

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET 20 OCTOBER 2015</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b><i>Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 14-15 Croydon Safeguarding Adults' Board Annual Report 14-15</i></b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Paul Greenhalgh, Executive Director, CFL</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Alison Flemming Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning Councillor Louisa Woodley Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	

**CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:**

The Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Boards are required under statute (the requirement for the adult Board, since April 2015 under the Care Act) . Both Boards are independently chaired. The key role of each Board is to enable agencies to hold each other to account to secure effective safeguarding arrangements for children and adults in the local authority area. It is a statutory requirement that there is an annual report from the Safeguarding Children Board. This statutory requirement comes into force for the Safeguarding Adults' Board for the annual report next year (from April 2015).

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

N/A

**KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.:** This is not a key decision

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Cabinet notes the annual report of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board and that this report will be scrutinised by the relevant scrutiny committee.
- 1.2 That the Cabinet notes the annual report of the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board and that this report will be further considered by the Adult Social Care Review Panel.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2.1 The purpose of the reports is to detail the activity and effectiveness of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) and the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board (CSAB) between April 2014 and March 2015. The reports are submitted by the respective independent chairs of the Safeguarding Boards, which ensures that the Council and other agencies are given objective feedback on the effectiveness of local arrangements for safeguarding children and adults. The report also includes the Strategic Plan objectives for 2015/16. This report sets out the key priorities for the Boards for the current year.

### **3. DETAIL - CSCB**

3.1 The Children's Safeguarding Annual Report is due for presentation at the Children and Family Scrutiny Panel on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015. It is an important function of Council's oversight of this vital activity that the safeguarding activity of our most vulnerable residents is given rigorous scrutiny by elected members.

3.2 The report is introduced by the Independent Chair of the Board, Catherine Doran. The Chair is required to be independent and this ensures that agencies receive the challenge and scrutiny required to ensure improvement. The report gives a comprehensive update on the multi-agency activity to safeguard children.

3.3 The report outlines that considerable progress has been made in the past year. This is set out in the Executive Summary in Section 3 of the Report. Section 7 of the Report gives more detailed information regarding the progress against the Business Plan for 2014-15. The Report also outlines key information about the context and the growing demands on agencies given the circumstances of a growing population and a rise in the relative levels of deprivation. The role of lay members is an additional layer of independent challenge and their contributions are set out in Section 8. The Board relies for much of its detailed work on the operation of the sub-groups and their work is set out in greater detail in Section 9. This includes the outcomes of Serious Case Reviews. In the past year, we have established a cross-Party Serious Case Review Group, which allows the Director of Children and Family Early Intervention and Children's Social Care to share the outcomes of Reviews with elected members prior to publication.

3.4 The Business Plan for 2015-16 sets out the actions against the agreed priorities for the Board this year. The priorities are:

- Ensuring Greater Provision of Early Help
- Improving Multi-agency Interventions
- Improving the Stability, Knowledge and Capacity of the Workforce
- Focussing on Performance, Outcomes, Audit and Improvement
- Children with Disability
- Completing Serious Case Reviews and Ensuring the Learning is Embedded
- Improve the Communication Strategy
- Continue to Raise the Profile of Child Sexual Exploitation

3.5 The Board recognises the need for further improvement in the current year and beyond. The report outlines where there remain issues of concern and what actions are planned to address these. The work of the Board is to bring agencies together to meet the requirements to protect children and to promote their

wellbeing. In the circumstances where all agencies are increasingly under pressure of resources, this collective endeavour remains crucial.

#### **4. DETAIL – CSAB**

- 4.1 The Adults' Annual Safeguarding Report is due for presentation at the Adults Social Services Review Panel on 7 October 2015. It is an important function of Council's oversight of this vital activity that the safeguarding activity of our most vulnerable residents is given rigorous scrutiny by elected members.
- 4.2 The report is introduced by the Independent Chair of the Board, Jane Lawson. The independence of the Chair ensures that agencies receive the challenge and scrutiny required to ensure improvement. The report gives a comprehensive update on the multi-agency activity to safeguard adults.
- 4.3 The report identifies that key areas of development during the year April 2014 - March 2015 have been:
- The ongoing consolidation of a person centred approach under Making Safeguarding Personal including holding a succession of meetings with service users to begin to work out how best to ensure that they have a voice in how safeguarding services are developed
  - Responses to specific areas of concern to strengthen the prevention agenda. This includes:
    - Fire safety prevention
    - Work to reduce the incidence of pressure ulcers
    - Strengthening commissioning and quality assurance activity as a vehicle to improve the standards of care delivered by Providers
  - Expanding Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards services in response to a Supreme Court ruling which has significantly changed how we support people who lack capacity to make decisions about their own care.
  - Establishing multiagency working groups to share information about individual incidences of serious harm in order to ensure lessons are learnt and changes made
  - Delivering a robust multiagency learning and development programme to up-skill everyone working with adults at risk, including training for Providers of care and support
  - Reaching out to BAME communities and faith groups to try to break down the barriers that lead to an underreporting of abuse
  - Development of the Safeguarding Adults Board in preparation for implementation of the Care Act and the Care and Support Statutory Guidance. This included establishing a Leadership Executive to the Board in March to provide leadership, governance and performance management functions enabling the statutory partners to the Board to fulfil a leadership role.

The report includes data on safeguarding adults' referrals and activity. The data reveals that there has been a significant increase in the numbers of safeguarding alerts from 2013/14 and 2014/15. The data shows that there is still a disproportionate number of referrals for the 'white' population compared with rates for the other ethnic groups.

#### **4.4 The business plan for 2015/16 sets the priorities going forward:**

- Further strengthening the safeguarding partnership's effectiveness,
- Further strengthening a Making Safeguarding Personal approach
- Ensuring production of accessible information for staff, people who use safeguarding, support carers and the public.
- Ensuring that people who may lack capacity are kept safe by developing knowledge and practice in respect of the MCA/DoLS
- Improving the way in which services are commissioned and contracts are monitored to reduce risk of abuse/neglect.
- Improving risk management
- Strengthening workforce capacity through safer recruitment and a focus on staff support and development.

The Board recognises the importance of the partnership in working together to meet the above objectives.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Relevant local agencies contributed to the annual report.

## **6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

### **6.1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations**

There are no financial implications to the recommendations of this report.

(Approved by: Lisa Taylor – Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer)

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER**

- 7.1 The Solicitor to the Council comments that there are no legal issues arising from the content of this report.

(Approved by: Jacqueline Harris Baker, head of social care and education law on behalf of the Director of Democratic and Legal Services)

## **8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 8.1 The Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

(Approved by: Deborah Calliste, HR Business Partner (CFL) on behalf of the Director of Human Resources)

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

9.1 Quality assurance data provided in the annual review report is designed as a summary set of information and is provided at a high level, without detailed breakdown of groups with various protected characteristics. However, needs assessment, quality assurance and performance information provided to the LSCB on an ongoing basis does report upon some equalities characteristics for vulnerable children. Gender and age data is routinely considered and it is acknowledged that practice in relation to the full range of equalities characteristics needs to be further strengthened in the period ahead.

## **10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

10.1 None.

## **11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

11.1 None.

## **12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION**

12.1 That the Council notes the effectiveness of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board and the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board in ensuring the safeguarding of children and young people and adults in Croydon.

## **13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

13.1 None.

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### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

CSCB – Gavin Swann, Head of Service, Ext: 88295  
CSAB – Kay Murray, Head of Service, Ext 86711

### **E-copy Appendices via:**

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kabmenu.pl?cmt e=CAB>

**APPENDIX 1 – CSCB ANNUAL REPORT**  
**APPENDIX 2 – CSAB ANNUAL REPORT**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS: none**