

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Audit Risk Management Committee	4 March 2014
<b>Subject:</b> New Strategic Risk – SR 17 Safeguarding	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children’s Services	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>This report is for decision by members and seeks approval for adding an additional risk to the Strategic Risk Register - 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 AD People Chairs the City specific sub-committees, which meet bi-monthly, for both children and adults and reports on the work of the sub-committees into the main Boards.</p> <p>In April 2013, Community and Children Services Grand Committee established a new 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 met for the first time in September 2013. Annual reports on both Children and Adults Safeguarding will be 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. Appendix 1 sets out the current governance arrangements.</p> <p>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.</p>	

Mitigating actions include the delivery of a safeguarding training programme, some specially commissioned for groups such as governors and teachers. A draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been drafted and will be presented to the Chief Officers Group on 19 March 2014 for approval. As part of the new policy it is recommended that safeguarding champions be appointed within departments. A campaign to raise awareness within the City of London to ensure that all staff understand their legal responsibility to protect children, young people and adults at risk and are trained to enable them to detect signs of abuse, will be launched in spring 2014.

The gross risk is currently assessed as red with the likelihood rated as possible, see appendix 1. The control evaluation is rated at amber as more needs to be done to increase awareness of safeguarding across the City of London. This will be addressed by the introduction of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and the implementation of the associated communication and training plans.

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**

Members are asked to approve the addition of new strategic risk SR17 to the Corporate risk register.

## **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 guidance "No Secrets" (DOH 2000), 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 establishment of a Children and Families team, launched in November 2013, addresses early intervention through to complex needs/troubled families with the same line management as children's social care. It is anticipated that this will strengthen the effort to support families and children who may be at risk
6. 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.
7. A joint safeguarding of adults review with the London Borough of Hackney, was undertaken in November 2013. The review highlighted good practice and there were no City of London specific recommendations that came out of the review. The review outcomes were presented to the City of London Safeguarding Sub-committee on 5 February 2014.
8. The department undertook an Independent Strengths Based Learning Review across children and families in January- this was based on the application of the Ofsted model and also looked at the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board arrangements. The results of the review are anticipated before the end of February 2014, the recommendations of the review will be analysed and where appropriate implemented.
9. A dementia strategy has been developed in consultation with the Adults Advisory Group and training is being delivered to raise awareness of Dementia and the strategy via lunch time insight training sessions. The City of London is compliant with requirements following the Winterbourne case review, which addressed safeguarding concerns relating to adults with learning difficulties placed in residential establishments outside their home authorities.
10. As part of the DCCS transformation agenda, the profile of safeguarding will be raised with employees, volunteers, members and contractors working for the City of London via a communication campaign. The aim will be to highlight that the safeguarding of vulnerable members of the community is everyone's business and to clearly set out what the arrangements are for reporting concerns promptly, effectively and appropriately. This campaign will be part of the implementation of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy, if approved, at the Chief Officers Group on 19 March 2014.

11. A Safeguarding in Education Forum was established in 2013 and 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.
12. As well as attending the Safeguarding in Education Forum, safeguarding leads from City schools, City of London School, City of London School for Girls, Charterhouse Square School, Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School, Guildhall School of Music & Drama and St Paul's Cathedral Choir School also attend the CHSCB Sub Committee. This provides more generalist advice, support and challenge regarding safeguarding arrangements across partner agencies. Findings of the safeguarding review were shared with members.
13. All City of London Academies are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All staff undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Agency checks to review criminal records. Safeguarding is monitored by the Local Authority in which the school is located (London Boroughs of Hackney, Islington or Southwark).
14. This department has supported the commissioning of bespoke online training for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and safeguarding training for the Governing Bodies of all City of London Schools which was delivered in December 2013 and to all staff at the City of London School in January 2014. Work has also been undertaken in all private nurseries / early years settings to support their own safeguarding arrangements.
15. As well as working with City of London Schools the department has provided support and advice to departments such as Open Spaces (Highgate Team) and the Museum of London to assist in the development of their own safeguarding procedures. Additionally close links have been developed with the Libraries teams through the provision and delivery of activities such as stay and play sessions for children and families and discussions regarding dementia awareness sessions for older people. Close links exist between the Adults and Children Social Care Teams and the City of London Police and these are supported by the joint training on issues such as the early intervention agenda, safeguarding and child sexual exploitation.

### **Challenges and further action**

16. 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.
17. The key challenge in managing the proposed new strategic risk SR17 is ensuring that there is an increased awareness of the issue across the City of London.

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 developed across the organisation as many other departments come into contact with children and adults at risk. Launching the new Safeguarding Policy in spring 2014 via the City of London Intranet together with a series of associated FAQs will begin the process of raising awareness.
19. The appointment of departmental safeguarding champions will assist in the training and monitoring of the policy to ensure that staff and members become aware of their legal responsibility to protect children, young people and adults at risk.
20. Awareness raising sessions will be delivered to safeguarding champions by trained staff from the department of Community and Children's Services. The sessions will be delivered in a range of locations to ensure that staff from departments such as Open Spaces who are based outside the City have access to the awareness raising sessions.

## **Conclusion**

21. 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.
22. The finalisation of the Draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy and a raising awareness campaign will ensure members and staff are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Governance Arrangements
- Appendix 2 - Safeguarding Risk Supporting Statement

## **Background Papers:**

Draft Safeguarding Policy

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