

Committee	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub Committee - Community and Children's Services	27 th Jan 2017
Community and Children Services Committee	17th Feb 2017
Health and Wellbeing Board	27 th Jan 2017
Safer City Partnerships	2 nd Feb 2017
Subject: City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board	Public
Report of: Jim Gamble - Independent Chair, City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board	For Information
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Summary

As part of its statutory functions, the City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) is required to produce an annual report that reflects a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare across the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.

The annual report for 2015/16 provides a comprehensive review of the following:

- The arrangements and achievements of the CHSCB itself.
- The context of safeguarding activity within the City of London.
- The progress made in the City of London with regards to defined CHSCB priorities.
- An analysis of the lessons learnt and the improvements made as a result of the CHSCB's learning and improvement framework.
- An analysis of the impact of the CHSCB training and development offer and the impact of this on improving front-line practice.
- An analysis of the impact of the CHSCB's functions in respect of child deaths within its jurisdiction.

The report can be viewed here: www.chscb.org.uk/annual-report-and-business-plan

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report and the CHSCB's analysis of the effectiveness of local arrangements.
- Note the progress and areas for improvement required by the City partnership in respect of their activities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Main Report

Background

1. The CHSCB is the key statutory body overseeing multi-agency child safeguarding across the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney. Governed by the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Regulations 2006, the CHSCB comprises senior leaders from a range of different organisations.

2. It has two basic objectives defined within the Children Act 2004; to co-ordinate the safeguarding work of agencies and to ensure that this work is effective.

3. Each year, the CHSCB is required to produce an annual report and provide a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare across the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.

4. The report covers the following areas:

- **Governance and accountability** arrangements for the CHSCB, providing information about local leadership and the structures in place that support the partnership to do its work effectively.
- The safeguarding **context and the progress** made in the City of London, providing an analysis of key trends and the impact that City partners have made in regards to CHSCB priorities.
- The safeguarding context and the progress made in Hackney, providing an analysis of key trends and the impact that Hackney partners have made in regards to CHSCB priorities.
- **The lessons** that the CHSCB has identified through its Learning & Improvement Framework **and the actions** taken to improve child safeguarding and welfare as a result of this activity.
- The **range and impact of the multi-agency safeguarding training** delivered by the CHSCB and a brief account of the single agency training delivered by partners.
- The **priorities going forward** and the **key messages** from the Independent Chair of the CHSCB to key people involved in the safeguarding of children and young people.

5. Over 2015/16, the CHSCB's comprehensive business plan and underpinning strategies accelerated a range of improvements to both the safety and welfare of children and young people.

6. Key to this success has been the partnership's 'laser-like' focus on the different safeguarding contexts that exist across the City of London and Hackney, with an acute emphasis being placed on children and young people being safeguarded in the context of their lives at home, in their friendship circles, in health, in education and in the public spaces that they occupy both offline and on-line.

7. Context is key and the leadership by the CHSCB in this regard has ensured the successful translation of the Board's vision into tangible actions that have made

children and young people safer: *“children and young people in the City of London and Hackney are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.*

Current Position

8. In 2016, as part of the inspections by Ofsted in the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney, the CHSCB was judged to be outstanding in both areas. To put this judgment into context, no other LSCB has been awarded an outstanding grading from the 112 Single Inspection Framework (SIF) inspections undertaken to date.

9. In respect of the CHSCB’s work in the City of London, Ofsted noted; *“The LSCB is a highly accomplished safeguarding board, supported by solid governance arrangements. It demonstrates exemplary effectiveness in holding partners to account to ensure that they safeguard children.”*

10. **Leadership & Governance** - Lines of accountability, oversight and cooperation have been strengthened and improved through the CHSCB setting up specific City focused Inter-Board Chairman’s meetings and through the regular and on-going interface with other key leaders and strategic forums, such as the Town Clerk, Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership.

11. The CHSCB has significantly strengthened the governance arrangements for safeguarding children and young people in the City, driving a sharper focus – **The City Focus**.

12. This has critically heightened oversight and driven collaboration. This means that the City is no longer the less visible partner in the CHSCB. Regardless of the number of resident children and young people, an unswerving rigour is applied across the dual footprint of the CHSCB in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements based on the local context in which children and young people live and grow up.

13. The improvements in leadership and governance reflect the CHSCB developing to become a highly influential strategic arrangement that directly influences and improves performance in the care and protection of children in the City.

Early Help - Children in the City of London who need help are identified early. They are supported by a range of services that make a tangible difference to their lives. Increasing the number of children who benefit from early help has been a priority for the City and partners.

14. **Domestic Violence and Abuse** - Multi-agency risk assessment arrangements to support vulnerable victims and children affected by domestic abuse are effective. Meetings are convened when required, are well attended and lead to appropriate support plans. The CHSCB has challenged the City to ensure a clear focus remains on children in the context of this work. City have produced a distinct section for the revised strategy covering this aspect.

15. **Neglect** - In response to the recognition that abuse and neglect within affluent families can be harder to recognise and address, the DCS, the chair of the CHSCB and the chief executive have worked together to commission a research project in partnership with Goldsmith's University of London.

16. **Child Sexual Exploitation** - Extensive work has been undertaken through a City-specific children sexual exploitation working group. The group coordinated a targeted City campaign with hoteliers, alongside multi-agency training and support for children, together with research and intelligence.

17. **Missing Children** – The response to missing children has been further strengthened, particularly in regard to children missing education. The report details one instance where a young person asked the independent person who visited him after he had gone missing from his placement to sort out a worry about his placement. This was quickly resolved, leading to the 'missing' episodes ceasing.

18. **FGM & Harmful Practices** - The board has made substantial progress in raising awareness of female genital mutilation, forced marriage and child abuse through faith, belief or culture. The board has worked closely with public health services to influence and monitor the multi-agency response to female genital mutilation.

19. **Prevent** - The board closely monitors the City's 'Prevent' duty and holds agencies to account for driving their response, including awareness raising and recognition.

20. **The Management of Allegations against Professionals and Volunteers Working with Children** - Effective work has been completed in relation to raising agencies' awareness of their responsibilities in relation to allegations against adults who work with children. This has led to an increase in the number of referrals received.”

Corporate & Strategic Implications

21. Contributes to strategic goal of City being safe place to live. Contributes to meeting corporate risk regarding safeguarding and is consistent with the safeguarding objectives set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Conclusion

22. Partners in the City, particularly those on the front-line should be proud of the progress made over 2015/16. Whilst significant challenges are ahead, the strength of partnership working in the City

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