

## **Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Date: 27 November 2018**

## **Subject: Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) Annual Report 2017/18**

Lead officer: Rachael Wardell, Director of Children's Schools & Families

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

Contact officer: Paul Bailey MSCB Safeguarding Development & Policy Manager

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. To note the MSCB annual report 2017/18.
  - B. For the Health and Wellbeing Board to continue to contribute to the MSCB priorities and to ensure that safeguarding children is a golden thread that is maintained through all the work of the Health and Wellbeing 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 2017/18 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.
- 2.2 The questions that the Board is continuously seeking to answer are:
  - Is there evidence that the right standards, policies, guidance, procedures, protocols are in place?
  - Is there good evidence that these are being implemented and applied consistently?
  - What impact/difference does this make in keeping Merton children and young people safe from harm and ensuring that their well-being is supported?
- 2.3 The report shows how the work we are doing as the MSCB seeks to answer these questions. The Board's strengths are identified as:
  - The MSCB was judged as Outstanding with no recommendations for improvement by Ofsted in 2017
  - The MSCB is a mature partnership that is open to learning and challenge
  - Senior representation and engagement from agencies
  - A relentless focus on working together to keep children safe
  - 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
  - The Board has clear priorities and the work programme has been aligned to support their delivery.
- 2.4 Our agreed areas of focus during 2017-2018 included:
- i. A successful transition from LSCBs to Safeguard Partnerships
  - ii. Think Family -
  - iii. Supporting Vulnerable Adolescents
  - iv. Early Help
- With neglect as a cross-cutting theme throughout these priorities.
- 2.5 The Annual Report was approved by the MSCB on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- 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.
- 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 PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**
- Appendix 1: MSCB Annual Report 2017/18
- <https://www2.merton.gov.uk/MSCBAnnualReport2018.pdf>