

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 29 November 2016

Strategic Item

Wards: All

Subject: Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) Annual Report

Lead officer: Yvette Stanley, Director of Children's Schools & Families

Lead member: Cllr Katy Neep, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Contact officer: Paul Angeli, Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion

Recommendations:

- A. To note the MSCB's annual report
 - B. For the Health and Well-Being Board to continue to contribute to the Board's priorities and to ensure that safeguarding children is a golden thread that is maintained through all the work of the Health and Well-being Board.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To ensure that HWBB are sighted on the statutory Safeguarding Children Board's annual report and that all departments continue to work together to ensure children and young people in Merton are effectively safeguarded.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 The MSCB annual report is produced on behalf of the safeguarding partnership involving all key agencies and supports the council and the Chair of the MSCB in assuring local arrangements.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 None

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 All key agencies contributed.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The MSCB budget and expenditure is covered in the annual report.
The Health and Well-Being Board may wish to consider how it uses its influence to ensure that

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is a statutory responsibility to have an annual report and for it to be published.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Safeguarding vulnerable children and young people and vulnerable adults as parents strengthens families and communities.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There is a considerable volume of child protection activity which relates to domestic violence, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. Systemic work with families can break generational cycles as well as improving outcomes for individual children.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The work covered in the report is high risk and considerable attention and efforts are made to mitigate and reduce risk in a challenge context for many of our families.

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

Appendix 1: MSCB Annual Report Executive Summary

Appendix 2: Annual report of the Merton Safeguarding Children Board 2015/16
http://www.merton.gov.uk/mscb_annual_report_2015-2016_web_version.pdf

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The MSCB works to ensure that:

Everyone in Merton does Everything they can to ensure that Every Child is
Safe, Supported and Successful.

Working Together 2015, chapter 3 requires the Chair of a LSCB to publish an Annual Report of its work. The report should be a “rigorous and transparent assessment of the effectiveness and performance of local services.” The report covers the period from April 2015 through to March 2016.

2015-2016 has been a challenging year for the MSCB yet the Board has continued to rise to meet these challenges. Our challenges have included anticipating the pending Wood review of LSCB’s which may mean significant changes in the way LSCBs do their work in the future.

The Board’s strengths are identified

- Senior representation and engagement from agencies
- A strong performance focus including the annual QA process
- Annual conference and comprehensive training programme.
- An improved connection between the Board and frontline practitioners which has and will continue to improve; this includes the Board’s responsiveness to and influence on multi-agency frontline practice.

Areas for continued development include

- Partners in the Health economy do not make a proportionate contribution to the work of the Board; the same is with the Metropolitan Police Service.
- The Board needs to continue to improve its visibility and its impact on front line practice.
- The Board also needs to continue to improve its connections with BAME communities, faith groups and voluntary organisations.
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Our agreed areas of focus during 2015-2016 included:

- Building on the annual QA meetings and multi-agency auditing to further strengthen peer challenge;
- Implementing new sub Board structures with a stronger QA Sub-Group;
- Reviewing our Board infrastructure to support the Board’s extended role under *Working Together 2015*;
- 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 borough by other local authorities as well as maintaining our focus on Merton Looked After Children (LAC).

The Annual Reports provides information regarding the Board's progress in achieving these priorities. At its annual Away Day in March, the Board reviewed its performance against these agreed priorities and set priorities for 2016-2018. These priorities involve a broad spectrum of services proactively safeguarding children and being aware how housing, employment, adult physical and mental health issues impact on the prevalence of the trigger trio. The Board's agreed priorities for 2016-2018 are as follows:

1. Think Family – supporting our most vulnerable families by addressing the trigger trio and supporting parents with learning difficulties or learning disabilities.
2. Supporting vulnerable adolescents – especially young people who are at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE), serious crime, youth violence or involvement in gang activity.
3. Early Help – reviewing our early help in the light of changes in local providers and agencies and with changing levels of resources available we want to ensure our model continues to be fit for purpose.