

Merton Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2013 – Appendix 1



Introduction

This plan is written in the light of an Ofsted inspection of the Council and its partners in relation to safeguarding and looked after children. While the Ofsted report found practice to be good against all its criteria it has helped to focus attention on how to improve further. For this reason the MSCB Business Plan for 2012 onwards gives a high priority to further development of a performance framework that will enable the Board to satisfy itself that all partner organisations are meeting high standards and that front-line safeguarding practice is improving.

Services continue to experience change as they adapt to financial constraints and in some cases wholesale reorganisation. The MSCB will try to maintain the existing strengths of those partnerships though these changes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin Crompton'.

Kevin Crompton
Independent Chair, Merton Safeguarding Children Board

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Objectives	Outcomes	Performance Measurement / Metrics	Resources		
			Who? (Workplans)	When?	
1. Governance & accountability					
1.1	Membership kept under review to take account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Health Structures • Appointment of lay members • Attendance and engagement 	Membership at appropriate senior level maintained Full attendance by statutory agencies	Review completed Attendance at MSCB and subgroups	MSCB Business Management Policy & Practice Subgroup	Dec 2013

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<p>1.2</p> <p>Ensure adoption and implementation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Working Together • Revised London Child Protection Procedures • Full engagement of VCS groups 	New procedures in place	Changes implemented by all partners	DCS Partner executive leads	Sept 2013
<p>1.3</p> <p>Ensure that providers in the changing health economy remain engaged with safeguarding policy and practice, including the new Merton Clinical Commissioning Group.</p> <p>Safeguarding children on agenda of Health & Wellbeing Board</p>	<p>Safeguarding children embedded in practice and governance in the new health economy.</p> <p>Safeguarding embedded in the work of the Health & Wellbeing Board</p>	<p>Partner executive leads engaged with the MSCB</p> <p>Safeguarding structures maintained in new arrangements.</p>	DCS Partner executive leads	Sept 2013

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2. Challenge & improvement				
2.1 Develop a comprehensive Quality Assurance Framework and Programme for multi agency safeguarding activity including a robust dataset of performance indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance management framework • Quality Assurance programme • Programme of multi agency case audits a year • Risk Assessment • Section 11 audits • Process to review outcomes for children one year after cessation of Child Protection Plans 	Evidence that organisational standards are met by all partners and child protection practice is effective. Learning from audits and performance data is acted upon	Performance reports to QA subgroup and MSCB meetings on quarterly basis Action Plans delivered Risk assessment produced Section 11 Audits refreshed 2012 CP Plans review report	Quality Assurance subgroup QA Manager LBM – Policy & Performance	Framework in place November 2012 Progress reports January, March, September 2013

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2.2	Ensure Early Help/Early Intervention and Prevention services are effective in safeguarding children	Reduction in number of children needing statutory intervention	Data on children requiring CSC threshold services	Policy & Practice Subgroup	September 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIP Strategy MASH Revision of Merton Wellbeing Model Enhanced CAF Develop Risk Management Framework for EIP Services 	New Structures working effectively and improving outcomes for children	Evaluation of cases to assess where Early Help has improved outcomes	Quality Assurance Subgroup	

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<p>2.3</p> <p>Improve practice around response to domestic violence and its effects on children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a strategic lead for multi agency DV activity • Coordinate activity with Safer Merton and the DV Forum via the DV Action Plan • DV practice guidance • Support Pan-London activity • Develop training with Safer Merton (see 3.1) 	<p>Reduced number of children on Child Protection Plans resulting from domestic violence.</p> <p>Greater awareness of the effects of DV on children by all providers and front line staff from all providers.</p>	<p>Practice guidance produced</p> <p>Continued Safer Merton representation at Board meetings</p> <p>DV Champions in place</p>	<p>Policy & Practice subgroup</p> <p>Safeguarding Service Manager</p>	<p>September 2013</p>

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<p>2.4</p> <p>Maintain and develop multi agency awareness of Private Fostering issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Fostering working group Engage and raise awareness of schools and other partner agencies 	<p>Improved identification of children who are privately fostered and more effective response to any safeguarding concerns</p>	<p>Annual evaluation and report (statutory requirement)</p>	<p>Policy & Practice subgroup</p> <p>MSCB Business management</p> <p>Private Fostering Partnership Group</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>2.5</p> <p>Maintain focus on addressing Child Sexual Exploitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the strategic and operational monitoring role of the Promote & Protect Young People Group Develop preventative work with young people in schools and other settings 	<p>Reduce levels of CSE and improve outcomes for vulnerable young people, including young runaways</p>	<p>Production of multi agency protocol and delivery of action plan</p>	<p>Promote & Protect Young People Group</p> <p>Children's Social Care</p>	<p>Protocol and action plan in place by April 2013.</p> <p>Achieved</p>

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3. Workforce development / Training				
3.1 Develop and improve the effectiveness of the MSCB multi-agency training offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSCB training programme produced • Produce evaluation of learning achieved • Improve take-up of e-learning • Coordinate training offer with other providers including domestic violence 	Improved safeguarding practice through training and learning	Delivery and continuing quality evaluation of the MSCB training programme Annual Report	Training subgroup MSCB Trainer	January 2013. Achieved for 2013/14

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4. Engagement: communication & consultation					
4.1	Improve young people's participation in safeguarding activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop role of Communications subgroup as Communications and Participation subgroup. 	Greater awareness of safeguarding by practitioners and young people.	Evaluation report on activity Activity of C&P Subgroup	Chair C& P Subgroup Youth Participation Team	September 2013
4.2	Refresh MSCB communications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of communications strategy to improve effectiveness 	Raised profile for the MSCB with partners and agencies. Improved public awareness and communication of MSCB activity	Communications strategy refreshed.	Communications & Participation subgroup MSCB Business Management	September 2013

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<p>4.3</p> <p>Improve engagement with culture and faith groups in Merton by raising awareness of child protection within minority, particularly newly arrived, communities, and better understanding of those communities by public and other agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating Culture and Faith safeguarding projects, e.g. parenting practices • Culture and Faith focus group activity • Work with supplementary schools 	<p>Greater awareness of child protection and safeguarding by communities</p> <p>Reduction in any disproportionality in children and families accessing statutory services</p>	<p>Evaluation of engagement</p> <p>Focus group activity</p> <p>Data on children requiring CSC threshold services</p>	<p>Policy & Practice Subgroup</p> <p>MSCB Business Management</p>	<p>December 2013</p>

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