Cabinet

Date of Cabinet: 9 November 2015

Report Title: Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15

Wards: All

Report Authorised by: Jackie Belton, Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

Portfolio: Deputy Leader for Policy: Councillor Imogen Walker

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Report summary

Cabinet is asked to receive the 2014/15 Annual Report of the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Annual Report has been written by the interim Independent Chair of the Board, Paul Curran. As set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, the Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Lambeth. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime, and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The report for 2014/15 is unusual in that it follows the Ofsted inspection and its rating of the Board as ‘inadequate’. Ofsted determined that the arrangements in place to evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and board partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children are inadequate. A LSCB that is inadequate does not demonstrate that it has effective arrangements in place and the required skills to discharge its statutory functions. It does not understand the experiences of children and young people locally and fails to identify where improvements can be made.

Ofsted rated the Council as ‘requires improvement’ for its safeguarding functions; that is definitely not ‘good’ but it means there are some sound foundations to build on. Although the inspection took place in February and March 2015 and the report was published in May, it remains the most accurate assessment of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements that is currently available. As Ofsted found, the LSCB does not have the data, audit or other evidence to make its own judgement.

The draft Annual Report was noted by the LSCB at its meeting on the 21st September 2015. The interim Independent Chair expresses confidence that the Board can improve quickly and fulfil its responsibilities to the children of Lambeth.
Finance summary

There are no financial implications directly relating to the LSCB Annual Report. During 2014/15 the LSCB budget was held within Children’s Social Care Quality Assurance budget and totalled £292,000 plus the cost of two Serious Case Reviews. 86% of budgeted expenditure plus the cost of the Serious Case Reviews was met by the Council. The budget for 2015/16 is £402,394. This will be held with the Policy and Communications Division of Corporate Resources.

Recommendations

(1) To note the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15.
1. **Context**

1.1 Local authorities have overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area. The role of Lambeth’s Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is to co-ordinate the work to safeguard children locally and monitor and challenge the effectiveness of local arrangements. Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required under Section 13 of the *Children Act 2004*.

1.2 As set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015* the Chair of a Local Safeguarding Children Board must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Lambeth. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime, and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This report accompanies the 2014/15 Lambeth Annual Report.

1.3 The Annual Report includes the local context, key safeguarding data and reports from each of the LSCB Sub-Groups on their work during 2014/15. The intention of the report is to look back over the past year and it is the Business Plan that looks forward to the work planned for 2015/16. The Business Plan includes those elements of the Children’s Social Care Improvement Plan that relate to the LSCB.

2. **Proposal and Reasons**

2.1 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the LSCB Annual Report for 2014/15. It covers the period of the Ofsted inspection and judgement that the LSCB is ‘inadequate’ and therefore a difficult year. Issues raised by Ofsted are being addressed and reported through the Children’s Services Improvement Board, Chaired by the Chief Executive.

3. **Finance**

3.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to the LSCB Annual Report. During 2014/15 the LSCB budget was held within Children’s Social Care Quality Assurance budget and totalled £292,000 plus the cost of two Serious Case Reviews. 86% of budgeted expenditure plus the cost of the Serious Case Reviews was met by the Council. The budget for 2015/16 is £402,394. This will be held with the Policy and Communications Division of Corporate Resources.

4. **Legal and Democracy**

4.1 The Council’s Constitution requires that all key decisions, decisions which involve resources between the sums of £100,000 and £500,000, and important or sensitive issues, must be published on the website for five clear days before the decision is approved by the Director or Cabinet Member concerned. Any representations received during this period must be considered by the decision-maker before the decision is taken.

5. **Consultation and co-production**

5.1 The LSCB Annual Report is produced by the Independent Chair of the LSCB and as such is not consulted on. Input is sought from the Chairs of the various Sub-Groups and other
colleagues provide the local context, performance and activity data. The LADO section is taken from the LADO Annual Report and the reporting of the Serious Case Review comes from the report into the tragic death of Child H.

6. Risk management
6.1 There are no potential risks associated with noting the LSCB Annual Report 2014/15.

7. Equalities impact assessment
7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not relevant on this Annual Report.

8. Community safety
8.1 The LSCB Annual Report 2014/15 provides an overview of the demographic profile of Lambeth and the population that the LSCB services, including a range of issues impacting on community safety. In 2013 there were 160 first time entrants into the youth justice system in Lambeth. This rate is higher than the England average. The vast majority of Lambeth young people and adults have no involvement in violence, crime or gangs. However, the small numbers of young people who are involved in offending have a disproportionately high impact on the communities around them. Lambeth has been identified by the Home Office as a priority borough for support in relation to gang and serious youth violence.

8.2 Levels of violence against the person, sexual offences and hospital admissions for violence are rated as significantly worse in Lambeth than the London or England average and boys and young men are disproportionately affected – as victims and perpetrators – by serious violence, weapons and robbery offences between the ages of 11 and 30. Lambeth typically ranks amongst the worst, compared to other similar London boroughs, for wounding/GBH, assault with injury, sexual offences, serious youth violence and weapons offences.

8.3 Although violent crime has generally fallen in Lambeth, as elsewhere over the last decade, nevertheless there is a historic legacy and continuing concern about violence in our communities and its impact on the lives of children and young people.

9. Organisational implications
9.1 Staffing and accommodation
The report lists the staff in the LSCB Business Unit, who are located in Corporate Resources and located in Olive Morris House.

9.2 Procurement
There are no procurement implications arising from noting the LSCB Annual Report 2014/15.

9.3 Health
The LSCB Annual Report will be sent to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and it is intended that the Health and Wellbeing Board will consider it at its next meeting.

10. **Timetable for implementation**
10.1 The draft Annual Report was considered and agreed as a fair reflection of activity during the proceeding year by the LSCB at its Board meeting held on the 21st September 2015.

10.2 It will now be sent to the Chief Executive, the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime, and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
### Audit trail

#### Consultation

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<tr>
<th>Name/Position</th>
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<th>Date Sent</th>
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<td>Jackie Belton</td>
<td>Strategic Director, Corporate Resources</td>
<td>29/09/15</td>
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<td>Martin Crump</td>
<td>Corporate Resources – Finance Division</td>
<td>29/09/15</td>
<td>05/10/15</td>
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### Report history

| Original discussion with Cabinet Member | 30.09.15 |
| Report deadline | 22.10.15 |
| Date final report sent | 14.10.15 |
| Report no. | 15-16/105 |
| Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report? | No |
| Key decision report | No |
| Date first appeared on forward plan | N/A |
| Key decision reasons | N/A |
| Background information | Lambeth State of the Borough Report 2014 Child Health Profile (Chimat, 2015) |
| Appendices | Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15 |