

Croydon Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018/2019 Presentation to CYP Scrutiny Panel - September 2019



Di Smith
Independent Chair
CSCB

CROYDON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Introduction

- This is the last CSCB Annual Report as the new arrangements began in September 2019 and includes the period to 31st August 2019.
- Publication of the Annual Report is a statutory requirement.

Annual Report:

- Evaluates the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Croydon.
- Outlines progress made to secure partnership improvement since Ofsted in 2017.
- Outlines the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to replace the CSCB
- Identifies priorities for Croydon Safeguarding Children's Partnership 2019/20

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ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Progress in 2018/19 (1)

- Published Croydon's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to meet new statutory requirements.
- Managed transition to new arrangements from 1st September 2019
- Strengthened the role of the three statutory partners (Council, CCG and Met Police) through the work of the Executive Group
- Ensured effective contribution by CSCB to the work of Croydon's Children's Improvement Board.
- Ofsted monitoring visits identify promising signs of improvement
- Engagement with LSP and Safer Croydon Partnership contributing to Youth Plan and Violence Reduction Network
- Established three multi-agency priority groups each chaired by a member of the Executive Group:
 - Vulnerable Adolescents/ Neglect/Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

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Progress in 2018/19 (2)

- Publication of Vulnerable Adolescents Review (VAR) in February 2019 – widely acknowledged both locally and nationally
- Learning from VAR being actioned through multi-agency priority group
- Findings from VAR have influenced the Violence Reduction Network and redesign of services in Children's Social Care
- Two other SCRs published and work to share and embed learning is ongoing
- Improved partnership working with families on Neglect – roll out of GCP2 training across the partnership

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Some challenges

- Securing a suitably skilled, stable and permanent workforce across health, children's social care and police
- Maintaining focus on improvements in multi-agency safeguarding practice through time of change
- Ensuring all partners actively focus on 'Voice of the Child'
- Effective partnership response to child exploitation, missing and county lines
- Ensuring a culture of robust challenge and high support across the new Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership

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ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Planning for further improvement in 2019/20:

- Transition to Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership effective from 1st September 2019
- Formal launch of the CSCP with all relevant agencies on 25th November
- Understanding and implementation of Thresholds to be early focus
- Work of the three priority groups will ensure improvements in partnership working on:
 - Vulnerable Adolescents
 - Safeguarding Children with Disabilities
 - Neglect
- Increased focus on improving multi-agency practice including partner participation in practice week and use of multi-agency audit