been the introduction of termly Multi-Agency Briefings. These are aimed at keeping frontline staff and their managers informed on up-to-date a range of legislative and good practice developments in safeguarding (including national and local policies, research, etc.). These briefings also provide feedback from local learning (e.g. audits and case reviews) as well as at maintaining an open dialogue between practitioners and the Board.

7.3.1 MSCB Joint Conference With Children's Social Care

The Joint MSCB/CSC/CSF Conference was held on 5th March 2015, at Epsom Race Course. The Conference theme was, '*WTF*' - *Working the Frontline* and the Conference focused on enhancing children and young people's participation. The guest speakers at the conference were Professor Jan Horwath and Dr Alan Cooklin who delivered the keynote speeches. The event included presentations from children and young people from Merton primary and secondary schools on online safety and the Rights of the Child. A range of workshops were held on a variety of topics, including, CSE, Young Women and Relationships, Communicating with Disabled Children, etc.

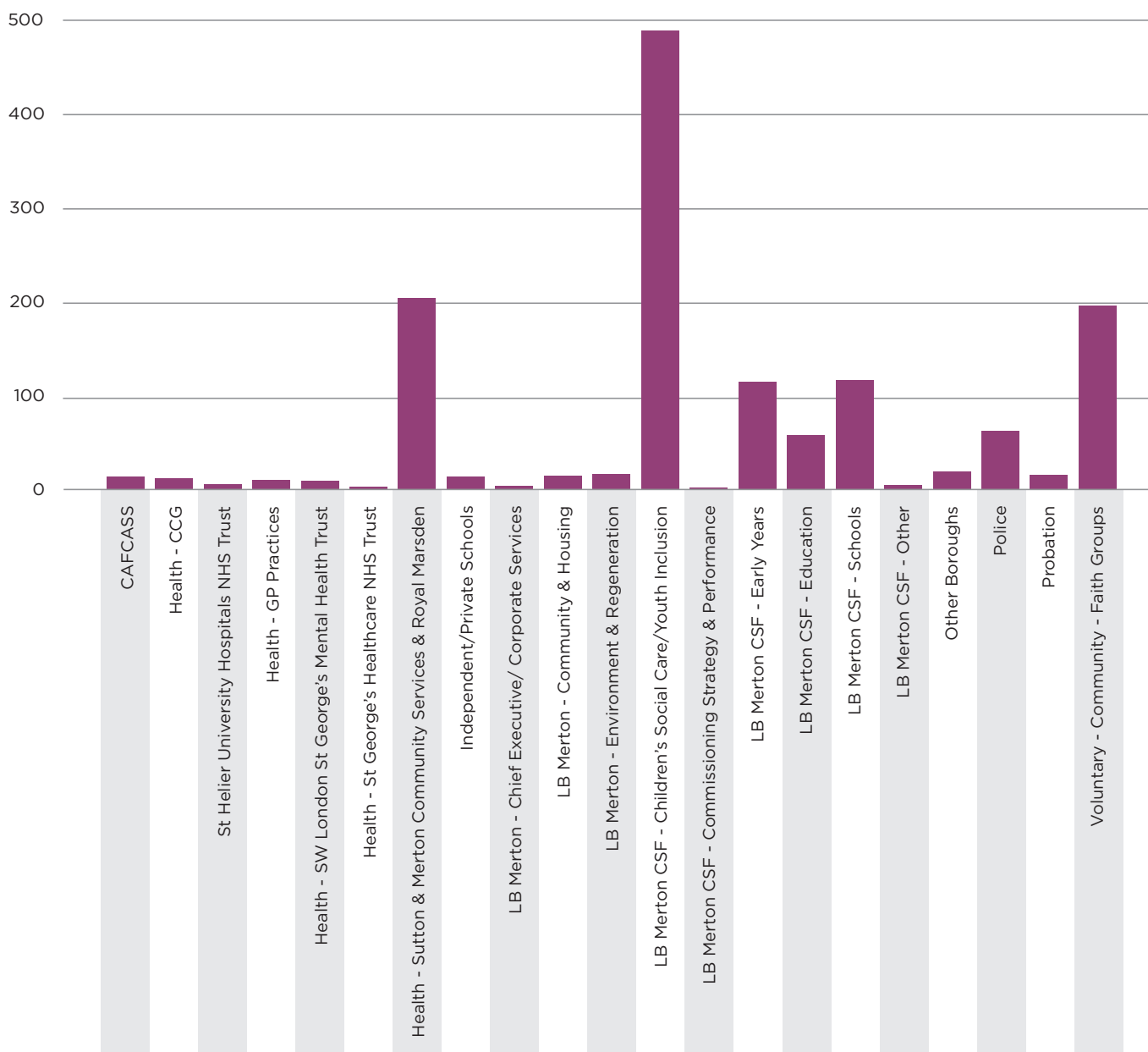
The Conference was attended by 120 practitioners and managers from multi-agency settings and was highly rated by all attendees.



7.3.2 MSCB Training

From April to 31st 2014 to March 2015, the MSCB has run a total of 95 training events attended by 1403 multi-agency professionals (the totals for April 13- March 14 were 90 courses attended by 1295 staff). The table below provides a breakdown of attendance by each agency.

MSCB Learning and Development Subgroup
Attendance per Agency 2014/15



7.3.3 E-Learning

Merton SCB partners have made much better use of their e-learning licence allocation since September 2013, and even more so over the last 3 months - 322 passes in the year to September 2014 and a further 181 to December 2014, compared with only 192 passes in the previous 18 months March 2012 to September 2013. Value for money (VFM) is much improved, with the cost per licence passed being £21.74 for the year to September.

The Sub-Group has focused on the following areas:

1. Ensuring that MSCB training is relevant to the needs of the workforce. The Sub-Group's has employed a range of strategies to conduct needs analysis with limited responses. The decision was therefore taken to focus on developments in legislation and policy, nationally and through the policy development work of the MSCB and to ensure that learning from the work of Sub-Groups such as, PPYP, Policy and QA, informed the training offer so that learning issues from QA audits, LIRs, SCRs, etc., and the dissemination and implementation of MSCB policies, protocols, guidance, etc.
2. The quality assurance of training. The Learning and Development Sub-Group is striving to increase the monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of training delivered by 'in-house' and external trainers. As part of this work, the Sub-Group takes the lead in quality assuring training by attending courses and providing feedback. The MSCB quality assured 4 courses this year.

7.4. Policy Sub-Group

The Policy Sub-Group, formerly the Policy and Communication Sub-Group, revised its terms of reference in December 2014. As a result, the functions of this Sub-Group are focused on policies and procedures and not communication. The revised terms of reference were approved by the MSCB in March 2015. Under the revised terms of reference, the purpose of the Policy Sub-Group is to take overall lead responsibility on behalf

of the MSCB to ensure that there are effective and up-to-date multi-agency guidance, policies, protocols and procedures to ensure children and young people are safeguarded and protected and their welfare is promoted. The Policy Sub-Group also has lead responsibility for policies in relation to *safeguarding children from harm and neglect within their families or substitute families*. This includes core early intervention and child protection procedures and looked after children procedures; private fostering; the Sub-Group also leads on specialist areas such as parental mental ill-health, parental alcohol and substance abuse, and parental disabilities; FGM, cultural-based abuse and so-called 'honour' violence.

The Policy Sub-Group has approved the MSCB statement on FGM and is overseeing the development of strategic response to this issue. It is hoped that there will be guidance and procedures issued to professionals working with children and young people at risk of FGM. The Sub-Group has also commissioned a Multi-Agency Task and Finish Group to develop a strategic response to the issue of neglect.

7.5 CDOP

There were 6 CDOP meetings held in 2014 - 2015 and 29 cases reviewed in total. In the year from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, there were 32 child deaths reported to the Sutton and Merton CDOP. 30 deaths were of residents of Sutton and Merton; 2 were out of borough deaths, 1 Greenwich child who was resident with a young mother in foster care died in Merton; 1 Sutton child died out of borough.

The CDOP reports that there have no SUDI cases reviewed this year. In 2013-14, 7 SUDI deaths were reviewed. Safer sleeping messages constantly have to be reinforced not only to mothers, but to other members of the family such as fathers, grandparents and carers.

There was 1 case escalated from the CDOP to the MSCB. This was the case of a child who died in 2012. The circumstances were that this child died in nursery provision as a result of suffocating on a cube of jelly that was stuck in

the child's throat. The child was not previously known to children's social care. The matter was referred to Ofsted who agreed with the MSCB's decision not to convene a Serious Case Review (SCR). Ofsted subsequently included this issue in their bulletin to local authorities and the Health and Safety Executive reported on the incident. It was concluded that there was no further role for the MSCB.

7.6 Youth Crime Executive Board (YCEB)

The YCEB is chaired by the Director of Children, Schools and Families Services and the vice chair is the Chief Inspector of the Metropolitan Police (Merton). The YCEB is the governance structure for Merton in relation to the work of the Youth Justice/Offending Team (YOT), including the Youth Justice Annual Plan, performance and quality assurance. It also oversees the partnership response to Serious Youth Violence, Gangs and Troubled Families (known locally as Transforming Families) (TF). Membership includes CSF, CSC; Youth Justice; Looked After Children (LAC), Education Inclusion, Police, Probation and the Central Commissioning Group (CCG). The YCEB reports to the MSCB and the Safer and Stronger Partnership reviews the performance of the partnership, the Youth Justice Service as well as wider youth crime issues.

The YCEB's key priorities over the past year have involved maintaining and monitoring the strong performance of the YOT (particularly in relation to the reduction of First Time Entrants into the youth justice system and the sustaining of low numbers for young people who are sentenced to custody); delivering and extending the TF programme and reducing the levels of serious youth violence in the borough. The YCEB also seeks to ensure that key partnership work continues which ensures that the key aim of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) is achieved which is to prevent offending and re-offending in young people. We have also been overseeing the impact of the C&F Act of 2012 in relation to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) requirements. The introduction of this Act means that when a young person is remanded to custody for an offence, they become LAC.

Family and Adolescent Services (FAS) is a strand within Social Care. Youth Inclusion and CSC that delivers a range of government prescribed and legislative functions to children at risk of harm, children in care, care leavers and young offenders, as well as wider services for families. A number of the interventions are targeted with the aim of providing an intervention before problems escalate within a family. This involves working closely with schools, academies, the Police and the Education Welfare Service. This work has included contributing to the CSF Equalities Action plan and actions are now in place to ensure that young people from deprived wards in the borough are supported. An example of this work is the Performance Reward Grant (PRG) Phipps Bridge (ward), which is focused on reaching and supporting young men from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) and White working class backgrounds

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the YCEB monitors the Youth Justice Team's Improvement and Development Plan, which was written before and (updated) after a successful inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation in 2013. The Short Quality Screening concluded that Merton's Youth Justice Team had made "important changes" when compared to the inspection which took place in 2011. The improvement and development work includes the consistent use of auditing and the closer scrutiny of cases during the supervision process. We have also enhanced the quality assurance process within the YOT which includes adhering to the management auditing timetable and the use of thematic audits. All key documents are 'gate kept' and monitored prior to presentation at court and there are regular reviews of work. There is evidence that Merton's low custody rates are influenced by thorough assessments and specific interventions which are presented as robust alternatives to custody.

The YCEB remains committed to the core value of ensuring the voice of the child (VOC) and that this is captured and acted upon. The Online Viewpoint Questionnaire is completed with young people and Merton has exceeded the required target. In addition to this, Youth Board Panels, comprising of young people, meet regularly

with the FAS Manager and YOT manager. Feedback is received from young people and suggestions for change are acted upon. The YCEB continues to focus on the Ending Serious Youth Violence (ESYV) agenda. The objective is to target more high risk offenders and Merton joined the Home Office's 'Ending Serious Youth Violence' programme in 2013. We recognise that a multi-agency approach is essential in tackling this issue. Subsequently, we continue to work closely with key partners such as the Police, CSF, Education, Health and the Voluntary sector. The MOPAC⁹ funded Gangs Worker continues to provide support to young men vulnerable to being caught up in gang-related crime and anti-social behaviour. Also a gangs' matrix has been developed between the Police and FAS and assists with the review of cases at the Youth Offender Management Panel (YOMP). The YCEB assists with the reviewing and monitoring of these essential pieces of work.

Assessment Intervention and Moving on (AIM) training has been delivered to CSC and members of the Youth Inclusion Team in order to support assessments, interventions and practice with young people who display sexually harmful behaviour. The Assessment Planning Panel (APP) has been launched and it will help plan treatment and support packages for young people who display sexually harmful behaviour. The YCEB also has oversight of this significant work and agenda.

Merton CSF also focuses on the CSE agenda especially with regards to reducing the vulnerability of young women and girls. This is done through the work of the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel and the Youth Offender Management Panel (YOMP). A MOPAC funded Young Women and Girls Worker helps support some of the most vulnerable young women in the borough who are affected by this area. The YCEB also has oversight of this significant work.

⁹ MOPAC stands for Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime



7.7 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Sub-Group

This Sub-Group reports to the Safer and Stronger Partnership and includes attendance by CSF, CSC, Adult Social Care, the CSE lead, Safer Merton, Public Health, the Police and the Voluntary and Community Sector. The VAWG oversees a wide range of issues including domestic violence (DV), CSE, prostitution, trafficking, girls and gangs. It also considers DV involving persons of all genders and sexualities. The VAWG was established in mid 2014-2015 and has met 3 times during this period.

A Task and Finish Group was established to review and advise, regarding an appropriate performance framework for the VAWG. In addition, the VAWG reviewed the performance metrics for the MARAC¹⁰. The VAWG will be conducting a self-evaluation of the MARAC during 2015-2016.

¹⁰ MARAC is A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a local, multi agency victim-focussed meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic violence and abuse between different statutory and voluntary sector agencies.

7.8 Structure and Effectiveness of the MSCB and Key Changes

During 2014/15 we reviewed our constitution and examined the effectiveness of all our Sub-Groups. As a result we approved a new constitution and a suite of documents strengthening local arrangements:

- The Board adopted an FGM Mission Statement
- A new Learning and Improvement Framework was adopted
- New terms of reference was drafted for all Sub-Groups
- The multi-agency case work auditing process was refreshed and a new audit tool has been produced and adopted
- The Board has revised its Performance Management Framework with a streamlined dataset.
- A Communication Strategy and a Participation Strategy have both been adopted by the Board.

The Board has worked hard to strengthen its effectiveness by appointing a Head Teacher of one of the Secondary Academies; the appointment of a Head Teacher of a Secondary Community School and the appointment of a Head Teacher representing Special Schools. We have also appointed an interim Designated Nurse (two members of the Clinical Commissioning Group share this role). The Board has also appointed a second lay member.

The Board's Business Implementation Group was established towards the end of 2014. The Business Implementation Group meets 4 times per year and co-ordinates, prioritises actions and ensures the coverage of statutory functions and the MSCB business plan by ensuring governance and connectivity across the Sub Groups and task groups.

Sub Group Chairs may be asked to attend the Business Implementation Group if the business of the Sub-Group is on the agenda.



Sub-Groups are chaired by Senior Officers from a range of agencies including Health, Children's Social care, Police, and Education.

7.9 MSCB Budget

The MSCB has a healthy budget and all agencies contribute. Its income for 2013/14 was £213,852. The MSCB Budget for 2014-2015 is detailed as follows:

Brought forward from 2013-2014	£11,502
Income for 2014-2015	
Agency Contributions	
CAFCASS	£550
London CRC	£1,000
London Probation Service	£1,000
London Borough of Merton	£106,240
Merton CCG	£35,000
Metropolitan Police	£5,000
Sub- total	£148,790
London Borough of Merton Baseline supplement ¹¹	£53,060
Other income	£500
Total	£213,852

Expenditure	
Staffing	£82,544
Premises	£2,992
Supplies and Services	£108,257
Transport	£1,417
Totals	£195,210
Brought forward from 2014-2015	£18,642



¹¹ In 2014-2015, the MSCB expenditure exceeded income from Agency contributions; LB Merton therefore supplemented the MSCB budget.

8.0 Sub-Group and Task and Finish Group Summary Reports/Effectiveness

8.1 Prevent Task and Finish Group

As reported under 7.2, the MSCB appointed a Task and Finish Group to review Merton's response to radicalisation and extremism and to develop some guidance for those working with children and young people who are vulnerable to the messages of radicalisation and extremism. This guidance is being developed in the context of the Government's overarching counter-terrorism strategy '**CONTEST**' and the '**Prevent Strategy**' and the forth-coming **Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015**. The group has completed its work and has prepared guidance for professionals and advice to parents and carers which will be submitted to the Board for approval and adoption when it meets in May 2015.

8.2 Neglect Task and Finish Group

A Task and Finish Group was appointed to develop a strategic multi-agency response to the issue of neglect at the Board's Annual Away Day in March 2015. The key responsibilities of the Group include reviewing data sources for monitoring neglect by child and by family, reviewing thresholds especially with regards to chronic neglect, exploring the issue of parental capacity, motivation and ability to sustain positive change with regard to providing good enough care, reviewing knowledge and skills across the CSF and proposing a draft MSCB strategy for tackling neglect: including parenting support and early intervention, health, education (across early years, primary and secondary phases) early help (CASA), MASH, CIN and CPP. It is anticipated that this Group will report to the Board in September 2015.

8.3 Performance Management Task and Finish Group

The MSCB appointed a Task and Finish Group to review the MSCB's Performance Management Dataset to ensure that there was an appropriate balance between the quality of data and the quality of analysis. The Task and Finish Group completed its work and the proposed revised Performance Dataset was finalised in March and is due to be presented for approval at the Board's BIG meeting in May 2015. The revised performance monitor consists of 27 indicators included within the new national policy framework¹² and a number of proposed local performance indicators to support further contextualisation. The revised monitor aims to provide a stronger safeguarding-led narrative in relation to the 'child's journey', starting with the pathways (e.g. Initial contacts and referrals), the assessments used to determine risk (e.g. single assessments and Initial Child Protection Conferences) and the use of specialist interventions (e.g. Child Protection Plans).

¹² The Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Framework, January 2015, Crown Copyright

8.4 Learning & Improvement Reviews and Serious Case Reviews

A Serious Incident (SI) occurred in November 2014 and was referred to the MSCB through the Quality Assurance Sub Group in December 2014; this was then passed on to the MSCB Chair who convened a case meeting. At the meeting held on the January 2015, The MSCB considered that although there was significant harm to a child, the criteria for a SCR were not met. The incident was notified to Ofsted in February 2015.



In considering if the criteria for a SCR were met, the Panel agreed that there were lessons which could be learned from the case. The hospital had already initiated a SI review and it was agreed that other agencies could learn from their response and communication following the discovery of the injuries. The MSCB Chair agreed to commission a multi-agency LIR. The Chair wrote to agencies January 2015 asking them to undertake an IMR and forward this to the Board by the end of February. When the reports were received a case panel was convened to consider lessons to be learned. The MSCB is in the process of concluding this review.

The MSCB contributed to a learning review concerning a Croydon resident who was placed briefly in the borough in temporary accommodation and who subsequently committed murder.

On 25th March 2014 CSF received a serious LADO notification regarding Child J, an 11 year old boy placed in a residential school setting. The LADO notification concerned a deteriorating situation in relation to this young person; this resulted in an escalation in care management, including the restriction of his movements and the need to provide restraint to prevent harm to Child J and others.

A Merton LADO strategy meeting was held within 24 hours in order to put a plan in place to meet Child J's needs and to protect him from harm. The Surrey LADO was notified, as was Ofsted, whose inspectors visited the school. CSF commissioned an internal management review which was conducted by the Assistant Director of Children, Schools and Families Department, who had no prior involvement with the case, and the MSCB commissioned a LIR which was conducted by Jane Wonnacott, who reported her findings in February 2015. The decision to conduct a LIR was reported to the National Panel, who endorsed this decision.

9.0

Agency Effectiveness in Safeguarding – reports for each key agency drawing on Section 11 and QA and Challenge Meetings

9.1 Section 11

One of the key tools for understanding and demonstrating the effectiveness of safeguarding is the Annual Section 11 audit. Section 11 of The Children Act 2004 places a duty on LSCBs to ensure that organisations have appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place.

Agencies completed their returns during April and May 2014 and there were a series of Quality Assurance and Challenge meetings in June and July 2014. The meetings were led by the Independent Chair of the MSCB and the Director for CSFs. The purpose of these meetings was to monitor agency compliance with Section 11 standards and key MSCB actions, to note key challenges and to consider priorities for the MSCB Business Plan. The Quality Assurance and Challenge Meetings for 2014-2015 were arranged as follows:

1. Children, Schools and Families (4 June 2014)
2. Health Services (10 and 18 June 2014)
3. Police, Probation and Community Safety (18 June 2014)
4. Voluntary and Community Sector (18 June 2014)
5. Community and Housing Services (1 July 2014)
6. Mental Health Services including CAMHs (2 July 2014)

These Challenge meetings included a review of Section 11 Compliance, analysis and discussion of each agencies' self-review of work to safeguard children during April 2013–March 2014; including relevant agency data showing impact of safeguarding children from the agency's perspective, the agency's performance against the MSCB dataset and key performance indicators. The Challenge meetings also considered each agency's implementation of learning from the TS SCR. Each agency was also asked to comment on its compliance to relevant safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance including *Working Together 2013* and *Keeping Children Safe In Education 2014*.

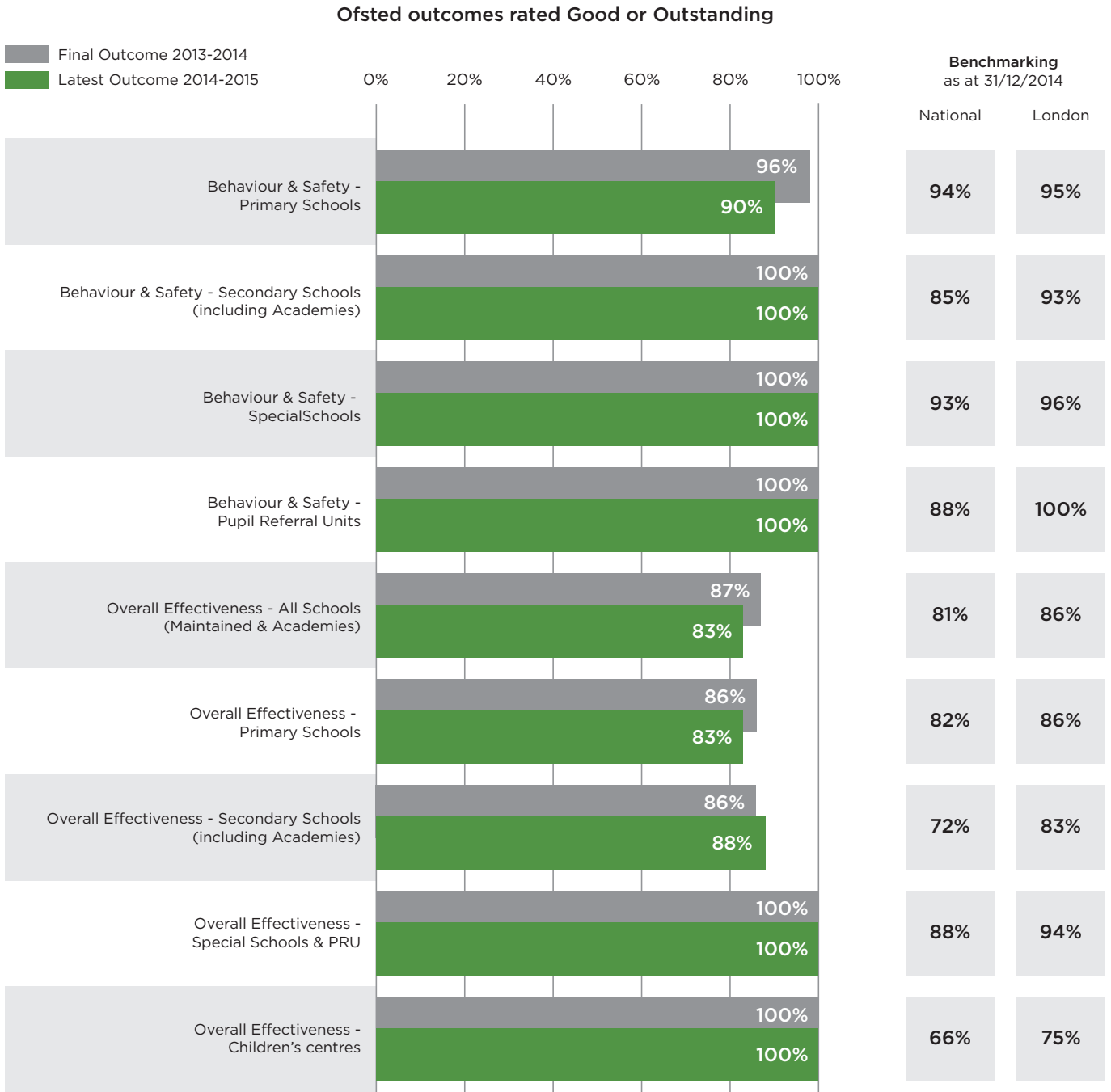
As a result of this process the Board was able to hold partners to account regarding their work to safeguard the well-being of children and young people, to assure itself that each partner is achieving the 8 safeguarding standards outlined Working Together and the pan-London Audit Tool¹³. The QA Challenge meetings also ensures that the Section 11 process is not simply a paper exercise and agencies' self-audit is tested through questioning and challenge.

The returns from statutory partners indicate full compliance on 90% of the safeguarding standards and clear plans to take action on identified areas for improvement.

¹³ Section 11 Standards include: a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, both in individual decisions and the development of services; 2. arrangements which set out clearly the processes for sharing information, with other professionals and with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB); 3.a designated professional lead (or, for health provider organisations, named professionals) for safeguarding. Their role is to support other professionals in their agencies to recognise the needs of children, including rescue from possible abuse or neglect. Designated professional roles should always be explicitly defined in job descriptions. Professionals should be given sufficient time, funding, supervision and support to fulfil their child welfare and safeguarding responsibilities effectively; 4. appropriate supervision and support for staff, including undertaking safeguarding training; 5. employers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and creating an environment where staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported in their safeguarding role; 6. staff should be given a mandatory induction, which includes familiarisation with child protection responsibilities and procedures to be followed if anyone has any concerns about a child's safety or welfare; 7. and all professionals should have regular reviews of their own practice to ensure they improve over time; and; 8. There is effective Information Sharing between agencies

9.1.1 Schools

9.1.2 Ofsted inspection outcomes rated Good or Outstanding



Merton Schools contributed to the Section 11 audit and formed part of the CSF Section 11 return.

9.2 CSF department

CSF department completed section 11 audits for CSC; Early Years; the Youth Service, Education Inclusion and the FAS (including Youth Justice).

During 2014 CSC services reviewed remits and capacity issues across the teams and have added additional social work staff into the MASH and core social work teams. It also implemented a new caseload policy to ensure fair distribution and manageable workloads across the service. The recruitment and retention of social workers in common with most authorities continues to be challenging and the MSCB and CSF management continue to monitor use of agency staff closely and the department has a proactive recruitment and retention strategy.

The council has procured a new social care information system to support good casework practice which will be implemented in 2015/16. The aim is to provide casework staff with a system which is more user friendly for frontline practitioners than the current system and to enable a more comprehensive dataset (in line with new Annex A) to be inputted and reported both for internal management information and service improvement planning and for statutory returns.

Following the full review of our early intervention and prevention strategy in 2012/13 the council produced revised structures for CSC and our enhanced services as well as new commissioning intentions for our EIS commissioned services. A range of services were commissioned externally for 2013-16 with a strong focus on early help/ intervention and prevention as well as specialist support for vulnerable groups. Safeguarding is embedded in all specifications as is a strong performance focus on impact and outcomes.

9.3 Acute Trusts

9.3.1 Sutton and Merton Community Health Service and the Royal Marsden Trust

The Trust and the service provider completed a Section 11 Self-audit and attended Quality Assurance Challenge meetings, which gave the Board assurance that the Trust is fulfilling its statutory duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

9.3.2 SW London & St George's Mental Health Trust

South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust completed Section 11 Self-audit; this was undertaken at a time of considerable organisational change due to a major transformation programme.

9.3.3 Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust

The Trust and the service provider completed a Section 11 Self-audit and attended Quality Assurance Challenge meetings, which gave the Board assurance that the Trust is fulfilling its statutory duties under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

9.3.4 NHS Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

The Merton CCG has completed a Section 11 Self-audit and has attended Quality Assurance and Challenge meetings which gave the Board assurance that the CCG is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities under Section 11 of the children Act 2004.

9.3.5 St George's Hospital NHS Trust

The Trust completed a safeguarding survey as part of their Section 11 submission to the Board. The Trust also provided a range of supplementary evidence which gave the Board assurance that the Trust was fulfilling its statutory responsibilities in relation to Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

9.3.6 Public Health

Public Health completed a Section 11 Self-audit that gave the Board assurance that the Public Health is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities in relation to Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

9.4 Community and Housing Dept. - London Borough of Merton

Community and Housing Department completed Section 11 Audits for Public Health, Adult Social Care and Housing and participated in the Quality Assurance Challenge Meetings.

9.5 Corporate Service - HR - London Borough of Merton

A section 11 audit of the council's safer recruitment and employment practices was undertaken. The council has also re-issued advice to schools in the period covering revisions to the vetting and barring arrangements and on the new DfE guidance on disqualification by association.

9.6 Metropolitan Police/Probation/Cafcass

Regional Section 11 returns have been completed by all three organisations. The Metropolitan Police have completed returns for the Borough Command and CAIT. The police have included local information and analysis.

10.0

Views of Children and Young People and the Community

In 2014 Merton's Children's Trust launched a User Voice Strategy to further implement one of the eight core values of the Children and Young People's Plan, which highlights the importance we give to listening and responding to our children, young people and service users:

"We listen, respond to and value our children and young people. Children and young people have rights to participate in decisions affecting their lives and participation provides opportunities for them to develop important life skills. Services should not only listen but should help children and young people shape services they receive. We should also canvas and respond to the views of parents and carers".

Our ambitions are in line with and underpinned by key legislation, policy and regular guidance. The Children Act 1989 and 2004 for England and Wales recognises children as citizens with the right to be heard. The Act made it a legal requirement for the views of children to be taken into account in any court decisions affecting them. The Children Act 2004 (section 53) amends sections 17, 20 and 47 of the Children Act 1989. It requires that when working with children in need, their wishes and feelings should be ascertained and used to inform making decisions. Working Together 2015 states that one of the key principles for effective safeguarding arrangements in a local area is to take a child centred approach: 'for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children'. In addition the document is clear that assessing need and providing help should focus on 'the needs and views of the child'. Ofsted Joining the dots (March 2015) highlighted that 'Senior leaders in [Good and Outstanding] authorities sought feedback from a variety of sources including children and families, staff and partners. Leaders in these authorities kept a relentless focus on demonstrating how they were improving outcomes for all the children who received the services. They saw gathering feedback as a crucial element in driving forward such improvements.

Our User Voice Strategy provides a framework by which we capture and monitor feedback to influence service design, delivery and continuous improvement. The Children, Schools and Families Department deliver this through an annual programme of user voice activity embedded within our service planning process. This report summarises some of our key successes in including children and young people's voices in our daily practice and service improvements and how we have delivered our five User Voice Strategy commitments.



Commitment ONE - Gathering feedback through a variety of models.

We have continued to embrace a variety of models of feedback and participation, recognising that one style may not fit all, during the year we have identified and embedded four key ways in which we approach listening to the views of children and young people, and families:

- An ongoing 'practice approach' expected of all practitioners and managers to put children's wishes and feelings at the centre of decision making and planning.
- Continuing to deliver Merton's youth participation promise.
- Bespoke targeted user feedback sought from vulnerable groups.
- Ongoing management oversight to learn from complaints and compliments.

Commitment TWO - Providing opportunities for children and young people to influence key decision makers.

We have continued to develop participation methods for children and young people's views to be heard in key governance structures, including influencing the work programme of the Merton's Children's Trust, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Member Scrutiny Panels. Merton's Annual Young Resident (2014) demonstrates that we are doing this well as 47% of young people feel involved in decision making, significantly better than the London average of 31%.

Commitment THREE - Understand what our feedback is telling us to continuously improve services.

We have a long history of reviewing feedback at a local level to influence operational delivery. During 2014/15 we have reviewed what the feedback is telling us at a strategic level quarterly and shared this analysis across the Children's Schools and Families department and wider Childrens Trust to inform service improvement.

Commitment FOUR - Publish and share our feedback findings across the children's workforce.

We have where appropriate, published our feedback findings in Young Merton Together the Childrens Trust professionals e-magazine published five times a year receiving 52,000 hits by 1000 readers over the year. We have shared user voice findings with staff and partners at Staff Forums, Merton's Childrens Trust, MSCB and Corporate Parenting meetings.

Commitment FIVE - Demonstrate to those who participate in user voice activity the impact of their involvement.

We have, where possible, fed back to participants who share their views, what has happened as a result of their input. Merton's Annual Young Residents' Survey (2014) demonstrates that we are doing this well and that young people feel their input is valued with 57% reporting that they feel listened to 'a great deal or to some extent'; better than the London average of 47%.

As noted under 3.2.3, the Board has commissioned a research project with LSBU which focuses on listening to and learning from children and young people's experiences of the safeguarding system here in Merton. It is hoped that one of the outcomes of this research is that we will be more responsive to the expressed needs of children and young people.

Our goal is to make sure that we continue to listen and learn from the complaints and compliments we receive and to use this process to ensure that there is continuous improvement in our services to our young people.

11.0

Conclusions and Priorities for 2015 – 17 Business Year

2014-2015 has been a year of change and consolidation for the Board. We have fully revised the constitution of the Board and renewed the Terms of Reference for each Sub-Group. The purpose of these changes has been to improve the effectiveness of the Board. We will continue embed these changes and there is evidence of effectiveness in the breadth and depth of the work of the Board.

On the evidence set out in this report we judge MSCB's 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 streamlined its performance dataset so that we have the right level of information with commentary from partners so that the Board is able to be rigorous and robust in its analysis of its performance. The work of the Board is also informed by Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which provides the Board with an overview of local needs so we are able to prioritise our work.

Our Section 11 and quality assurance and challenge process ensures that safeguarding is a priority for all of our statutory partners, who have all completed Section 11 self-audit and participated in the challenge process.



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 MSCB continues to play an active and influential role in the planning of services for children using its role as a scrutiniser of safeguarding to inform and influence the planning priorities across strategic partnerships such as the Health and Well-Being Board, YCEB, the Safer and Stronger Partnership, Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care.

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



Appendix 1

Merton Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2015-17

Progress of this Plan will be updated monthly & monitored at each MSCB Meeting.

Approved by Business Implementation Group 12th May 2015.

Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Resources		
			Who? (Work plans etc.)	When?	
1. To evidence Board impact through Quality Assurance - Multi-Agency Audits/Learning reviews/Front line practice					
1.1	To have a robust dataset that enables the MS CB to have a strategic oversight of key performance data	For MSCB to have a robust dataset which gives a strategic overview of multi-agency performance in relation to the safeguarding of children. To have a revised dataset for 1st quarter plus commentary.	To implement the revised core multi-agency dataset reporting for 1st quarter data	NC and PB	BIG May 15
1.2	To review annual safeguarding performance dataset for MSCB and the annual report	To provide an annual summary of safeguarding dataset for MSCB and annual report	To complete annual review of safeguarding performance dataset for 2014-15	All agencies led by PB and NC	April 15
1.3	To quality assure multi-agency safeguarding practice	To be assured of the quality of multi-agency frontline practice	To conduct 4 multi-agency themed case audits and to report findings	PA to lead, with QA Sub	Quarterly and an annual report to MSCB
1.3	To ensure compliance under Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004	Annual report from each key agency	To have an overview of the quality of single agency safeguarding work through annual agency reports to sub group including audits	All agencies undertake audits as required within their service areas	Annually and as required i.e. 31/05/2015
1.4	To ensure learning from SCRs and LIRs is disseminated and applied	A regular report on progress of actions an regarding LIRs and learning from SCRs	To monitor actions from case reviews, LIR and SCRs	All led by QA Sub-group	Quarterly reviewed at each BIG
1.5	To ensure that there is a clearly understood process for escalating cases to the QA Sub-group	A review of the process for escalating cases to the sub-group. Greater awareness of how to challenge case work decisions and escalate cases when needed.	To ensure that cases where there are difficulties in multi-agency working are reviewed and lessons learned. To agree how the London CP Procedures will be localised and to ensure that practitioners and agencies are aware of the key contacts for implementing them.	PA/PB	June 15

Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Resources		
			Who? (Work plans etc.)	When?	
2. Strategic oversight of CSE including e-safety, missing young people, young people missing from education					
2.1	To ensure that there is oversight of all young people at risk of CSE and to improve the identification and support of young people who are victims of CSE.	To clearly identify victims and perpetrators of CSE; to ensure that victims receive appropriate support and the perpetrators are disrupted and prosecuted; to monitor closely each young person at risk of CSE and to ensure that support is provided to prevent CSE.	To undertake further data analysis to inform strategic planning and inform future CSE/CM Multi-Agency data set	MASE and PPYP Sub-groups	At each PPYP Sub-group
2.2	To ensure that all agencies are aware of their roles in prevention and intervention in CSE.	To increase awareness of agencies' roles in effective intervention in relation to CSE.	To provide information for the public including parents on CSE and its risks. To ensure that universal information is available. Specialist and targeted services to ensure parents of YP at risk of CSE can access information and support.	PPYP Sub-group CSF LH	On going, monitored at each PPYP Sub group meeting.
2.3	To ensure that CCG has clear oversight of health providers' performance with regard to CSE.	To strengthen CCG's overview of the performance of the local health economy with regard to CSE.	CCG to review QA processes and contractual requirements so that the MSCB is assured of the effectiveness of performance with regard to CSE.	CCG Director QA Lynn Street	
2.4	To maintain strategic oversight of missing young people in Merton.	Maintain and strengthen robust oversight of missing young people in Merton.	To incorporate operational and strategic oversight of young people missing from Home/Care/School in to MASE monthly panel.	CSC & YI, CSE Lead and LH CSC & YI, CSE Lead LH and Sarah Daly	Mar-Apr 15 Monthly
2.5	To maintain strategic oversight of LAC placed outside of the borough.	To have robust oversight of LAC placed out borough.	To establish a mechanism to share data across the CSE MASE panel and the Chronic Attendance Project to ensure patterns of absence are analysed for risk of CSE as well potential neglect.	LH, CSC & YI	Mar to Jul 15

Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Resources		
			Who? (Work plans etc.)	When?	
2.6	To maintain strategic oversight of LAC from other boroughs placed in Merton.	To have robust oversight of the LAC of other boroughs placed in Merton.	To incorporate operational and strategic oversight of Young people missing from Home/Care/School in to MASE monthly panel.	CSC & YI, CSE Lead and LH	Mar-Apr 15
				PPYP	May 15
2.7	To ensure a strategic focus on the voices of vulnerable and at risk young people.	To maintain strong focus on voice of the child strategically and operationally.	To engage in a Research Project with Southbank University. To agree scope and methodology of research project to gather evidence of young people's experience of child protection system including young people's exposure to sexual exploitation.	PB, LH, LSBU	
3. Strategic multi-agency response to the issue of neglect					
3.1	To have a strategic multi-agency response to the issue of neglect.	To agree a Merton neglect strategy so that there is a robust approach to identifying and intervening in neglect.	To form task and finish group to research best practice and to propose a strategy for MSCB on neglect.	Led by PB	22 Sept 15
4. Strategic response to the prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)					
4.1	To introduce a multi-agency strategy to prevent FGM.	Agree and implement FGM Strategy.	To increase awareness of FGM; how to recognise risk and respond sensitively and to prevent it.	Policy SubGroup	March 2016
5. Supporting Children and Young People with Complex Needs and LASPO					
5.1	To ensure that MSCB partners are aware of their responsibilities under the 2014 Act.	To ensure that MSCB are aware of the key changes.	To deliver a briefing on the main changes and the impact of the Act.	To ensure that MSCB partners are aware of their re-onsibilities under the 2014 Act.	To ensure that MSCB are aware of the key changes.

Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Resources		
			Who? (Work plans etc.)	When?	
6. Strategic focus on ensuring that all children are safeguarded from radicalisation and violent extremism					
6.1	To ensure that MSCB has strategic oversight in relation to the safeguarding and well-being of children and young people vulnerable to the messages of radicalisation and extremism, with regard to the Prevent and Channel strategy.	To have a Merton guidance, policy and protocols to safeguard the well-being of children and young people vulnerable to the messages of radicalisation and extremism.	For a task and finish group to prepare a draft Prevent Strategy. The MSCB to approve and adopt guidance to safeguard the well-being of children and young people vulnerable to the messages of radicalisation and extremism.	Prevent Task and Finish Group PPYP Sub-group and BIG	12 May 15
6.2	To have strategic oversight on the multi-agency implementation of the Prevent and Channel strategy.	To ensure that the implementation of the Prevent Strategy is monitored.	To monitor the implementation of the Prevent strategy through the PPYP Sub-group	PPYP Sub-group	BIG May 15 and Annually
7. Implement the revision of the MSCB Governance, Structure and Board Business Processes					
7.1	Strengthen school membership of the LSCB and the LSCB involvement in schools' designated persons meetings and HT's meetings.	Increase school representation on MSCB. LSCB Chair to write to schools & establish a clear relationship with Heads Forum.	Increase the involvement of Head Teachers in the LSCB, increased understanding of young people's needs.	AD Education Chair	Sept 15
7.2	To undertake a review of all agreed MSCB policies, protocols and procedures.	To ensure that all MSCB policies are reviewed and up-to-date.	Increase the involvement of Head Teachers in the LSCB, increased understanding of young people's needs.	Policy Sub-committee	Sept 15
8. Engage with Faith and BAME Communities on Safeguarding issues					
8.1	Develop a list of individuals and groups who can provide advice on faith/culture, with a view to improving the understanding of safeguarding in BAME communities.	MSCB to have a list of trusted advisers from faith and BAME communities who can advise the Board on relevant community issues.	To map faith and BAME communities. To meet with key leaders in faith and BAME communities.	Board Manager	Jan 16

Appendix 2

Performance table summary

Children who need help and protection

Referrals and assessments							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
Referrals	Number	1527	1372	1745	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	351.5	311.0	386.5	573.0	469.6	441.1
Referrals where within 12 months of a previous referral	Percentage	17.9%	12%	10.1%	23.4%	16.2%	16.7%
Referrals which resulted in No Further Action	Number	46	33	35	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Percentage	3%	2.4%	2%	14.1%	8.2%	7.5%
Single Assessments completed	Number	n/a	n/a	1533	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	n/a	n/a	333.2	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Single Assessments completed as a percentage of referrals	Percentage	n/a	n/a	87.8%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Percentage of Single Assessments completed within 45 days	Percentage	n/a	n/a	81%	82%	78%	Data not available

Children in Need							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
Children starting an episode of need	Number	1323	1222	1407	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	304.5	277.0	311.7	372.6	364.0	336.9
Children in need throughout the year	Number	2546	2373	2513	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	586.1	537.9	556.7	680.5	688.0	610.2
Children ending an episode of need	Number	933	887	910	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	214.8	201.1	201.6	334.6	320.1	297.4
Children in need at 31 March	Number	1613	1486	1603	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	371.3	336.8	355.1	346.4	367.8	312.7

Children in Need							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
Children in need at 31 March, by duration of open cases (3 months or less - 91 days)	Percentage	18.7%	17.4%	19.8%	24.8%	23.7%	24.9%
Children in need at 31 March, by duration of open cases (between 3 and six months-183 days)	Percentage	17.2%	10.6%	17.7%	12.2%	12.3%	13.6%
Children in need at 31 March, by duration of open cases (between six months and one year - 365 days)	Percentage	16.9%	19.4%	20.3%	15.8%	14.9%	15.9%
Children in need at 31 March, by duration of open cases (between one and two years - 730 days)	Percentage	22.8%	21.1%	15.2%	15.1%	16.2%	15.5%
Children in need at 31 March, by duration of open cases (two years or more)	Percentage	24.5%	31.4%	26.9%	31.6%	33.0%	30.1%

Children in Need - Attainment							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2012/13	London 2012/13	Outer London 2012/13
Children in Need Key Stage 2 - percentage Reading Level 4+	Percentage	Data not available	70.2%	Data not available	56.8%	Data not available	Data not available
Children in Need Key Stage 2 - percentage Maths Level 4+	Percentage	56.7%	57.4%	Data not available	55.7%	Data not available	Data not available
Children in Need Key Stage 2 - percentage Reading, Writing and Maths level 4+	Percentage	Data not available	48.9%	Data not available	42.3%	Data not available	Data not available
Children in Need Key Stage 2 - percentage Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Level 4+	Percentage	Data not available	53.2%	Data not available	40.9%	Data not available	Data not available
Children in Need GCSE - percentage 5+ A* to C	Percentage	42.1%	41.5%	Data not available	35.3%	Data not available	Data not available
Children in Need GCSE - percentage 5+ A* to C including English and Maths	Percentage	15.8%	24.6%	Data not available	16.1%	Data not available	Data not available
Children in Need KS2-4 - percentage expected progress in English	Percentage	29.6%	30%	Data not available	27%	Data not available	Data not available
Children in Need KS2-4 - percentage expected progress in Maths	Percentage	25.9%	36.7%	Data not available	25.5%	Data not available	Data not available
Unauthorised absence - percentage sessions missed by Children in Need	Percentage	3%	3.7%	Data not available	3.9%	Data not available	Data not available
Overall absence - percentage sessions missed by Children in Need	Percentage	8.7%	9.3%	Data not available	10.4%	Data not available	Data not available
Persistent absence - percentage Children in Need classed as persistent absentees	Percentage	12.4%	14%	Data not available	15.4%	Data not available	Data not available
Exclusion - percentage of Children in Need with at least one fixed term exclusion	Percentage	7.5%	Data not available	Data not available	7.8%	Data not available	Data not available

* Absence, Exclusions and Attainment data for Children in Need excludes children who were looked after at any point during the year unless those children were also the subject of a child protection plan (as per data represented in DfE Matrix)

Child protection

Section 47 enquiries and initial child protection conferences							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
Children subject to S.47 enquiries which started during the year	Number	318	493	593	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	73.3	111.7	131.4	124.1	11.9	107.7
Children who were the subject of an initial child protection conference which started during the year	Number	223	177	239	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	51.4	40.1	52.9	56.8	49.9	48.3

Children who were the subject of a child protection plan							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
Child protection plans started in the year	Number	192	160	212	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	44.2	36.3	47.0	52.1	43.2	41.6
Child protection plans ended in the year	Number	139	171	192	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	32.0	38.8	42.5	47.4	39.7	37.5
Children subject of a plan as at 31 March	Number	173	162	182	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	39.8	36.7	40.3	42.1	37.4	35.1
Child protection plans reviewed within the required timescales (cases open 3 months or more)	Number	104	118	131	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Percentage	93.7%	97.5%	92.9%	94.6%	97.2%	96.7%
Child protection plans: child seen every 28 days	Percentage	n/a	n/a	53.5%	58.4%	61.0%	60.8%
Child protection plans: child seen every 35 days	Percentage	n/a	n/a	77%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Children who became subject of a plan for the second or subsequent time	Percentage	7.8%	10.6%	11.3%	15.8%	13%	12.5%
Child protection plans lasting two years or more	Percentage	1.4%	3.5%	3.3%	2.6%	3.6%	3.0%

Progress of children looked after and achieving permanence

Looked After Children							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
Children in care throughout the year	Number	210	215	253	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	48	48	56	n/a	n/a	n/a
Children in care at 31 March	Number	130	140	150	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rate per 10,000	30	32	33	60	54	48

Looked After Children - Placements							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
NI 62 - Stability of placements - number of moves	Percentage	14.7%	15.7%	12.7%	11%	n/a	n/a
NI 63 - Stability of placements - length of placement	Percentage	67.6%	63.9%	58%	68% (3 year rolling)	n/a	n/a
LAC Placed over 20 miles away	Percentage	19%	14%	17%	17%	18%	18%

Looked After Children - Reviews							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
NI 66 - LAC reviews within timescale	Percentage	95.9%	95.9%	97%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Children in care participation in reviews	Percentage	79.4%	88.2%	87.4%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available

Looked After Children - Health							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
Children with Health Surveillance checks up to date	Number	12	12	8	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Percentage	86%	80%	100%			
Children who have had their annual health assessment	Number	70	70	79	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Percentage	83%	82%	95%	87%	90%	88%
NI 58 - Emotional & behavioural health - Average SDQ score	Score	11.4	14.6	12.3	13.9	13.4	13.7
Children who have had their immunisations up to date	Number	76	75	79	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Percentage	90%	88%	95%	83%	73%	80%
Children who have had their dental checks up to date	Number	83	85	69	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Percentage	99%	100%	83%	82%	88%	87%
Children who have been identified as having a substance misuse problem	Percentage	18.9%	10.7%	8.4%	3.5%	6.1%	6.2%

Looked After Children - Health							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2012/13	London 2012/13	Outer London 2012/13
Absence from school of children who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months	Percentage	5.50	3.90		4.40	4.50	Date not available

Adoption

Adoption						
	Merton Single Year 2011-12	Merton Single Year 2012-13	Merton Single Year 2013-14	National 3 Year Average 2010-13	Merton 3 Year Average 2010-13	Merton 3 Year Average 2010-13
A1 - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	807 days	467.2 days	694.9 days (8cyp)	647 days	685 days	689 days
A2 - Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	344.1 days	124.25 days	291.7 days (6cyp)	210 days	256 days	281 days
A3 - Children who wait less than 20 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (number and %)	25%	23%	76%	55%	42%	51%
A4 - Adoptions from care (number adopted and percentage leaving care who are adopted)	7% (9/93)	6% (5/85)	9% (10/107)	13%	7% (19/272)	8% (24/286)
A5 - The number of children for whom the permanence decision has changed away from adoption	3	2	9	n/a	n/a	n/a
A6 - The percentage of black and minority ethnic children leaving care who are adopted	22% (2/9)	60% (3/5)	50% (5/10)	7%	26% (5/19)	42% (10/24)
A7 - The percentage of children aged 5 or over leaving care who are adopted	11% (1/9)	0% (0/5)	30% (3/10)	4%	11% (2/19)	17% (4/24)
A8 - Average length of care proceedings locally (weeks)	n/a	n/a	n/a	51 wks	65 wks	n/a
A9 - Number of children awaiting adoption	3	7	17	6890		

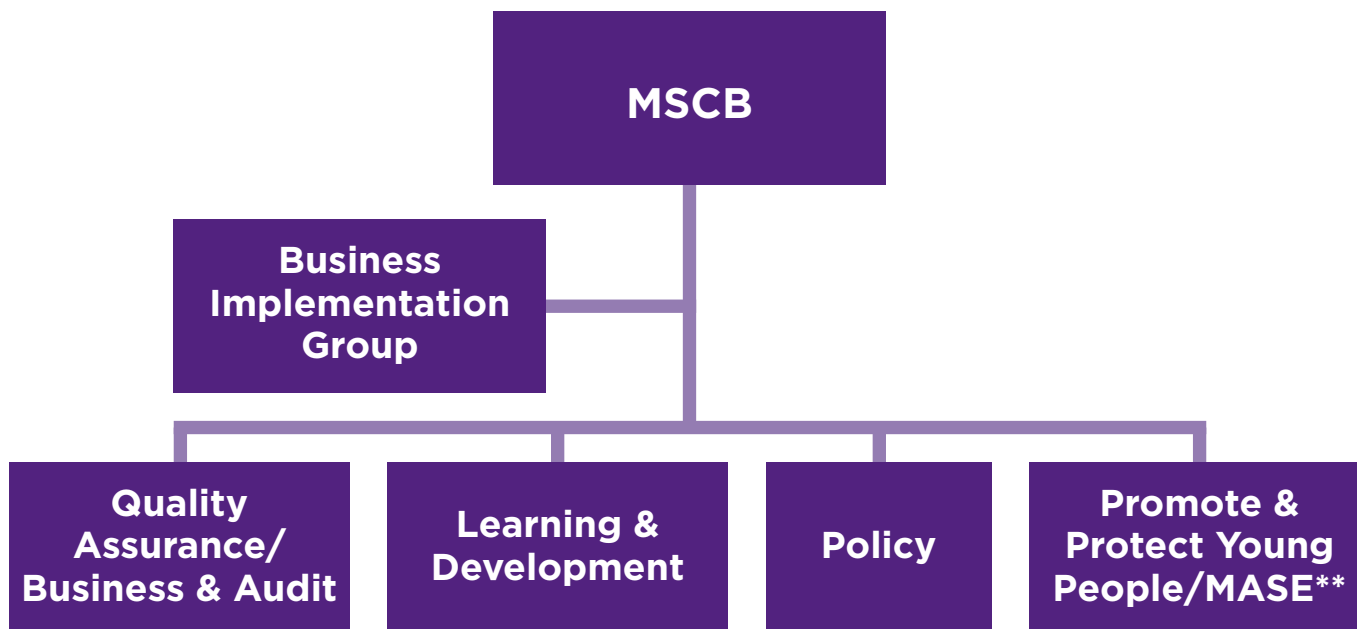
Care leavers

Care leavers							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
Total Care leavers	Number	Data not available	Data not available	96	n/a	n/a	n/a
Care Leavers aged 19	Number	Data not available	Data not available	29	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
	In touch with	Data not available	Data not available	23 (79%)	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Care Leavers aged 20	Number	Data not available	Data not available	34	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
	In touch with	Data not available	Data not available	28 (82%)	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Care Leavers aged 21	Number	Data not available	Data not available	33	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
	In touch with	Data not available	Data not available	18 (54%)	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Subtotal Care Leavers aged 19, 20, 21	In touch with	Data not available	Data not available	69 (72%)	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
% of children leaving care over age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday	Percentage	66.0%	63.0%	65.1%	68%	n/a	n/a

Care leavers - Accommodation							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2013/14	London 2013/14	Outer London 2013/14
% of young people aged 19, 20 or 21 Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Number	Data not available	Data not available	67.7%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
% of young people aged 19 Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Number	88.2%	85.0%	64.3%	88%	88%	87%
% of young people aged 20 Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Number	Data not available	Data not available	79.4%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
% of young people aged 21 Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Number	Data not available	Data not available	58.1%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available

Care leavers - Education							
Indicators		Merton 2011/12	Merton 2012/13	Merton 2013/14	National 2012/13	London 2012/13	Outer London 2012/13
Care leavers aged 19, 20 or 21 not in education, employment or training	Percentage	Data not available	Data not available	48.4%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Care leavers aged 19 not in education, employment or training	Percentage	17.6%	25.0%	42.9%	34%	28%	29%
Care leavers aged 20 not in education, employment or training	Percentage	Data not available	Data not available	55.9%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Care leavers aged 21 not in education, employment or training	Percentage	Data not available	Data not available	45.2%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Young people aged 19, 20 or 21 who were looked after aged 16 who were in higher education (i.e. beyond A-Level)	Percentage	Data not available	Data not available	11.8%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Young people aged 19 who were looked after aged 16 who were in higher education (i.e. beyond A-Level)	Percentage	5.9%	10.0%	0.0%	6%	8%	9%
Young people aged 20 who were looked after aged 16 who were in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A-Level)	Percentage	Data not available	Data not available	14.7%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Young people aged 21 who were looked after aged 16 who were in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A-Level)	Percentage	Data not available	Data not available	19.4%	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available

Appendix 3 MSCB Structure



**MASE Multi -Agency Sexual Exploitation Group

In addition there are Joint Sub Groups with Sutton LSCB - namely

<p>Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and the Joint Human Resources Sub Group. The MSCB will commission Task and Finish Groups as required. The MSCB Chair may commission a Panel to undertake SCRs or LIRs. (See Appendix Eight)</p> <p>Reporting Sub Groups will routinely report to the MSCB on their work plans as follows; and where required by exception:</p> <p>Quality Assurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Multi-Agency data - quarterly in arrears ■ Lessons from quality assurance at each MSCB meeting <p>Learning and Development twice per year</p>	<p>Policy twice per year</p> <p>Promote and Protect Young People twice per year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Quality and aggregated lessons arising from case monitoring in Promote & Protect/MASE meetings will be reported via QA and to the MSCB <p>Joint HR Sub Group once per year</p> <p>Joint CDOP once per year, usually through the draft CDOP Annual Report</p>
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The Sub Groups will work together to ensure that Policy Development and Learning and Development reflect lessons being learned through QA and PPYP

Appendix 4

Membership

Membership of MSCB has been agreed as follows:

P Statutory Partner

S Statutory Sector Partner

C Co-opted

V Voting

PO Participant Observer

SA Statutory Advisor

A Advisor

B Board support

Statutory Partners will nominate an agreed senior Agency Deputy who is able to speak and take decisions on their Agency's behalf.

Sector Partners will cover each other and do not require a deputy for their own agency.

Advisers will not have deputies.

Where a Sub Group Chair is appointed who is not a Board Member they will be co-opted to the Board but will not be a voting member, unless they are deputising for an Agency Member.

MSCB		
	Independent Chair	Casting Vote
P	Vice Chair to be drawn from the Statutory Members	
P V	Chief Officer, Merton Clinical Commissioning Group	
P V	NHS England (London)	
P V	Chief Nurse, Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton and Merton Community Health Services	
P V	Sutton & Merton Service Director, SW London & St George's MH Trust	
P V	Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, SW London & St Georges	
P V	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	
P V	Director of Nursing, Epsom & St. Helier NHS Trust	
P V	Borough Commander, Met Police	
P V	DCI, Child Abuse Investigation Team, Met Police	
P V	Assistant Chief Officer, London Probation	
P V	Assistant Chief Officer The London Community Rehabilitation Company Limited	
S V	Lay Members (Two)	
S V	Voluntary Sector Agency (Two)	
P V	Director, Children Schools & Families	
P V	Head of CSC & YI, CSF	
P V	Head of Education, CSF	
C V	Director of Public Health Merton, Community & Housing	
C V	Safeguarding Adults Manager, Community & Housing	
C V	Housing Needs Manager, Community & Housing	
P V	Senior Service Manager, CAFCASS	
SV	Head Teacher Primary School 'Rep of Governing Body of a Maintained School	
SV	Special School	
SV	Maintained secondary school	
SV	Representative of the proprietor of a city technology college, a city college for technology or the arts, or an Academy	
SV	Independent Sector School - vacant at Jan 2015	
CV	CP Officer, Merton Priory Homes	
PO	Merton Council Lead Member Children's Services	Non-voting
SA	Designated Doctor for Child Protection, Merton CCG	Non-voting
SA	Designated Nurse Safeguarding, Merton Clinical Commissioning Group	Non-voting
SA	Principal Social Worker	Non-voting
P V	Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, SW London & St Georges	
A	Joint Head of HR Business Partnerships	Non-voting
A	Service Manager, Policy, Planning and Performance	Non-voting
BS	MSCB Board Development Manager	Non-voting
BS	MSCB Administrator/s	Non-voting
A	MSCB Training Officer	Non-voting

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