

|  |                                 |                |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>15 June 2023</b>  |                                 | <b>ITEM: 7</b> |
| <b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>   |                                 |                |
| <b>Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review - Action Plans</b>   |                                 |                |
| <b>Wards and communities affected:</b><br>All  | <b>Key Decision:</b><br>Non-Key |                |
| <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 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 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, was reviewed and published in January 2023. A multi-agency launch event was held in March 2023 to share the guide with practitioners, providing the opportunity for discussion and a question-and-answer session. Presentations on service, support and interventions were given by the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Think Family Service, The Virtual School, Attendance Support Team and the Thurrock Integrated Care Board. Post event evaluations show that delegates found the event very good, and the information and resources shared on the day will be useful in their daily work. Many said they would share what they had learnt with colleagues.
- 2.2 Across three days in March 2023, the LSCP invited around 2300 children in Years 7 and 8 from secondary schools in Thurrock, to the Walk Online Roadshows. Children and their teachers attended the event held at Civic Hall, Blackshots to experience online safety presentations and information on known and emerging risks. Important messages and information were shared with children during interactive sessions to ensure a balance of learning through participation and engagement. Children and teachers gave very good feedback and left the roadshows with a goodie bag containing useful safeguarding resources and school equipment. A parent, carer and professionals specific Walk Online Roadshow will be delivered virtually on Tuesday 6th June 2023, 20:00 – 21:30. This is to complement the content delivered to the children. All parents, carers and professionals have strongly been encouraged to attend this session.
- 2.3 As part of the Neglect Strategy, the sub-group has devised and agreed the Neglect Toolkit and Screening Tool for use by all practitioners working with families to assess concerns around neglect so support and intervention can be identified for the family. The toolkit and screening tool were launched at the LSCP Annual Conference in April.

Over 100 delegates attended the in person LSCP annual conference 'Working Together to Identify and Tackle Neglect in Thurrock', in April this year. Jenny

Coles, Independent Chair Scrutineer opened the event at which Dr Prakash Srivastava, creator of the neglect Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) assessment tool delivered the keynote address. Delegates had the opportunity of attending a choice of five workshops on topics covering: criminal neglect, effective partnership working on neglect, the impact on education, effects on childhood health and the risks to vulnerability and grooming. Post event evaluations showed that delegates found the conference very good and particularly found the in-person networking, workshops and the expert panel question and answer session of Statutory Partners the most useful.

- 2.4 Young people transitioning from Children's to Adult Services and the statutory audits of Thurrock Looked After Children, Children in Need and Child Protection cases 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.
- 2.5 The LSCP Learning and Development Programme has been refreshed with new training session on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), Think Family, Working with Families Who are Uncertain, Neglect and Professional Curiosity. All areas that have been identified from LSCP priorities, case reviews, audits or from course evaluations.

### **3. Case Reviews 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.

- 3.1 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, four are rated green and eleven rated amber, all are progressing within timescales.

### **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. 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: **Becky Lee**

**Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities Adults, Housing and 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:**

Priscilla Bruce-Annan

Business Manager

Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership