

Report for: CYPS Scrutiny Panel: 8 November 2018

Item number:

Title: Haringey Safeguarding Children Board: The Transition to New Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements



Report authorised by : Ann Graham, Director, Children's Services

Lead Officer: Sarah Alexander, Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Lead Practitioner, sarah.alexander@haringey.gov.uk; 020 8489 7061

Ward(s) affected: NA

1. Describe the issue under consideration

To provide a brief overview of Haringey's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), current arrangements and future changes.

2. Background

2.1 The role of the LSCB is to co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure the effectiveness of what the member organisations do individually and together. Haringey LSCB supports all Haringey organisations who have contact with children and young people in line with *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*.

2.2 Scope of the Role

In order to fulfil its statutory functions, the LSCB uses a range of methods to:

- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations;
- quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

2.3 **Accountability**

The LSCB has a role in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of local individuals and organisations work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, but is not accountable for their day to day operational work. Each Board partner retains its own existing lines of accountability and governance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their services. The LSCB does not have the power to direct other organisations but does have a role in making clear the improvements required to promote improvements in the system.

2.4 Each member of LSCB has a corporate responsibility to keep their own agency and organisation informed of the work of LSCB; in particular, to highlight through their organisational governance arrangements, any risks associated with that organisation not meeting its statutory responsibility to safeguard children.

2.5 A key role of the LSCB is to monitor the effectiveness of each agency/ organisation individually and whilst working in partnership, to deliver the desired outcomes for children within in Haringey. The LSCB holds agencies and organisations to account for their performance in delivering the identified strategic outcomes.

2.6 **The Alan Wood Review**

2.7 In 2015, in response to a number of disappointing outcomes of Ofsted inspections of LSCBs, the Government commissioned Alan Wood, a former President of the Association of Directors of Children’s Services and ex-Director of Children’s Services in Hackney Council, to lead a review of LSCBs. This review took place between January and March 2016 and the review team consulted leaders and experts in children’s services across England.

2.8 In total the review considered over 600 responses and came to the overall conclusion that LSCBs were not sufficiently effective. Confidence in LSCBs was not strong with only just over 50% of the respondents believing that they ensured the effectiveness of local safeguarding work. Too often the effectiveness was dependent on the ability of the Independent Chair. Many LSCBs lacked strength in their willingness and ability to call partners to account when there were shortfalls and failures in services to children. Among his criticisms of LSCBs, Alan Wood noted:

- *“A key finding in this review is that the duty to cooperate is not a sufficient vehicle to bring about effective collaboration between the key agencies of health, the police and local government.”*
- *“We must move away from the highly prescribed model we have for delivering multi-agency arrangements ... We should be asking for outcomes for children and young people to be improved, not how they are organised.”*
- *“Too much of practice leaders’ time is taken up in servicing the architecture of multi-agency arrangements...”* among them LSCBs.

2.9 Alan Wood recommended the abolition of LSCBs and their replacement by a stronger partnership consisting of key statutory agencies (police, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Local Authorities), who would in turn determine local safeguarding arrangements.

2.10 **Children and Social Work Act – implications for LSCBs**

In its response in May 2016, the Government agreed with Alan Wood's analysis, and that "*current arrangements are inflexible and too often ineffective. Meetings take place involving large numbers of people, but decision-making leading to effective action on the ground can be all too often lacking*". It proposed a stronger but more flexible statutory framework to support local partners to work together more effectively to protect and safeguard children and young people, embedding improved multi-agency behaviours and practices.

2.11 *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018* guidance sets out the changes needed to support the new system of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements established by the Children and Social Work Act 2017:

The three safeguarding partners (Local Authority [DCS], Chief Operating Officer of CCG and Police Borough Commander **should**:

- agree the ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services;
- act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and
- implement local and national learning including serious child safeguarding incidents.

2.12 The partners will set out how they will work together with relevant agencies. The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system whereby:

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

2.13 Arrangements for the transition from LSCBs to Statutory Partners and CDOPs (Child Death Overview Panels) commenced from 29 June 2018 and should be completed by 29 September 2019.

3. **Conclusion**

Our three statutory Partners (DCS, Borough Commander and Chief Operating Officer- CCG) held their first meeting on 8th October 2018 (facilitated by the interim Independent Chair of the LSCB) to consider how the new partnership arrangements might work in Haringey. They agreed to move into the new partnership arrangements and tasked the Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Manager with drafting a report outlining the transition arrangements along with an action plan, for their consideration at their next meeting on 7th November 2018.

4. **Contribution to strategic outcomes**

Priority One: Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education.

5. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

(a) Wood Report: Review of the Role and Functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards
Wood Review

(b) Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Working Together 2018

External links – Haringey Council is not responsible for the contents or reliability of linked web sites and does not necessarily endorse any views expressed within them. Listing should not be taken as endorsement of any kind. It is your responsibility to check the terms and conditions of any other web sites you may visit. We cannot guarantee that these links will work all of the time and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.