

Committee(s):	Dated:
Chief Officers Group Community & Children's Services committee	23 rd March 2015 17 th April 2015
Subject: The Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2013/14; City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information

Summary

This report gives an overview of the City of London Safeguarding Children arrangements for 2013/14 as reflected in the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) Annual report 2013/14. The Annual Report provides detailed coverage of the work undertaken by partners and the CHSCB to ensure robust safeguarding arrangements are in place, as required by *Working Together to Safeguard Children* statutory guidance. The Annual Report is attached to this report as an Appendix.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. As part of the Children Act 2004, all local authorities were required to establish Local Safeguarding Children Boards to further improve safeguards for children. The Local Safeguarding Children Board is the key statutory partnership which agrees how the relevant organisations in each local area will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.
2. The role of each Board is to:
 - engage in activities that safeguard all children and to ensure that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care;
 - lead and co-ordinate proactive work that aims to target particular groups;

- lead and co-ordinate arrangements for responsive work to protect children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.
3. The CHSCB is required to produce an annual report. The annual report for 2013/14 is set out differently to that of previous years and is attached as an appendix. The CHSCB wanted this transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services to be read as widely as possible and with that in mind, the format has been designed to be accessible and easy to understand. Where further detail is available, this is “hyper-linked” or referenced and can be requested directly from the CHSCB. The report is divided into several sections:

The context for safeguarding in both Hackney and the City:

These sections include demographic information and consider the performance, trends and themes in respect particular vulnerable groups of children and young people.

The Board - governance and accountability arrangements for the CHSCB:

This section provides information about the structures in place that support the CHSCB to do its work effectively.

Progress made in the City and Hackney during 2013/14:

These sections outline the multi-agency developments that have taken place to improve safeguarding and include accounts of the engagement that has taken place with children, young people, families and communities.

Learning and Improvement:

This section highlights what the lessons that the CHSCB has identified through its Learning and Improvement Framework and the actions taken to improve safeguarding practice as a result.

Training:

This section details the activity with regards to multi-agency training delivered by the CHSCB and single agency training delivered by partners.

Communication:

This section covers the priorities for improved communication by the CHSCB.

Next Year:

This section sets out the priorities for 2014/15 and the key messages from the Independent Chair of the CHSCB to key people involved in the safeguarding children and young people.

4. In line with statutory requirements and best practice, the Independent Chair of the CHSCB has formally sent a copy to the following:
- The Chairman of Policy and Resources of the City of London Corporation
 - Town Clerk of the City of London Corporation
 - The Chair of the City Health and Wellbeing Board

- The Mayor of Hackney Council
- The Chief Executive of Hackney Council
- The Chair of the Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- The Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB)
- The Chair of Hackney's Community Safety Partnership / The Chair of the 'Safer City Partnership'
- The report will be shared for discussion with key groups of young people through Hackney's Youth Parliament and City Gateway.

Current Position

5. The Annual Report 2013/14 provides information for City and Hackney as part of a single report but does separate detail information relevant and specific to each area. The report highlights the following 'snapshot' information for the City of London:

- 898 children live in the City of London
- 12% of the population
- 21% living in low income families
- successful inspections highlighting outstanding safeguarding arrangements including City Gateway, the City Police response to Domestic Violence, Sir John Cass School, Sir John Cass Child and Family Centre and the 2013 Fostering Inspection
- all schools inspected as good or outstanding
- 15 new cases resulting in early multi-agency help being provided to children, young people and their families
- 2,635 visits to the Cass Child and Family Centre April to August 2013. Of these, 42 were related to targeted family support
- 51 contacts made with Childrens Social Care (CSC) about children and young people in 2013/14
- 20 referrals accepted by CSC (an increase of four from 2012/13)
- 17 assessments were undertaken by CSC during 2013/14 (one more than 12/13)
- seven of these were child protection investigations
- five initial child protection conferences held during 2013/14
- seven children were made subject to child protection plans in 2013/14
- 11 children were looked after by the City of London in 2013/14

- four allegations raised about professionals working with children in the City
 - 39 staff from the City of London received safeguarding training in 2013/14.
6. Section 2 of the report sets out in detail City specific information including demographics, child protection and assessment activity levels, Child Sexual Exploitation(CSE) information, Looked After Children information, private fostering arrangements and children with disabilities information.
 7. Section 3 provides a detailed summary of the governance arrangements and the relationships between the CHSCB and the key strategic Boards in City and Hackney.
 8. Section 5 details the progress made during the year. The report highlights the progress made in respect of the early help offer, CSE, Domestic Violence, the work of the Local Authority Designated Officer (in respect of allegations against professionals) and the engagement of children and young people.
 9. The report goes on to highlight learning and development activity, communications work and priorities for 2014/15.
 10. The report has built upon previous year's Annual Report submissions and highlighted in further detail than before the wide ranging safeguarding activity that takes place in the City of London.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. The CHSCB is a statutory partnership, however, the Board supports the work of the Children's Executive Board and will also report on the safeguarding activity to the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board.

Financial Implications

12. The City makes a financial contribution towards the management and running costs of the CHCSB, but there are no financial implications arising from this 'for information' report.

Conclusion

13. The report provides an overview of the detailed Annual Report (appended). City of London safeguarding activities, whilst significantly smaller in size compared to Hackney, are given significant coverage in the Annual Report, reflecting the excellent work carried out by local partners to safeguarding children in the square mile.

Appendices

The City of London Safeguarding Children Report

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