

14 March 2023		ITEM: 10
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock LSCP Annual Report 2021/22		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
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 the LSCP Annual Report 2021/22.

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'.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, 2018), In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Committee note the LSCP Annual Report 2021/22 and the work undertaken against the priorities.

2. LSCP Annual Report 2021/22

2.1 <https://www.thurrocklscp.org.uk/lscp/about-the-partnership/lscp-accountability>

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 None

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 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.

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

5.1 Not applicable.

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

6.1 There is no impact.

7. Implications

7.1 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.

7.2 Legal

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

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 (by amending the Children Act 2004) 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 Act requires the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area. The Act does not create any separate body or additional powers for the Safeguarding Partners. The arrangements must be published and must include arrangements for scrutiny by an independent person of the effectiveness of the arrangements.

The Act requires that at least once in every 12 month period the safeguarding partners must prepare and publish a report on:

- a) What the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area have done as a result of the arrangements, and
- b) How effective the arrangements have been in practice.

Working Together states that the scrutiny should be objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement. As well as considering the effectiveness of the arrangements these should include how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported. The published arrangements should include how they will be reviewed and, also, include arrangements for independent scrutiny of the annual report.

The Council has a statutory duty to make arrangements for Initial Health Assessments for Looked After Children to take place before the child first review under the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Becky Lee**
Community Development and Equalities
Adults, Housing and Health Directorate
Team Manager

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.

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

No implications identified.

- 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).

None.

- 9. Appendices to the report**

Appendix A LSCP Annual Report 2021/22

Report Author:

Priscilla Bruce-Annan

Business Manager

Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership