

<b>16 June 2022</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Items Raised by Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership: Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review - Action Plans</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A	
<b>Report of:</b> Priscilla Bruce-Annan, Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Manager		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Janet Simon, Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Early Help		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director, Children's Services		
<b>This report is public.</b>		

## Executive Summary

This report presents Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with the identified Partnership Priorities for 2022 – 2024, an update on the range of work of the LSCP and progress made on case review action plans.

The responsibilities of the LSCP are laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families'.

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) were established under the Children Act (2004) to review cases where a child has died and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. SCRs could additionally be carried out where a child has not died, but has come to serious harm as a result of abuse or neglect. The aim of SCRs was to establish

learning for agencies and professionals to improve the way that they work together to safeguard children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, 2018), changed the structure of SCRs, these reviews are now known as Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs). Responsibility for learning lessons lies with a national panel – the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) – and with local safeguarding partners.

## **1. Recommendation(s)**

**1.1 That the Committee note the Partnership priorities for 2022 – 2024, update on the work of the LSCP and the progress made on Action Plans to date.**

## **2. Thurrock LSCP Priorities 2022 - 2024**

2.1 In order to identify the Partnership Priorities for 2022 – 2024, the Independent Chair Scrutineer and Statutory Partners considered the multi-agency data received during the year 2021 – 2022, case audit outcomes, national and local reviews and the results of consultation with multi-agency frontline practitioners. The Partnership have agreed five priorities for 2022 – 2024.

### **2.2 Neglect**

To reduce the incidences of child neglect within the borough through a multi-agency approach and further reduce repeat incidents of neglect. We will do this by delivering the work identified in the Thurrock LSCP Neglect Strategy 2021-2024, which will be driven by the Neglect Group.

### **2.3 Violence and Vulnerability**

Child Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, Harmful Sexualised Behaviour and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) are areas of focus for the LSCP. We will continue our work with the Thurrock VAWG group and Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) partners to reduce the prevalence of those experiencing violence and exploitation in these areas.

### **2.4 Think Family**

We know families do not exist in isolation, by using a 'Think Family' and wider contacts approach we can secure better outcomes for children, young people and their families. Working with partners to co-ordinate support and interventions and co-producing plans with the family we are better placed to achieve this. Families will experience a system of joined up safeguarding and support.

### **2.5 Transitions and Transfers**

Bridging the gap between points of transition are important in the continuity of safeguarding children and young people. In responding to the need during times of developmental life stages and when children, young people and families move, we are adopting a transitional approach to safeguarding. To do

this we will work with our partners to develop knowledge and our collective response at these crucial times.

## **2.6 Emotional Health and Well Being**

To protect and promote the emotional health and Well Being of children, young people, families and the multi-agency workforce we are focussed on support in schools, colleges and workplace settings. We will invest in our resources and workforce development and acknowledge that the last few years have been difficult for all.

## **3. Update on LSCP Work**

- 3.1 The Learning and Development programme for 2022/23, has been refreshed and provides for learning based on statutory requirements, learning arising from local and national reviews, case audits and emerging areas where knowledge and skills are recognised. Managing Allegations Against Staff, Extra-familial Harm and Child Exploitation training are among sessions added or updated on the programme.
- 3.2 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, sets out the requirement for sports clubs and organisations to have safeguarding arrangements in place. The joint LSCP and National Working Group (NWG) Safe to Play campaign focuses attention on safeguarding in sports clubs and organisations and raises the awareness of this in education settings, children, young people and families. A Safe to Play Conference is to be held in July 2022, for sports clubs and organisations to promote safeguarding and support the development of safeguarding arrangements.
- 3.3 Ongoing work on the annual audit schedule ensures continuous improvement in quality assurance and hearing the voice of the child and family through engagement and participation.
- 3.4 Thurrock LSCP commissioned an external thematic review into Serious Youth Violence and Gang Related Activity. In addition, a separate Deep Dive case audit was conducted and aligned with the review. The learning and recommendations arising from this review will be published in June 2022. Once published all identified learning will be disseminated across the partnership and a multi-agency action plan devised to meet the recommendations arising from the review.
- 3.5 Local Safeguarding Partnerships have a statutory obligation to publish an annual report, setting out what has been done as a result of the safeguarding arrangements, its effectiveness, and impact. This includes work on any child safeguarding practice reviews that have been conducted. The report for 2021/22 is being compiled for publication in the autumn 2022.
- 3.6 In response to the national learning reviews from Bradford, City & Hackney, Croydon and Solihull, the LSCP has created a multi-agency plan of the

combined findings to gather what is currently in place and what more can be done to mitigate the risks to children and young people in Thurrock.

#### **4. Case Reviews and Peer Review Action Plan Update**

All case review action plans are developed through meetings attended by multi-agency representatives, to identify actions required by the partnership to address the recommendations. These action plans have been ratified through the LSCP Learning Practice Review Group, Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners.

##### **4.1 Sam & Kyle Serious Case Review Action Plan**

The Sam and Kyle Action Plan is now completed and has been signed off by the Independent Chair and Statutory partners as business as usual.

##### **4.2 Frankie Serious Case Review Action Plan**

Frankie Action Plan is now completed and has been signed off by the Independent Chair and Statutory partners as business as usual.

##### **4.3 Peer Review Action Plan**

The Peer Review Action Plan is now completed and has been signed off by the Independent Chair and Statutory partners as business as usual.

##### **4.4 Leo Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Action Plan**

Leo Action Plan lists twelve recommendations that are further divided into sub-sections totalling 14 actionable areas. 13 out of the 14 areas are now complete. The remaining 1 action links to work on Think Family and is being progressed to completion.

##### **4.5 Shae and Ashley Local Health Review (LHR) Action Plan**

This action plan was agreed and ratified through the LSCP Learning Practice Review Group, Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners in the last cycle of meetings.

The learning from Shae and Ashley LHR lists ten recommendations that are further divided into sub-sections totalling 14 actionable areas. Work has started on the actions and 2 actions are completed.

##### **4.6. The LSCP is currently considering the findings from the recently published National Panel reviews on Star Hobson (Bradford) and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes (Solihull) along with the Independent Review of Children's Social Care written by Josh MacAlister.**

#### **5. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

##### **5.1 None**

#### **6. Reasons for Recommendation**

6.1 To inform members of the Partnership Priorities for 2022 – 2024, the range of work carried out by Thurrock LSCP and update members on case review action plans and the Peer Review Action Plan. The action plans are multi-agency documents that are monitored through the LSCP governance structure.

**7. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

7.1 Not applicable.

**8. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

8.1 There is no impact.

**9. Implications**

**9.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **David May**  
**Strategic Lead - Finance**

There are no substantial financial implications arising from the action plan which have not been accounted for in the LSCP budgets and delivery plan.

The LSCP is funded by the three statutory partners and small contributions from other members of the partnership.

**9.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Mark Bowen**  
**Interim Head of Legal Services**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 dissolved the requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB). The three Strategic Partners, determined under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, comprise Thurrock Council, Essex Police and Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Thurrock's new arrangements as the LSCP, came into effect on the 7th May 2019.

The statutory criteria for a serious child safeguarding case is set out in Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) with statutory guidance in Working Together 2018. The commission and oversight of the review of these cases, (a local child safeguarding practice review formerly Serious Case Review) and the auditing and monitoring of the 'programme of action' following the findings of the review continues to be the role of the LSCP.

Independent scrutiny is required by the Act as a part of the local safeguarding arrangements.

### 9.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**  
**Community Engagement and Project  
Monitoring Officer**

Supporting our children and young people who are disadvantaged is a key strategic priority for Thurrock Council. The Partnership promotes practice to achieve equality, inclusion and diversity, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy. All Partners are signed up to these principles.

### 9.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children

No implications identified.

### 10. **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).

None.

### 11. **Appendices to the report**

None.

### **Report Author:**

Priscilla Bruce-Annan

Business Manager

Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership