

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 23 June 2015

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: MSCB Annual Report

Lead officer: Yvette Stanley, Director of Children Schools and Families

Lead member: Councillor Maxi Martin, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Contact officer: Paul Bailey: Paul.Bailey@Merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

A. That the report is received by the Health and Wellbeing Board

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The MSCB Annual Report is a key document from the MSCB. The Annual Report aims to give an assessment of the effectiveness of an LSCB; to show the MSCB's awareness of the quality of single agency and multi-agency safeguarding work at the frontline to protect children and young people, and to show the Board understands its local area and needs, how it prioritises and meets its statutory duties and holds its members to account.

1.2 In completing the annual report the MSCB has considered its achievements, priorities for improvement and areas of focus going forward providing reasonable assurance that all partners are doing as much as they can to ensure the safeguarding and safety of children and young people. The Board has worked hard to restructure itself for effectiveness. It is hoped that the changes we have made in governance will enable a more robust level of challenge and accountability; the Business Implementation Group will ensure that the Board is more capable of executing its key priorities as well as monitoring and reviewing its effectiveness.

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

1.3 Areas which will continue into 2015 include:

The Board is seeking to improve its Quality Assurance and Learning and Improvement System to ensure that there is clear understanding of the complexity of work to protect children at the frontline. The Board is seeking to improve its links to practitioners and their managers.

1.4 In reviewing its own effectiveness the Board is seeking to streamline its business processes to ensure SMART working and to prioritise and de-bureaucratise its work streams.

Priorities for the 2015 calendar year are:

- 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 vulnerabilities**, 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

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

Annual Report of Merton Safeguarding Board 2013/14

** Young people who experience domestic violence, sexual exploitation, parental ill health, neglect, alcohol and substance misuse and abusive cultural practices eg fgm