

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 10th November 2022

Subject: MSCP Annual Report 2021-22

Lead officer: Jane McSherry (Director of Children's Schools and Families)

Lead Member: Cllr Brenda Fraser, Cabinet Member Children's Services, and Cllr Sally Kenny, Cabinet Member Education and Lifelong Learning

Lead Officer: Maisie Davies, Head of Performance, Improvement and Partnerships

Recommendations:

- A. To note the content of Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2021-2022 (see Appendix 1).
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1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The MSCP is required to produce and publish a report on actions taken by statutory partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area to safeguard children and promote their welfare and outline how effective those arrangements have been in practice.
- 1.2 Like last year, the MSCP has produced a shorter report with a clearer outline of deliverables against the priority areas articulated in the business plan.
- 1.3 The report has had input from all statutory partners as well as local agencies and the MSCP sub-group chairs. It received formal sign off from the MSCP Exec partners and the MSCP Full Partnership in October 2022. The MSCP's Independent Scrutineer and Young Scrutineer have had the opportunity to review and comment.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 Whilst there remained continued pressures on safeguarding systems as a result of the pandemic, safeguarding partners in Merton have worked together to continuously improve our safeguarding systems and strengthen the voice of the child in our Partnership. During the reporting period, the partnership welcomed on board our Young Scrutineer, who works in partnership with our Independent Scrutineer. We also appointed an interim Independent Person, Aileen Buckton, who also chairs Merton Adults Safeguarding Board (MSAB). We also welcomed Justin Roper, Director of Quality, who represents South West London CCG (now ICB) and Andrew Wadey, Detective Superintendent who represents the Police on the MSCP Executive Board.

- 2.2 During 2021/22, work was progressed against our three thematic priorities: Early Help and Neglect; Domestic Abuse and Think Family; and Contextual Safeguarding. The appended report provides further details about work in these areas and the difference this has made to safeguarding practice locally. The MSCP also further developed our training and audit programmes, including the completion of a Section 11 safeguarding audit.
- 2.3 During the business year 2021/22, the partnership oversaw the publication of three local child safeguarding practice reviews (LCSPRs) (Jason, Baby Grace and Ananthi). During the business year, the MSCP also published our partnership review on Eddie and undertook a local learning review on Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI). There were no further notifications to the DfE of significant incidents during 21/22. The MSCP annual reports sets out some of the steps the partnership has taken to respond to these reviews.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The MSCP's annual report will be published on the MSCP's website.