

<b>12 October 2021</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Report from Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP).</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**

This report will cover progress made against the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Priorities for 2020-22; Neglect, Violence and Vulnerabilities, Performance Monitoring, Policies & Procedures, Participation & Engagement and Learning and Improvement. Also progress update on review action plans and a staffing update.

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

#### **1.1 That the Committee note the briefing update.**

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

Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) operates within a legislative and policy framework created by the Children Act 2004 and Working Together 2010 (as amended by Working Together 2013 & 2015).

This document provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with a briefing update on the Partnership's work.

#### **2.1 Priorities and Delivery Plan 2020/22**

Six priorities are identified for 2020-22 around which the delivery plan is written and developed. Our priorities are:

1. Neglect

2. Violence and Vulnerabilities
3. Performance Monitoring
4. Policies and Procedures
5. Participation and Engagement
6. Learning and Improvement

These were identified from case reviews, local data, emerging concerns and themes. The priorities were identified in March 2020.

### **Neglect**

To tackle the issue of neglect the partnership has refreshed the Neglect Strategy and created a Neglect Sub-group to monitor implementation of the strategy. The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) assessment tool was identified as the chosen tool for use across the partnership. A GCP2 Implementation Plan was devised, which included a launch presentation to the LSCP Management Executive Board in December 2020. A programme of multi-agency awareness raising sessions and training sessions for leaders, practitioners and frontline staff are being delivered. Information and resources are accessible on the LSCP website. In March 2020, a session on the 'How to effectively use Signs of Safety and GCP2 together' was delivered.

### **Violence and Vulnerabilities**

Working jointly with our Southend and Essex colleagues Child Exploitation and Online Safety campaigns aimed at practitioners, parents, carers, children, young people, residents and local businesses have been delivered. The MACE sub-group receives data on how perpetrators of exploitation are pursued and held to account through enforcement and deterrent activities. Emerging themes and trends are also reported to the MACE, this information is shared with the partnership to support awareness and response planning. For example Operation Henderson, an initiative to raise awareness of the vulnerability of young people to exploitation and abuse at stations and transport networks was created.

### **Performance and Monitoring**

An annual audit schedule allows us to continue to audit specific areas across children's safeguarding. This year we have added use of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Bruising Protocol and the Escalation Policy by practitioners and monitoring of Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infants (SUDIs) to the schedule of areas to be audited.

### **Policies and Procedures**

The LSCP is working with The Adults Safeguarding Board, The Health & Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership to agree a shared priorities document. This is in the final stages and is due to be agreed in the autumn. The Escalation Policy for practitioners has been refreshed and

shared with partners who have discussed the policy at inductions of new recruits, staff meetings, supervisions and development days. The SET Bruising Policy is currently being refreshed. A Learning and Improvement Framework is in place to ensure learning is disseminated across partner agencies and training and development events meet the needs of practitioners.

### **Participation and Engagement**

Working alongside Childrens Social Care and other colleagues, the LSCP participated in activities with children and young people at the Young Voices Grangewaters Activity Day. Children and young people were engaged and consulted with on the impact that services was having on their daily lives. Children talked about issues important to them, for example what made them happy, what aspirations they have for the future, how their workers support them and how days like the activity day keep them connected to friends and allow them to enjoy learning new outdoor activities. The LSCP has also worked with the Youth Cabinet and consulted with them on their safeguarding concerns inside and outside the home and their views on what can be done to improve safety for all children.

### **Learning and Improvement**

A comprehensive training programme is in place and multi-agency training and development sessions continue to be delivered virtually via MS Teams, other remote platforms and via the e-learning offer. Training events are popular and well attended. There has been an increase in attendance at sessions delivered virtually in comparison to those held face-to-face prior to the COVID-19 restrictions. Feedback is very good across all learning and development sessions and evaluation results are used to plan future content and the training programme. As part of the work to refresh and update our website and learning resources, the LSCP consulted with staff via the first survey requesting feedback on the LSCP website. Responses were received from across all agencies and this valuable data will be used to build our Learning Hub and improve the LSCP website.

Progress on actions that sit under each priority are on track and monitored by sub-groups and reported up to the Strategic Group.

## **2.2 Reviews**

Alongside the annual cycle of LSCP activity the Partnership is implementing and embedding the actions to meet the recommendations from the following reviews:

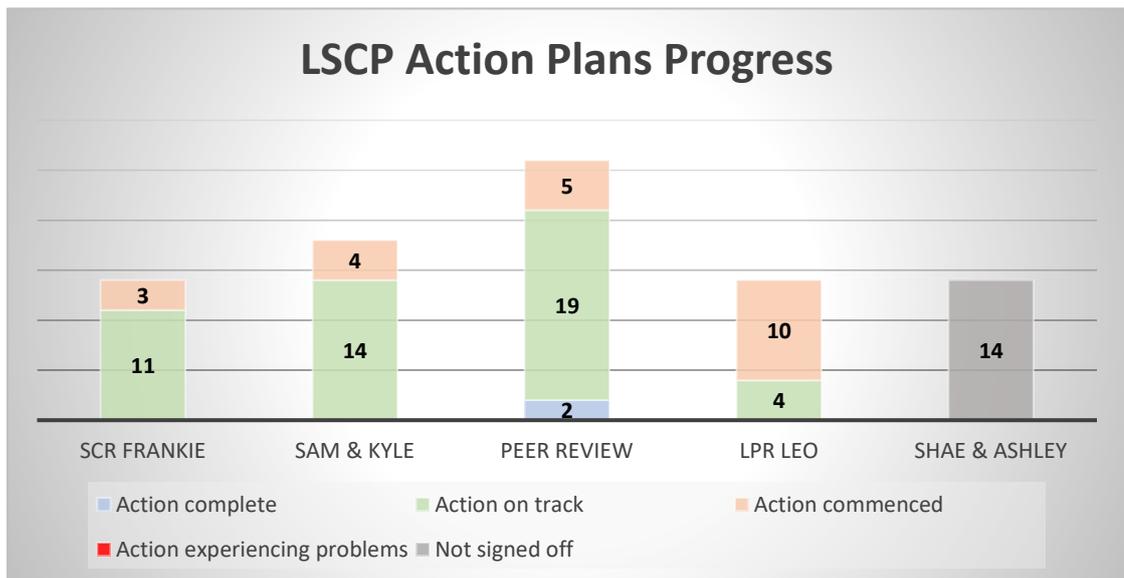
- 2 Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) – 15 recommendations
- 2 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) – 22 recommendations
- 1 Peer Review Action Plan – 26 recommendations

- 1 National Review Action Plan – 5 recommendations

Some recommendations have been split into smaller areas and this is reflected in the numbers in the progress graph.

Good rates of progress has been made across all action plans, which were published at a different times over the last 12 months. All plans have multi-agency agreement and input. All plans are Red, Amber and Green (RAG) rated for progress and tracked, monitored and reviewed by LSCP subgroups and the Strategic Partners.

The graph below shows progress across the six plans:



Following a Rapid Review into a Serious Incident Notification, the LSCP have commissioned a Thematic Review into Serious Youth Violence and Gang Related Crime. A deep dive into the case of the known young person has also been launched to run alongside the review to draw out any areas of learning across the partnership.

### 2.3 Staff Update

A new permanent Independent Chair Scrutineer has been appointed and is due to start in the autumn.

## 3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 None

## 4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 To provide committee members with a briefing update on the work of the Partnership.

**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**

No implications identified.

**7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**  
**Interim Deputy Head of Legal**

No implications identified.

**7.3 Diversity and Equality**

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

There are no direct diversity implications arising from this report.

**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**

None.

**Report Author:**

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Business Manager

Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership