

<b>12 September 2023</b>		<b>ITEM: 9</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Thematic Review Action Plan - Update</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A	
<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 Thematic Review into Serious Youth Violence and Gang Related Crime Review action plan.

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), 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 progress made on Thematic Review Action Plan to date.**

**2. Thematic Review Action Plan Update**

2.1 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 within the review. These action plans have been ratified through the LSCP Learning Practice Review Group, Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners.

2.2 This 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. The plan has been ratified and is monitored through the LSCP governance process. Six recommendations were made following the review that are further divided into sub-sections totalling 15 actionable areas. Currently six are rated green and complete and nine rated amber as work has started and is on-going. All actions are progressing within timescales.

**3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

3.1 None

**4. Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 To update members on the progress on the Thematic Review action plan. The action plan is a multi-agency document that is 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: **Michelle Hall**  
**Senior Management Accountant**

There are no financial implications.

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: **Petrena Sharpe**  
**Safeguarding Lawyer – Team Leader**

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 to Safeguard Children 2018 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 Government has set out statutory guidance under Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. It requires specified authorities for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area. The Duty also requires the specified authorities

to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their strategy.

### 7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Smith**  
**Strategic Lead: Community Development and Equalities Officer**

Supporting our children and young people who are disadvantaged is a key strategic priority for Thurrock Council. Reviews are informed by equality data, and the Partnership promotes practice to achieve equality, inclusion and diversity. The Partnership carries 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 Thematic Review Action Plan.

### **Report Author:**

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Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership