

2 February 2021		ITEM: 7
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Update on the LSCP Peer Review Action Plan		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A	
Report of: Priscilla Bruce-Annan, Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Joe Tynan Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Early Offer		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children's Services		
This report is public.		

Executive Summary

The Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership commissioned an independent peer review which took place in August 2020. The report and recommendations arising from the peer review were presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 1st December 2020. The LSCP were asked to present the action plan at the next meeting and the action plan is attached in Appendix 1

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Committee provide comment and challenge to the Action Plan and recognise progress to date.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The independent review was commissioned by the LSCP. This is the expectation in the government guidance which sets out the requirement to have an annual peer review or independent review of the safeguarding partnership arrangements.

2.2 The full independent external report was presented to the Committee on 1st December 2020 to ensure Members had an opportunity to comment on the activities of the LSCP and to review the recommendations made to the LSCP in the independent review.

2.3 The independent review considered how effectively the LSCP arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership across the

partnership. The review also identified any gaps in the partnership working and recommend actions to be taken to ensure the partnership is working as effectively as possible. This independent review acted as a constructive critical friend, in order to promote reflection to drive continuous improvement within the Partnership.

2.4 The independent review was asked to consider the following issues for the LSCP and to provide recommendations for the LSCP to consider:

- To review the current structure of the LSCP; is it fit for purpose any suggested improvements?
- To review the work on Managed Reviews and Learning Practice Reviews; how effective are they? Are they timely and if not, suggestions to bring them back in line with 6 months required in Working Together (2018). Are lessons learned from the Reviews, do they enhance practice in the Partnership?
- How to secure independent overview of the partnership; to propose options for independent scrutiny of the LSCP
- Review of the current working groups for effectiveness and outcomes
- To review the current funding arrangements of the LSCP and to propose alternative funding models
- In reviewing the partnership are any gaps identified in partnership working. To suggest ways that the partnership can close any identified gaps
- To highlight any good examples of performance of the LSCP
- How will we know we are being effective?

2.5 The recommendations fell broadly into 5 areas

- Finance
- Governance and business support structures
- Learning and Improvement
- Quality Assurance and data
- Shared Priorities & Engagement

2.6 The action plan indicates progress has been made particularly in the following areas

- There is agreement among the strategic partners that the LSCP should have an independent chair who will also undertake some of the independent scrutiny which is essential to maintain constant improvement. The advert will go out in January 2021
- There is a revised Learning and Improvement frame work which is being circulated for comments from partners
- The Quality Assurance and Data set is being developed
- There are plans to pilot multi-agency audit models and learning events

- 2.7 The partnership between agencies working collaboratively to bring about improved outcomes for children has been enhanced by the independent review. Partners are extensively involved in crafting the developments based on the road map outlined by the recommendations but this does require detailed discussions to ensure the vision is jointly held.
- 2.8 The progress of the action plan will be regularly monitored by the strategic partners and independent chair (when appointed).

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 None

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 To inform members of the action plan in place to address the recommendations arising from the LSCP Independent Peer review. The action plan is a multi- agency document which is monitored through the LSCP Strategic Partners.

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

- 5.1 N/A

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

- 6.1 N/A

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead, Finance

There are no 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 (Education and Social Care)

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.

Independent scrutiny is required by the Act as a part of the local safeguarding arrangements.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
**Community Engagement and Project
Monitoring Officer**

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, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

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): <https://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/mqConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=29148>

Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 – LSCP Independent Peer review action plan

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