

8 February 2022		ITEM: 6
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review - Action Plans		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A	
Report of: Priscilla Bruce-Annan, Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director, Children's Services		
This report is public.		

Executive Summary

This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with an update on the range of work of the LSCP and progress made in relation to Priority Setting, working with other Thurrock Partnerships and Boards and Learning and Development. In addition this report provides an overview of the action plans in the individual reviews and progress on each recommendation.

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'

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) were established under the Children Act (2004) to review cases where a child has died and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. SCRs could additionally be carried out where a child has not died, but has come to

serious harm as a result of abuse or neglect. The aim of SCRs was to establish learning for agencies and professionals to improve the way that they work together to safeguard children.

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 update on the work of the LSCP and the progress made on Action Plans to date.

2. Update on LSCP work

- 2.1 The LSCP priorities for 2022-2024 are under consideration by the Independent Chair Scrutineer and Statutory Partners. To include the views of the whole partnership in this process, a 'Quality Conversation' session was held attended by multi-agency frontline practitioners to explore and discuss the priorities of the partnership for 2022-2024. Feedback from this session along with the results of a frontline practitioner questionnaire will be shared with the Independent Chair Scrutineer and Statutory Partners and will contribute to the priority setting process.
- 2.2 Working with The Adults Safeguarding Board (SAB), The Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), a shared priorities document has been agreed and will be published in February 2022. This document will be refreshed as partnership and board priorities are reviewed.
- 2.3 Professor Carlene Firmin, Durham University delivered a keynote presentation on Contextual Safeguarding at the Annual Signs of Safety Conference 2021, 'Building Better Connections'. This was organised jointly by Thurrock LSCP and Thurrock Children's Services. The conference was very well attended by over 135 delegates and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Delegates felt the content was timely and of a high standard. Sessions on the comprehensive multi-agency Learning and Development programme, delivered virtually continue to be very well attended. The programme has now been expanded to include training in the areas of Extra-familial Harm, Every Contact Counts and Trauma Informed Practice.
- 2.4 Ongoing work on the annual audit schedule ensures continuous improvement in quality assurance and hearing the voice of the child and family through engagement and participation.
- 2.5 The role of the LSCP is to ensure the Safeguarding Children in Education Audit is completed by schools and collated. A report is currently being written

and any learning will be shared directly with schools and via learning and development events.

- 2.6 Data and information has been gathered by an external reviewer in relation to the commissioned Thematic Review into Serious Youth Violence and Gang Related Crime. A separate Deep Dive Audit of the case related to the Thematic Review has been carried out and will be aligned with the review. The final report with recommendations will be published in February 2022. Once published all identified learning will be disseminated across the partnership and a multi-agency action plan devised to meet the recommendations.
- 2.7 One of the Priorities for the LSCP is Neglect. In response to this a Neglect Group has been formed and a strategy is in place to oversee the partnership priority 'To reduce the prevalence and impact of Neglect'. This group reports into the LSCP governance structure.

3. Case Reviews and Peer Review Action Plan Update

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

SCR Sam & Kyle Action Plan published July 2020.

- 3.2 Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) commissioned Serious Case Reviews (SCR) into the circumstances surrounding the support and service provision to two young children, referred to in the report as 'Sam and Kyle'. Progress on the action plans for SCR Sam and Kyle have previously been presented to the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 Sam was born in 2016 and sadly died in 2018 at home. There is an older sibling, Kyle, born in 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 to draw out any learning for the partnership.
- 3.4 Sam and Kyle Serious Case Review lists five recommendations for improvements within the partnership, these recommendations form the basis of our action plan. The SCR Sam & Kyle Action Plan is attached in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The five recommendations from the Serious Case Review have been further divided up into sub-sections totalling 18 actionable areas. Good progress has been made on the plan, it identifies agreed areas of focus for actions with timescales for completion or implementation. These are RAG rated. All

recommendations in this plan are completed and RAG rated Blue with exception of 2 actions rated Amber below:

Recommendation 2.1 - "Inter-Agency Reflective Practice sessions three times a year focussing on the learning from specific case/s to be presented and delivered jointly across agencies".

The areas of focus for the reflective practice sessions are agreed; Neglect, Transitions and Transfers and, Unexplained Bruising. These will now be delivered in February, April and June 2022.

Recommendation 2.3 - Create and implement models of Multi-Agency group supervision.

The Practice Standards Group has agreed a model to be piloted in Feb/March 2022, following a round table event with practitioners from partner agencies.

SCR Frankie Action Plan published September 2020.

- 3.6 Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) commissioned Serious Case Reviews (SCR) into the circumstances surrounding the death of a young person referred to in the report as 'Frankie'.
- 3.7 Frankie was born in 2003 and died as a victim of a stabbing in 2018, in London. Frankie was known to various agencies at the time of his death. The review was commissioned to identify any learning in agencies involvement with this child.
- 3.8 Frankie Serious Case Review lists ten recommendations for improvement within the partnership. These recommendations form the basis of our action plan. It is a multi-agency action plan developed through the LSCP. The action plan has been ratified through the LSCP Learning Practice Review Group, Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners. The SCR Frankie Action Plan is attached in Appendix 2.
- 3.9 The ten recommendations from the Serious Case Review have been further divided up into sub-sections totalling 14 actionable areas. Good progress has been made on the plan, it identifies agreed areas of focus for recommendations with timescales for completion or implementation. These are RAG rated. All recommendations in this plan are completed and RAG rated Blue with exception of 1 recommendation rated Amber below:

Recommendation 3.2 - The Thurrock LSCP to lead a review of how all agencies respond to the impact on children when a parent is given a custodial sentence. How is this communicated and coordinated jointly across the multi-agency network?

A plan for a multi-agency Dip Sample Audit of partnership working (where parents/carers have received a custodial sentence) will be ratified through the audit sub-group with a view to it being conducted in spring 2022.

Peer Review Action Plan published August 2020.

- 3.10 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 1st December 2020. Subsequent reports have been presented on 2nd February 2021, and 13th July 2021, to the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Peer Review Action Plan is attached in Appendix 3.
- 3.11 The Thurrock LSCP Peer Review lists 26 recommendations for Partnership development, these recommendations form the basis of our action plan. It is a multi-agency action plan developed through the LSCP. A meeting was held with the Statutory Partners to identify actions required to address the recommendations. The action plan has been ratified through the LSCP Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners.
- 3.12 Good progress has been made on the plan, it identifies agreed areas of focus for recommendations with timescales for completion or implementation. These are RAG rated. All recommendations in this plan are completed and RAG rated Blue and Green.

LCSPR Leo Action Plan published February 2021.

- 3.13 Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) commissioned a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) into the circumstances surrounding the death of a child referred to in the report as 'Leo'.
- 3.14 Leo was nine years old when he died in 2018 from Bacterial Meningitis. At the time of his death Leo was known to various agencies. The review was commissioned to identify any learning in agencies involvement with this child.
- 3.15 LCSPR Leo lists twelve recommendations for service improvement which form the basis of the action plan and this is attached in Appendix 4.
- 3.16 The twelve recommendations from the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review have been further divided up into sub-sections totalling 14 actionable areas. Good progress is being made on the plan, it identifies agreed areas of focus for recommendations with timescales for completion or implementation.

Eleven out of the fourteen actions are complete and are now Green. The remaining three actions are Amber and work is ongoing to progress them within timescales to completion.

Recommendation 1.1 and 1.2 - *Whilst the family were discussed in meetings professionals were not always 'think wider family approach'. When making assessments SW's must consider all members of the family or household to assess their impact on the family and household as a whole.*

The first recommendation focuses on the importance of involving all significant people linked to the family when completing assessments. The LSCP is working in partnership with SET colleagues to promote a Think Family model across Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET). A podcast and video has already been devised and a conference is planned for March 2022. The LSCP is working with partners on the essential elements of a pictorial display of a family's relationships.

Recommendation 11.2 – *Partners who have provided information as part of CSC assessment should be routinely made aware of the outcome of the assessment; this was not evident in this case.*

This action relates to whether partners are made aware of the outcome of Children's Social Care assessments. Outcomes from referrals are sent as a matter of routine and where possible generic email addresses are included in the outcome responses. Conclusions from assessments are discussed with the relevant network. A survey to review the information sharing and collaboration between Children's Social Care and schools will be undertaken in January 2022.

LHR Shae and Ashely Action Plan published May 2021.

- 3.17 Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) commissioned a Local Health Review (LHR) into the circumstances surrounding the serious injuries concerning two children referred to in the report as 'Shae and Ashley'. At the time of commissioning the review, it was agreed that only the learning was to be identified in these cases and shared for service improvement.
- 3.18 Shae and Ashley are from two different families and their cases are not related other than the similarities of the circumstances surrounding their injuries and the involvement of local health agencies in theirs and their families' care.
- 3.19 The learning from LHR Shae and Ashley lists ten recommendations for improvements across the partnership, which have been further divided into sub-sections totalling 14 actionable areas. These actions form the basis of the action plan that is to be agreed and ratified through the LSCP Learning Practice Review Group, Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners in the next cycle of meetings.

4. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 None

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To provide members with an update on the range of work carried out by Thurrock LSCP including the progress made across case review action plans and the Peer Review Action Plan. The action plans are multi-agency documents that are monitored through the LSCP governance structure.

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

- 6.1 Not applicable.

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

- 7.1 There is no impact.

8. Implications

8.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Corporate 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.

8.2 Legal

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

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.

8.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**

Team Manager Community Development

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.

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

No implications identified.

9. **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).

Sam & Kyle Serious Case Review
Frankie Serious Case Review
Leo Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review

LSCP Peer Review

Available via the LSCP Website

10. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1 – Sam & Kyle Serious Case Review Action Plan
- Appendix 2 – Frankie Serious Case Review Action Plan
- Appendix 3 – Thurrock LSCP Peer Review Action Plan
- Appendix 4 – Leo Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Action Plan

Report Author:

Priscilla Bruce-Annan

Business Manager

Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership