

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Safeguarding Sub Committee	3/10/2019
<b>Subject:</b> Adolescent Safeguarding, Self Assessment 2019	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Rachel Green, Service Manager, Children's Social Care and Early Help	

### Summary

The City of London has been working with the London Regional Improvement Alliance in sector led improvement on adolescent safeguarding, which is our chosen priority theme for 2019/20.

As part of this regional improvement, we have undertaken a self assessment of our adolescent safeguarding work. The assessment details recommendations for development.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Adolescent Safeguarding

1. The self evaluation sets out the unique context of the City, with a small resident population alongside the highest daytime population in the UK. Our adolescent population comprises approximately 5% of the total number of residents.
2. The report details the low numbers of young people experiencing or at risk of child exploitation. There have been no known or suspected incidents of serious youth violence in 2019. Most of the adolescents aged 11-18 known to Children's Social Care and Early Help are unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). The other adolescents known to the Service receive support, help and protection services as a result of violence and relationship difficulties within the family, parental neglect, mental health, and in one case, trafficking and criminal exploitation.
3. Emerging themes and areas for focus include:
  - a. information sharing across London Authorities, such as sharing vulnerability/problem profiles to help address contextual risk.
  - b. close attention and partnership working between Police, Adult and Children's Social Care, and businesses in the City to address drug misuse among affluent

City workers, given the supply of drugs controlled by organised criminal groups who deal pre-ordered drugs out of their cars; while drug related crime involving resident City young people (CYP) is low, a recent case involved a trafficked young person.

- c. work with the Golden Lane Estate and Islington is needed to understand the emerging pattern of young adults known to be associated with Islington gangs hanging around Golden Lane Estate..
  - d. continued focus on identifying and responding to children experiencing neglect in affluent families
  - e. improving the youth service offer with and for girls
4. The self assessment details our understanding of the quality of our practice and areas that are being worked on to further develop our response and service to our adolescent population.
  5. Support and oversight of work with adolescents is provided by a number of partners and forums. Through this the City is assured that it understands the adolescent safeguarding profile and that partners work together effectively to respond to existing need and prevent future need. Our multi agency child sexual exploitation panel has widened to reflect all forms of child exploitation, including for example, criminal exploitation.
  6. Strengths identified include regular use of Top 3, which offers opportunity for senior managers across the People Department to review stuck/complex cases. This ensures a whole lifespan approach and opportunity to reflect on complex family/locality systems to affect change for children.
  7. Improvement priorities are set out in the self assessment. Each of these has been included in the Service Development Plan for Children's Social Care and Early help, to map progress and progress the work needed. Headline priorities include (amongst others):
    - a. 2019 Vulnerability Profile to be developed
    - b. Improve our response and service with children missing from care
    - c. Multi Agency Child Exploitation /Vulnerable Adults Forum to include wider community reach
    - d. Improved information sharing protocols and data sharing agreements across Las
    - e. Improve mental health and wellbeing of UASC looked after children
    - f. Confidence with online safety

## **Conclusion**

The self assessment sets out strengths and areas for development in the City with vulnerable adolescents. The City is part of ongoing Regional Improvement Alliance work in this area, which should boost collective and individual local authority response to adolescent safeguarding.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Adolescent Safeguarding Self-Evaluation:

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