

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Audit and Risk Management Committee	10 October 2017
<b>Subject:</b> Deep Dive: CR 17 Safeguarding	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Sharon McLaughlin, Business Support Manager	

### Summary

This report is to update members on the work undertaken to mitigate the Strategic Risk - SR 17 Safeguarding, relating to the protection of children and adults at risk, defined as an adult with social care needs, who is or may be at risk of significant harm.

Failure to follow the safeguarding policies and the arrangements in place designed to prevent harm to children and adults at risk may result in harm to service users and risks to the City of London's reputation, possible investigation and a reduction in public confidence in the services provided.

The City of London is a strategic partner alongside the London Borough of Hackney in relation to safeguarding and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adult Board (CHSAB) monitor the effectiveness of work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults, championing good practice and analysing data to inform service planning. The Director for Community and Children Services and the Assistant Director (AD) People Services sit on both Boards. The City specific sub-committees, which meet bi-monthly, for both children and adults and report on the work of the sub-committees into the main Boards, are Independently chaired and have representation from the City of London Corporation, City of London Police, Health, Education and other agencies, for example from the Voluntary Sector, who work across the City of London.

Community and Children Services Grand Committee has a Safeguarding Sub Committee for Children and Adults. This sub-committee oversees the City of London's responsibilities to safeguard children and adults at risk, the sub-committee. Annual reports on both Children and Adults Safeguarding are presented to this sub-committee; these reports provide background information regarding the governance arrangements, membership, partnership engagement and performance information in respect of safeguarding activity for Children and Adults.

The number of child protection investigations and adult Safeguarding alerts is very low compared to other local authorities. The City of London aims to be proactive in the response to safeguarding and is seeking to promote a broader understanding of safeguarding. This is reflected in a focus on the prevention of abuse as well as a robust response to incidents of abuse. The importance of strong strategic links with other key partners such as the City of London Police, Education and Health is recognised as essential in order to ensure that all our residents are safeguarded both within the community and in their homes.

Mitigating actions include the delivery of safeguarding training programmes, the Adoption of a Corporate Safeguarding Policy, the appointment of Safeguarding Champions across the City of London, campaigns to raise awareness and an audit of safeguarding within the City's Family of schools.

The gross risk is currently assessed as AMBER with the likelihood rated as rare and the impact serious, see appendix 1.

Despite a range of mitigating actions to protect children and adults at risk, they cannot entirely eliminate the risk and the potential impact on individuals, public confidence and the reputation of the City of London and this is reflected in the risk score assigned to this important statutory duty.

### **Recommendation(s)**

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 partnership arrangements for safeguarding adults in the City of London have been developed in accordance with statutory requirements set out in the Care Act 2014 and best practice standards developed by the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) "Safeguarding Adults 2005". The City of London works in partnership with Hackney on the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board.
3. Both Boards are independently chaired. The Executive Boards have Sub Committees who are chaired by partner agencies and cover areas such as quality assurance, training and finance.

4. The City of London responds positively to the findings of national enquiries and safeguarding reviews such as the, “Munro Review of Child Protection” and to recommendations arising from quality assurance audits and external inspections of services such as Ofsted Inspections.

#### Current Position

5. The Adults and Children’s Social Care teams continue to meet CQC and Ofsted performance targets in respect of children and adults and work has been done to develop a performance framework that places more emphasis onto qualitative data available rather than focusing solely on the quantitative information to measure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the partnership.
6. A wide ranging safeguarding raising awareness campaign “Notice the Signs” was undertaken during the autumn of 2015. The aim of the campaign was to highlight that the safeguarding of vulnerable members of the community was everyone’s business and to clearly set out what the arrangements are for reporting concerns promptly, effectively and appropriately. Since the completion of the campaign there has been an increase in safeguarding alerts. There have also been a number of other campaigns run across the City of London including;
  - Child Sexual Exploitation(2016)
  - Private Fostering (2016/17)
  - Missing from Education (2016)
  - Financial Abuse of Older People (2017)
  - Safeguarding and Social Media (2017)
7. A Safeguarding in Education Forum has engagement from all City of London Schools- this meets on a termly basis and provides updated information regarding national/regional and/or local policy and practice requirements regarding safeguarding in schools. Membership of the Forum includes representatives of the City Academies.
8. As well as attending the Safeguarding in Education Forum, safeguarding leads from City schools, also attend the CHSCB Sub Committee. This provides more generalist advice, support and challenge regarding safeguarding arrangements across partner agencies.
9. A third review of the safeguarding arrangements in the Independent schools within the City of London took place in 2016/17. This reviewed safeguarding standards across the City Independent Schools and made a number of recommendations for each school, which were taken forward by the individual schools themselves. This included a review of all the sites that operate as part of the Guildhall School Music and Drama (GSMD) across the country.

10. The City of London Safeguarding Policy was implemented in 2014 and was reviewed, in consultation with Departmental Safeguarding Champions in December 2015. A corporate safeguarding audit to review the policy, review the role of Departmental Safeguarding Champions and to look specifically into Disclosure and Barring Services checks for staff working with children and adults at risk has yet to be finalised. When a report finalised will be presented to this committee.
11. This year campaigns to raise awareness of the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) has led to increased referrals from others working with children and adults. Other campaigns have been delivered on raising awareness of children missing education and on financial abuse and scams.

#### City of London Academies Trust (COLAT)

12. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has met with Headteachers of schools within the Trust, discussed safeguarding policies and procedures, and received updates on any recent or outstanding safeguarding issues that have been raised. Following the meetings, designated officers from each school completed the COLAT Safeguarding Update form, covering various aspects of their school's procedures including training for staff and governors, the Single Central Register, and any specific safeguarding concerns or referrals.
13. It has been assessed that all Trust schools have effective protocols in place to ensure they are compliant and monitoring the safety and wellbeing of staff and students. The CEO has recommended to schools that Headteachers diarise regular checks of their school's Single Central Register, designated officers continue to ensure training is up-to-date (particularly for governors), and that all senior members of staff undertake Safer Recruitment training. The CEO is meeting with Headteachers at least twice each academic year for a safeguarding review/update. The CEO's recommendations are proposed to ensure there is consistency and common practices across COLAT.
14. Governors receive training at least annually in all schools. COLAS indicated that safeguarding is kept on meeting agendas throughout the year, and the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is updated in line with legislative changes.
15. All schools indicate that staff receive safeguarding training when appointed, refresher training is run annually, and updates are provided throughout the year at staff meetings and workshops.
16. The Trust schools have clear policies and procedures in order to provide a safe environment for students to learn, and that staff are well-trained so they able to work with confidence.

## Challenges and further action

17. The owner of this risk is the Director of Community and Children's Services, however every department has a responsibility to ensure that staff are aware of the risk and how they should recognise and respond to safeguarding issues.
18. Social Care staff are fully trained and have the knowledge to enable them to detect signs of abuse, ill treatment and exploitation. It is essential that this awareness is continued across the organisation as many other departments come into contact with children and adults at risk. The Corporate Safeguarding Audit will test the effectiveness of the arrangements put in place following the implementation of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy. Any recommendations will be implemented and further updates presented to this committee and the Safeguarding sub-committee.

## Conclusion

19. Risk of abuse is an ongoing risk and whilst the City of London has taken a series of mitigating actions there is always a degree of uncertainty due to the nature of this risk.

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