

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 7th November 2018

Wards: All wards

Subject: Merton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-18

Lead officer: Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families Department

Lead member: Cllr Kelly Braund, Cabinet Member for Children Services

Contact officer: Mark Gwynne, Interim Head of Policy, Planning and Performance

Recommendations:

A. Members of the panel to discuss and comment on the contents of the report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The report provides members of the panel with an overview of performance of the Merton Safeguarding Children Board for the year 2017-18 as contained within the annual report.

2 DETAILS

2.1 The report, contained as Appendix 1, presents an annual update on what is going well, the key challenges and the actions that we will take to address these challenges. The vision of the MSCB is that the Board works to ensure that *Everyone in Merton does Everything they can to ensure that Every Child is Safe, Supported and Successful*. This annual report is an evaluation of our progress towards achieving this aim as well as an assessment of the overall impact of the Board especially with regards to our three key priorities.

2.2 This report presents activity and performance data from 2017/18 around the identified priorities of:

- **Think Family** – to support children and adults in our most vulnerable families to reduce risk and ensure improved outcomes.
- **Supporting Vulnerable Adolescents** – adolescence is a time of significant change for all young people.
- **Early Help** – To develop an early help system that is responsive and effectively prevents escalation of concerns.

2.3 These three priorities for the MSCB are underpinned by the cross-cutting theme of tackling **Neglect**.

2.4 The report also presents the review of the Merton Child, Young Person and Family Well-being Model, following its refresh in 2017, with the updated model being intended to better reflect the Board's "Think Family" priority.

- 2.5 Think Family was the focus for the Board’s annual conference in March 2018, which was held jointly with the Safeguarding Adults Board under the banner “No Wrong Door”. The conference achieved a very high attendance across a range of partners, with several sessions supporting the embedding of the Think Family approach through different aspects of service provision.
- 2.6 The Business Plan also recognises the achievements of the MSCB through the Ofsted Single Inspection in June 2017, where the Safeguarding Children’s Board was recognised as being Outstanding, with particular comments including “It is highly effective in holding agencies to account for their individual safeguarding arrangements in the welfare and protection of children”. There were no recommendations made for further improvement.
- 2.7 The main challenge for 2018/19 is the development of future partnership arrangements for the successor to the MSCB, building on the Outstanding Ofsted rating and seeking to maximise opportunities to improve engagement and ownership across all statutory and named partners, in spite of growing resource challenges and changing partner boundaries.

3. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 No specific implications from this report.

4. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No specific implications from this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No specific implications from this report

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No specific implications from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 No specific implications from this report.

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

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Annual Report of the Merton Safeguarding Children Board 2017/18.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None