

17 November 2022		ITEM: 10
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, Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report presents 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 Dr Prakash Srivastava, creator of the Neglect Graded Care Profile 2 assessment tool, will lead the LSCP Annual conference this year titled 'Working Together to Identify and Tackle Neglect in Thurrock'. The conference will take place on 6th December 2022. Workshops on the day will cover multi-agency collaboration, criminal neglect, vulnerabilities and impact on education and health. 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. The new Thurrock Neglect Tool Kit for practitioners will be launched at the conference.

2.2. An externally commissioned reviewer will lead a Neglect Reflective Workshop for practitioners on 8th November 2022. The session will be an opportunity for learning from case reviews identifying neglect to be shared and discussed, with a focus on joint working to improve identification and intervention for children and families experiencing neglect.

2.3 The Pathway to Service and Threshold Intervention document that sets out the pathway and threshold criteria for making referrals to services regarding concerns about a child, has been reviewed and refreshed by a multi-agency Task and Finish group. Once ratified by the governance process the document will be published and shared throughout the multi-agency partnership.

2.4 Over three days 22nd, 23rd and 24th November, the LSCP will see over 4,000 children in Years 5 and 6, from across the borough travel to the Civic Hall in Blackshots, to experience the annual Walk Online Roadshow. This event sits under the priority of Violence and Vulnerability and raises the awareness of the positives as well as the risks posed to children online. The roadshow will cover interactive presentations from an Online Awareness Programme, Thurrock Gangs and Exploitation Manager, Essex Police and the LSCP Business Team. All children attending will be given a goodie bag containing useful resources around the online theme. A virtual parents and carers specific event will follow the roadshow on 1st December 2022. Due to the restrictions during 2020 and 2021, it was not possible to deliver the roadshow. In March 2023, an additional event will be delivered for children in Years 7 and 8, who would have attended during that period.

- 2.5 Following the publication of the National Review into the tragic deaths of Arthur Labinjo- Hughes and Star Hobson, Jenny Coles, LSCP Independent Chair and Scrutineer will lead a practitioner workshop to disseminate the learning from the review. This workshop will also be an opportunity for practitioners from the partnership to discuss and share current working practices and procedures and contribute to actions devised to meet the recommendations.
- 2.6 On 20th October, Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) delivered a joint Non-accident Injuries to Babies and Young Children. Over 400 delegates joined the conference that covered the key themes identified in cases where children were victims of non-accidental injuries; lack of practitioner professional curiosity, reduced services in hospital after hours, agencies lack of engaging fathers, not exploring 'malicious' referrals and practitioners need for awareness and training on specific medical conditions. Following the conference partnerships will deliver a series of bite sized learning sessions based on the identified themes.
- 2.7 A new termly Safeguarding newsletter was launched in October to provide updates and information on safeguarding topics to all working with children and young people. The autumn edition includes a range of areas including a welcome from the Independent Chair and Scrutineer, LSCP Priorities 2022-2024, emerging concerns, legislation and updates and campaigns. The newsletter can be accessed via the LSCP website at: <https://www.thurrocklscp.org.uk/lscp/newsletters/thurrock-lscp-newsletters-1>
- 2.8 To celebrate Inter Faith Week, in partnership with the Thurrock Community Engagement Team the LSCP will join Thurrock Council services to deliver an Inter faith Networking event on 16th November. This event aims to bring all Thurrock faith communities and council services together to network and share information. Staff from the LSCP, Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board, Children and Adult Social Care will be present to network and provide information on safeguarding services and procedures in addition to reference literature.

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 **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 all actions, 6 actions are complete and the remaining 8 are on track to be completed within timescales.

3.2 An action plan has been devised to identify actions to be taken to meet the recommendations from the Thematic Review into Serious Youth Violence and Gang Related Crime. It is going through the governance process for ratification and monitoring and work has started on some actions.

3.3 The LSCP is considering the findings from the recently published National Panel reviews into Star Hobson (Bradford) and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes (Solihull), Child Q (City and Hackney) and 'Ben' (Croydon) 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 - 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: **Petrena Sharpe**
Safeguarding Lawyer - Team Leader

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: **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