

5 July 2016		ITEM: 8
Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Update on the Megan Serious Case Review Action Plan		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: To continue to monitor Action Plan	
Report of: Andrew Carter, Head of Children's Social Care		
Accountable Head of Service: Andrew Carter, Children's Social Care (CATO)		
Accountable Director: Rory Patterson, Director of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report updates members of the Committee on the multi-agency action plan to address the findings of the Megan SCR

1 Recommendation(s)

1.1 Children's Overview and Scrutiny to monitor the progress of the council and partners in fully implementing the Megan SCR Action Plan

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Copies of the Megan Serious Case Review were previously presented to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 Full copies of the review can be found on the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) website.

2.3 Following the completion of the serious case review agencies have drawn up the attached action plan, which is being monitored and challenged by the LSCB.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Children's Social Care as reflected in the attached action plan has made significant progress in enacting and embedding the learning from the Megan Serious Case Review.

- 3.2 As reflected in the recent Ofsted inspection report (24.5.16) Thurrock offers effective services for adolescents. A dedicated Adolescent Team has been maintained and developed to ensure that the needs of vulnerable teenagers as highlighted in the 'Megan' and 'Julia' Serious Case Reviews are addressed.
- 3.3 The council has a clear neglect strategy and has embedded use of the 'Adolescent Neglect Toolkit' to enable practitioners to assessment, evaluate and planning effectively for teenagers at risk of neglect (and experiencing neglect).
- 3.4 Across all age groups the department have recently concluded a national evaluation pilot with the NSPCC of the Graded Care Profile 2. The Graded Care Profile 2 assists practitioners to better assess neglect and its impact across all age groups.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be satisfied that the learning from the Serious Case Review has been acted on and changes to practice / systems embedded across the council and partner agencies.

5. Consultation

1. Thurrock LSCB
2. Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

N/A

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager – Children and Adults

There are no financial implications for the authority arising out of the action plan.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Principal Solicitor Children's Safeguarding

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide services to children in need of help and protection, failure to effectively do so could lead to legal challenges and reputational damage.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development and Equalities Manager

The local authority and its partners must ensure that a range of services and provision is in place to protect children from all backgrounds. The action plan ensures this is addressed in Thurrock.

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

N/A

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):

Megan Serious Case Review Full Report

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - Megan Action Plan

Report Author:

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Head of Service
Children's Social Care