

10 February 2015		ITEM: 8
Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
Learning from the Serious Case Review of "Julia"		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Not applicable	
Report of: Jane Foster-Taylor, Thurrock LSCB Full Board Vice-Chair		
Accountable Head of Service: Andrew Carter, Head of Children's Social Care		
Accountable Director: Carmel Littleton, Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out the requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards to undertake reviews of serious cases where:

- a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- b) either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the Authority, their Board Partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

A serious case review team was established and although Julia and her family had been known to Universal and Specialist Services for many years, the SCR Review Team agreed that the period to be reviewed would be from November 2010 – to February 2013 when Julia became subject to a Child Protection Plan.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Committee consider and comment upon the report.**
- 1.2 That the progress made on the review's action plan be noted.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out the requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards to undertake reviews of serious cases where:

- (a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and

(b) either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the Authority, their Board Partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

- 2.2. This case was referred formally to the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board Serious Case Review Panel to consider the case under Regulation 5. The Panel found that this case met the criteria for a Serious Case Review and agreed the commissioning arrangements in order to meet the requirements of such reviews as laid out in HM Government 'Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2013.
- 2.3 A Serious Case Review Team was established and although Julia and her family had been known to Universal and Specialist Services for many years, the SCR Review Team agreed that the period to be reviewed would be from November 2010 to February 2013 when Julia became subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- 2.4 The review was commissioned in May 2013 and completed in May 2014 and the subsequent findings presented at a series of Safeguarding Board meetings and presented to the recently initiated National Serious Case Review Panel (new requirement) before going before the LSCB Full Board for final ratification and agreement in September 2014.
- 2.5 The review was officially published on 15th December 2014 and will remain on the LSCB website for a period of 18 months in accordance with guidelines (Working Together 2013).
- 2.6 The review identified seven findings for the Safeguarding Board to consider.
- 2.7 The board conducted an initial assessment of progress made during the course of the review and this is reflected within the final document.
- 2.8 A detailed multi-agency action plan has been developed and agreed by the partner agencies to monitor progress of each of the seven findings and outcomes from this review.
- 2.9 The governance and monitoring of the action plan has been tasked to the Safeguarding Board's Audit Group and overseen by the Serious Case Review group and subsequently reporting to the LSCB Full Board.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

None.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards to publish all Serious Case Reviews. It is good practice for these reviews to be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 The document was circulated in draft for consideration and comment to all partners of the LSCB and the various LSCB sub committees prior to ratification

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The review calls upon the authority to review the findings against existing policies and procedure and to consider making any changes reflected in the review.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager – Children’s Services

The delivery of the LSCB Business is undertaken within existing budgets. Those budgets are established through annual partnership funding and specific budgets allocated for training and serious case reviews. All agencies contribute to the LSCB budget.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Principal Solicitor

This serious case review fulfils the requirements of Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Teresa Evans**
Equalities and Cohesion Officer

The annual report covers the safeguarding needs of all children in Thurrock. The plans and policies of its board and sub committees reflect the diverse

needs which are supported through implementing and developing equalities impact assessments as appropriate.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- SCIE Serious Case Review Report "Julia"

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1 - SCIE Serious Case Review Report "Julia"

Report Author:

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Business Manager

Local Safeguarding Children's Board