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| 2 February 2021 | | ITEM: 6 |
| Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee | | |
| Update on the Serious Case Review (SCR) Sam and Kyle - 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

Following the publication of Serious Case Review called "Sam and Kyle" in July 2020, the full report and action plan were presented to the Members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 October 2020.

The purpose of this document is to provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with the progress made in relation to action plan arising from the recommendations from the Serious Case Review (SCR) Sam and Kyle. The action plan and progress on each recommendation can be found in appendix 1

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Committee acknowledge the progress to date against the Action Plan.

1.2 That the Committee provide oversight and challenge to ensure the actions are having impact across the agencies

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) commissioned a Serious Case Review (SCR) into the circumstances surrounding the support and service provision to two young children, referred to in this report as 'Sam and Kyle'.

- 2.2 Sam was born in January 2016 and sadly died in January 2018 at home. There is a sibling, Kyle, born in October 2012. There was no presumption of non-accidental injuries or harm and Essex Police took no further action in relation to Sam's death. The SCR was agreed by the LSCP and the remit was to cover the period of time from when Kyle was born through to Sam's death. The death of Sam was the initial trigger for undertaking the review, but it was agreed that more useful learning across agencies, would be generated by extending the scope of the review to consider both children and their experiences over a longer period.
- 2.3 The Serious Case Review lists five recommendations for agency services improvement, these recommendations form the basis of the LSCP action plan (Appendix 1). It is a multi-agency action plan developed through the LSCP. Representatives from key agencies have identified actions required to address the recommendations of the SCR. The action plan has been ratified through the LSCP Learning Practice Review Group, Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners.
- 2.4 The recommendations from the Serious Case Review are listed below for ease of reference
1. *“Thurrock Safeguarding Children Partnership should review within the next six months its procedure for the escalation of concerns and for resolving differences of view between professional and agencies. This should especially consider where there are challenges to the thresholds applied to cases which involve a number of agencies, and where there are persistent concerns about either neglect and/or parental engagement.*
 2. *“Thurrock Safeguarding Children Partnership should develop a series of practice workshops to be run between agencies to explore and build on better co-operation and understanding of handling complex or persistent cases. Case studies should be used – such as this Review - and the development of joint or group supervision approaches should be explored. This should be viewed as an opportunity to strengthen understanding between services and encourage wider joint working and sharing of relevant information about concerns.*
 3. *“Thurrock Safeguarding Children Partnership should, using the principles within the Signs of Safety approach, review interagency procedures for establishing agreement with families of written care plans involving all those working with a child, with shared, clear and practical objectives that can be monitored– especially in persistent cases of poor parenting and neglect.*
 4. *“Thurrock Safeguarding Children Partnership should consider auditing the operation of the Prevention and Support Service programme to establish the extent to which the positive evaluation in the 2019 Ofsted report has been sustained and strengthened*

5. *“Thurrock Safeguarding Children Partnership is recommended to encourage the continued development of the Signs of Safety approach, and the use of the Graded Care Profile 2 for use across agencies and professional groups.”*

2.5 Good progress has been made against the plan, which identifies agreed areas of focus for actions, with timescales for completion or implementation. These actions are all RAG rated. All actions in recommendation 5 have been completed and implemented. Work continues to drive forward actions within the remaining 4 recommendations. For detail against all the actions please see Appendix 1.

2.6 Although key agencies within the partnership have met and discussed in detail the action plan arising from the recommendations, the speed and ease of implementation has been effected by the challenges and restrictions imposed by the pandemic. The action plan is now gaining grip across the partnership and there is a solid, clear pathway to achieve the outcomes desired for each recommendation.

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 learning arising from the Serious Case Review. The action plan is a multi- agency document which is monitored through the LSCP.

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 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: **Uwa Adedeji**
Interim Acting Team Leader, Children's Safeguarding

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.

The statutory criteria for a serious child safeguarding case is set out in Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) with statutory guidance in Working Together 2018. The commission and oversight of the review of these cases, (a local child safeguarding practice review formerly Serious Case Review) and the auditing and monitoring of the 'programme of action' following the findings of the review continues to be the role of the LSCP.

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):

- Serious Case Review Sam and Kyle, published July 2020
<https://www.thurrocklscp.org.uk/lscp/child-safeguarding-practice-reviews/current-reviews>

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 – Sam & Kyle Serious Case Review Action Plan

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Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership