

13 September 2022		ITEM: 9
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Progress Update on Peer Review and Case Review - Action Plans		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
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 for Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report presents Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with an update on the range of work of the LSCP and progress made on case review action plans.

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 As part of the Neglect Strategy that sits under the Neglect priority to reduce the incidences of child neglect within the borough through a multi-agency approach, the LSCP will deliver a Neglect Conference on Tuesday 6th December 2022. The LSCP are fortunate to have Dr Prakash Srivastava, as keynote speaker at the event. Dr Srivastava created the neglect Graded Care Profile 2 assessment tool. The tool was then adopted and developed by the NSPCC to assess and identify neglect within families and homes to help deal with it quickly and early. Graded Care Profile 2 is currently being used across the partnership and training is provided for it's use. The aim is for more practitioners to be aware of neglect, the importance of identification, how to assess and what support is available for families to reduce the incidence.
- 2.2. In July, the joint LSCP and National Working Group (NWG) Safe to Play campaign was launched with an in-person conference. Sports and physical activity providers across the borough were in attendance. Presentations and speakers included the LSCP Independent Chair Scrutineer, Thurrock LSCP, Thurrock Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Essex Police, Thurrock Missing and Child Exploitation Team and The National Working Group. Safe to Play focuses attention on safeguarding in sports and physical activity clubs and organisations and raises the awareness of this in education settings, children, young people and families. Future events are being planned to ensure the campaign reaches all providers to promote safeguarding and support the development of safeguarding arrangements.
- 2.3 Under the priority area of Violence and Vulnerability and listening to the voice of the child, in partnership with the Participation and Engagement Officer, Thurrock Childrens Social Care a Girls Safety Day was delivered in August. During engagement with children and young people girls told us that they felt unsafe in certain circumstances and areas and would benefit from information and learning to help keep them safe. The Safety Day included workshops from Essex Police, Thurrock Child Exploitation and Gangs Lead, Thurrock LSCP, Thurrock Health and Well-being Service and a self-defence session where the girls were trained in methods and techniques to keep them-selves

safe and defend themselves should they need to. Future events are being planned to engage all children and young people.

- 2.4 Learning from the recently published thematic review into Serious Youth Violence and Gang Related Activity will be disseminated via a practitioner's event in the autumn. Led by the external reviewer, the event will provide an opportunity for practitioners to discuss the findings and recommendations arising from the review. Outcomes from the event will contribute to the identification of actions to meet the recommendations in a multi-agency action plan.
- 2.5 Local Safeguarding Partnerships have a statutory obligation to publish an annual report, setting out what has been done as a result of the safeguarding arrangements, its effectiveness, and impact. This includes work on any child safeguarding practice reviews that have been conducted. The report for 2021/22 is being compiled for publication in the autumn 2022.
- 2.6 In response to the national learning reviews from Bradford, City & Hackney, Croydon and Solihull, the LSCP has created a multi-agency plan of the combined findings to gather what is currently in place and what more can be done to mitigate the risks to children and young people in Thurrock. Following the initial information gathering stage a multi-agency represented group is due to meet in September to identify what more needs to be done to mitigate the risks to children and young people in Thurrock.
- 2.7 As part of the refreshed Learning and Development programme for 2022/23, newly developed training on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), Extra-familial Harm and Child Exploitation will be available to all multi-agency practitioners. The programme provides for learning based on statutory requirements, learning arising from local and national reviews, case audits and emerging areas where knowledge and skills are recognised.
- 2.8 In order to encourage continuous learning and maintain a skilled workforce, Thurrock LSCP have introduced 7-minute briefings as a quick and simple way to share learning on a range of safeguarding topics. A suite of 7- minute briefing have been added to the LSCP Learning Hub on the website. Topics include:
 - Contextual Safeguarding
 - Prevent
 - Professional Curiosity
 - Rapid Reviews
 - Safer Sleep
 - What is the Local Safeguarding Designated Officer (LADO)?

7-minute briefings can be accessed via www.thurrocklscp.org.uk/lscp/seven-minute-briefings/seven-minute-briefings

3. Case Reviews Action Plan Update

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.

3.1 **Leo Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Action Plan**
Leo Action Plan is now completed and has been signed off by the Independent Chair and Statutory partners as business as usual.

3.2 **Shae and Ashley Local Health Review (LHR) Action Plan**
This action plan was agreed and ratified through the LSCP Learning Practice Review Group, Management Executive Board and Statutory Partners in the last cycle of meetings.
The learning from Shae and Ashley LHR lists ten recommendations that are further divided into sub-sections totalling 14 actionable areas. Work has started on the actions and 3 actions are completed.

3.3 The LSCP is currently considering the findings from the recently published National Panel reviews on Star Hobson (Bradford) and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes (Solihull) along with the Independent Review of Children's Social Care written by Josh MacAlister. A document is being devised to identify what more can be done to mitigate the risk to children in Thurrock.

4. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

4.1 None

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 To update members on the range of work carried out by Thurrock LSCP and progress on case review action plans. 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 – Resources
and Place Delivery**

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 (Social Care and
Education)**

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.

8.3 **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.

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).

None.

10. **Appendices to the report**

None.

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Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership