

<b>13 July 2021</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Update on the LSCP Peer Review Action Plan</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, Interim Assistant Director Children's Social Care		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children's Services		
<b>This report is public.</b>		

## **Executive Summary**

The Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) 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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, the LSCP presented the Peer Review Action Plan. The LSCP were asked to present progress against the action plan and this is attached in Appendix 1.

### **1. Recommendation(s)**

#### **1.1 That the Committee note the Action Plan and progress to date.**

### **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 The independent review was commissioned by the LSCP and this is the expectation in the government guidance which sets out the requirement to have an annual peer review or independent review of the partnership arrangements.
- 2.2 The full report was presented to the Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 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 recommended 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 five areas:

- Finance
- Governance and Business Support Structures
- Learning and Improvement
- Quality Assurance and data
- Shared Priorities & Engagement

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

- Deputies of Strategic Partners are attending Strategic Group meetings. This is now embedded
- The Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is now a sub-group of the LSCP and reports directly into the Strategic Group
- There are various SET groups developing work across the area. These include a SET Procedures Group, SETDAB, SET Child Exploitation (CE) Group, delivering joint training and campaigns and the SET Strategic Partners Group set up in response to focus on issues arising

out of COVID-19. A SET Independent Chairs Group is due to hold its first meeting

- An Interim Independent Chair Scrutineer has been recruited, providing essential independent scrutiny. Interviews take place in July to recruit to the permanent position
- The Learning and Improvement Framework has been revised and signed off by Strategic Partners
- A Multi-agency Data Set has been designed and is being trialled this year
- There are plans in place to progress the amber RAG rated work around Shared Priorities and Engagement

2.7 The partnership between agencies working in collaboration to bring about improved outcomes for children is enhanced by the actions arising from the Peer Review. Partners are involved in shaping the development of actions contained in the plan, which takes place during detailed discussions to ensure a multi-agency vision and approach.

2.8 Progress against the action plan is regularly monitored by the statutory partners and Independent Chair Scrutineer.

### **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 Peer Review. The action plan is a multi-agency document which is monitored through the LSCP Statutory 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**

No implications identified

## 7.2 **Legal**

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

No implications identified

## 7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**  
**Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities**

No implications identified

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

None

## 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>

## 9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1 – LSCP Independent Peer Review Action Plan

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