

17 January 2023		ITEM: 9
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review - Action Plans		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/a	
Report of: Priscilla Bruce-Annan, Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director, Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report presents Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with 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 update on the work of the LSCP and the progress made on Action Plans to date.

2. Update on LSCP Work

- 2.1 The Neglect sub-group has been working on delivering the Neglect Strategy which includes driving up awareness, training and use of the Graded Care Profile 2 assessment tool, devising a neglect tool kit for practitioners and delivering the LSCP Annual Conference on the theme of neglect.

The LSCP annual conference this year titled 'Working Together to Identify and Tackle Neglect in Thurrock', has been moved to the spring. Taking the decision to postpone the conference to a date in spring will ensure delivery will be in person and attendance can be maximised. Workshops on the day will cover multi-agency collaboration, criminal neglect, vulnerabilities and impact on education and health.

- 2.2 A Partnership Complex Case Discussion process has been devised and implemented by the Practice Standards Group. These discussions aim to explore and build on improved co-operation and understanding of handling complex or persistent cases. This is to be used as an opportunity to strengthen understanding between services and encourage wider joint working and sharing of relevant information about concerns.
- 2.3 Adolescent Mental Health including the impact of COVID and Elective Home Educated children and young people have been the themes of the last two LSCP multi-agency case audits. The audits focused on how well agencies work together to support children, young people and their families. The LSCP has a programme of audits that are carried out annually and identified learning or suggestions for improvements are discussed and implemented by agencies via their Audit Group representative.
- 2.4 The Pathway to Service and Threshold Intervention document that sets out the pathway and threshold criteria for making referrals to services regarding concerns about a child, has been reviewed and refreshed by a multi-agency Task and Finish group. It has been ratified via the LSCP governance process and is being shared via a range of launch activities across the Partnership.
- 2.5 On 22nd, 23rd and 24th November, the LSCP invited around 4,000 children in Years 5 and 6, from across the borough to the first Walk Online Roadshow

since 2019. The children attended the event with their teachers at Civic Hall in Blackshots to experience Online Safety presentations and information. Important and vital information was shared with children during interactive and fun sessions to ensure a balance of learning through participation and engagement. The event was a huge success with the children and teachers who gave overwhelmingly positive feedback. All the children left with a goodie bag containing useful online safety resources. A parent, carer and practitioner specific event was delivered virtually on 1st December 2022, to accompany the children's session. In March 2023, an additional event will be delivered for children in Years 7 and 8, who were unable to attend due to restrictions over the last few years.

3. Case Reviews Action Plan Update

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 **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 all actions; 9 actions are complete and the remaining 5 are on track to be completed within timescales.
- 3.3 An action plan has been devised to identify actions to be taken to meet the recommendations from the Thematic Review into Serious Youth Violence and Gang Related Crime. It is going through the governance process for ratification and monitoring. The action plan lists six recommendations that are further divided into sub-sections totalling 15 actionable areas and work has started on some actions.
- 3.4 In considering the findings from the recently published National Panel reviews into Star Hobson (Bradford) and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes (Solihull), Child Q (City and Hackney) and 'Ben' (Croydon) along with the Independent Review of Children's Social Care written by Josh MacAlister, the LSCP has devised a combined action plan to provide a health check and assurance that identified actions are in place to mitigate the risk to children in Thurrock.

4. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 None

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 To update members on the range of work carried out by Thurrock LSCP and progress on case review action plans. The action plans are multi-agency documents that are monitored through the LSCP governance structure.

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

6.1 Not applicable.

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

7.1 There is no impact.

8. Implications

8.1 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.

8.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
Interim Deputy Head of Legal (Social Care and Education)

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 (as updated). 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.

8.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
**Team Manager Community Development -
Adults, Housing & Health**

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.

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

No implications identified.

9. **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.

10. **Appendices to the report**

None.

Report Author:

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Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership