

1. APPENDIX A - PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY QUESTIONS

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
Pre-Decision Questions - Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2nd November, 2015

Cabinet Report	Question / Comments
<p>Agenda Item 5.6 – Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-15</p> <p>Agenda Item 5.7 - Safeguarding Adults Board Annual report 2014-15</p>	<p>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Committee asked for details</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. of attendance at the Boards to see who is being engaged; 2. on what both Boards are doing to scrutinise themselves and their partners; 3. on what is being done to ensure learning is filtering down to staff and that they are aware of how LSCB is improving their practice/learning; and 4. Of the costs to LBTH of the Board Chairs and how is this bench marked. <p>Response:</p> <p>See appendices 1 and 2</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5.13 – Transparency Protocol: A Transparent Mayor, an Open Council</p>	<p>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Committee asked for details regarding the publication of data under the Transparency Code. They wanted to know if Tower Hamlets had reached the standard of three stars in relation to the openness of the formats that we use to publish data, as per the LG Transparency Code</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The Council currently publishes in full 81% of the data required under the transparency code via a central web page in a combination of 1, 2, and 3 star format, the majority achieving 2 star. A limited amount of this data is published at 3 stars; however items such as the constitution are not conducive to other formats for publication.</p> <p>We are working closely with the services producing the data to increase the amount of data currently published at level two of the transparency code to meet level not just three</p>

Cabinet Report	Question / Comments
	<p>star but four star formatting and also to include the recommended data alongside the publication of statutory data.</p> <p>The web publishing at four stars requires some work from the web editors and the data production requires input from a number of services.</p> <p>A position statement and development plan will be considered at the FOI Board on Friday 13 November seeking agreement for an action plan. It is anticipated that full compliance will be achieved no later than the end of this financial year.</p>

Date	Reference Number
16 th November 2016	CS_MB8065
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE	
Briefing Note for:	Cllr Pierce – Chair Overview & Scrutiny
Subject:	LSCB
Author:	Layla Richards

LSCB Briefing

This briefing has been prepared in response to questions raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2nd November 2015, in relation to the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

1. Details of Attendance at the Boards

Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance (2015) sets the expectations that an LSCB must include representatives as follows to form the core board membership:

- Local Authority
- Lead Member for Children
- Chief Officer of Police
- National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies
- Youth Offending Team
- NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups
- NHS Trust
- NHS Foundation Trust
- CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory Service)
- Governor or Director of any secure training centre or prison in the area of the authority

Additional requirements are referenced in section 13 and 14 of the Children Act 2004 that the Local Authority must take reasonable steps to ensure two lay members and school or further education college bodies are represented.

The guidance also states that members of an LSCB should be officers with a strategic role in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within their organisation and that they should be able to:

- Speak for their organisation with authority
- Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters
- Hold their own organisation and others to account

Tower Hamlets' LSCB has 36 board members and meets the membership requirements in all areas listed above, with additional representation from youth service, community safety, housing, legal and the voluntary sector. The LSCB governance arrangement states where a member is unable to attend they must send a deputy in their place who can provide consistency to their input and oversight.

The LSCB monitors attendance of all partners at the Board and subgroups. When issues of attendance or consistency of attendance arise these are challenged by the LSCB chair and action taken. Overall, the main Board is generally always well attended.

2. What are the Boards doing to scrutinise themselves and their partners?

The LSCB has a two-year overarching business plan which sets out a number of priorities for the coming year and maintains a risk register. The core LSCB functions are delivered through six work streams. The LSCB Chair is independent and accountable to the Chief Executive of the Council. The Chair performs her scrutiny and challenge role in a number of ways:

- Annual one-to-one review meetings are held between the chair and partner agency representative(s). This year we have planned to link these meetings to the agency section 11 (Children Act 2004) returns so any short fall can be challenged directly.
- The LSCB carries out a biennial assessment of all member agencies and organisations in relation to their duties under Section 11 Children Act 2004. This is a self-assessment audit which aims to assess the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding children at a strategic level. The audit may lead to an improvement action plan which is then monitored by the LSCB Chair through one-to-one meetings with Board members.
- The LSCB Chair monitors the LSCB business plan, subgroup work plans, implementation of serious case review recommendations and the safeguarding risks across the partnership. Meetings with subgroup chairs are held six times per year to review work stream progress.
- The LSCB Chair is accountable to the CEO and has regular one-to-one meetings and an annual appraisal which is informed by a 360° feedback by Board members

- Self-assessment review has been completed against the single agency inspection framework which has had Board member oversight.
- When partner agencies undergo sector-led inspections and where performance issues come to light, the LSCB seeks assurance through standing agenda reporting on the progress being made against their improvement plan e.g. CQC Inspection of Barts Health Trust.
- The LSCB Chair undertakes visits to front line services across the LSCB partnership to observe practice directly to enable an informed debate around inter-agency safeguarding arrangements and commissioning. This also bridges the distance between policy and practice and allows practitioners to raise issues and concerns directly.
- The LSCB has a performance and quality assessment framework and reports to the Board on a quarterly basis. Concerns around performance lead to further interrogation through multi-agency deep dive case audits.
- The LSCB carries out Serious Case Reviews which provides a spotlight on the safeguarding system and quality of practice usually when things go wrong. However, the LSCB also undertake/learning lesson reviews to understand how well the partnership works well to safeguard vulnerable children i.e. those at risk of sexual exploitation.
- We are planning to re-instate an executive business group which will oversee the business planning cycle and provide an additional scrutiny layer.

3. What is being done to ensure learning is filtering down to staff and that they are aware of how the LSCB is improving their practice/learning?

The LSCB has a Learning and Improvement Framework (Working Together 2015 requirement) which underpins the core function of the LSCB e.g. learning, performance and quality assurance.

The Learning and Workforce Development Subgroup supports the delivery of multiagency training and learning event including an annual safeguarding conference.

Following SCR / Thematic reviews the LSCB delivers a series of learning dissemination events to cascade the learning and engage practitioners in action planning to improve practice e.g. the recent serious case review reached over 350 practitioners across the LSCB partnership

The LSCB Chair is a member of the London LSCB chairs and National Association of LSCB chairs creating opportunities to explore different ways of working and challenging the agendas and work of the LSCB.

As a result of the Ofsted thematic inspection of Neglect, the LSCB produced a multi-agency neglect strategy to ensure the level of knowledge, quality of practice and intervention response is consistent across the boroughs workforce.

The LSCB has a website which ensures new developments, publications and resources are available to the professional and local community. Minutes of the LSCB board and other key documents are published. However, further work is planned to improve our website.

4. The costs to LBTH of the Board Chairs and how is this bench marked?

The Local Authority is not responsible for the cost of the independent LSCB chair as it is funded through partner agency contribution. However as the funding is not currently equitable across the agencies the Council consequently pays a greater proportion of the LSCB Chair's cost.

The LSCB chair is employed for 30 days per year and additional days are negotiated when there is increased demand placed on the Board's work as a result of serious case/thematic reviews.

The London Safeguarding Children Board (London Council) has undertaken a benchmarking exercise of the cost of LSCBs across the city, including the cost of LSCB Chairs which ranges between £500-£750 per day.

Tower Hamlets LSCB Chair is paid £500 per day which is at the lower end of the range.

Debbie Jones
Interim Corporate Director Children's Services

Date: 16/11/2015

Date	Reference Number
16 th November 2015	AS_3005
ADULT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	
Briefing Note for:	Cllr Pierce – Chair Overview & Scrutiny
Subject:	Local Safeguarding Adults Board
Author:	Layla Richards

This briefing has been prepared in response to questions raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 November 2015, in relation to the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB).

1. Details of Attendance at the Boards

To comply with the Care Act the SAB includes as members:

1. Independent chair
2. The Local Authority
3. The Local CCG
4. The Police

In addition there is representation on the SAB from:

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Lead Member

Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Wellbeing

Service Manager Policy, Programmes and Community Insight

Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

Service Head, Disability & Health

Adult Safeguarding Team

Commissioning

Joint Team Manager, CLDT

Community Safety

Children's Social Care

NHS

Bart's Health NHS Trust

East London NHS Foundation Trust

Tower Hamlets CCG

Metropolitan Police

Probation Service
London Fire Service
London Ambulance Service

Care Providers/Service Users

Excelcare Holdings
Toynbee Hall
Mencap
Age UK
Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services
PohWER
Toynbee Hall
Real
Healthwatch Tower Hamlets
Housing
Tower Hamlets Homes
Providence Row Housing Association
Tower Hamlets Housing Forum

Care Quality Commission

Throughout 2015 attendance has included the key members required to be compliant with the Care Act, and meetings are attended by representatives of between 12 and 15 of the member organisations.

2. What are the Boards doing to scrutinise themselves and their partners?

The SAB has developed a Joint 4 year strategy for 2015-2019. The Strategy was agreed at the September 2015 SAB and has an associated Joint Business Plan. Progress against the Business Plan will be monitored at successive SAB meetings. A new Framework for Performance and Quality Assurance for all member organisations has been drafted and will be presented at the next SAB in December 2015.

In 2014/15 member organisations undertook audits using the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Audit Tool. The tool was developed by the London Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) network and NHS England London. It reflects statutory guidance and best practice. The tool provides all organisations in the borough with a consistent framework to assess, monitor and/or improve their Safeguarding Adults arrangements. In turn this will support the SAB in ensuring effective safeguarding practice across the borough. A follow-up audit will take place before April 2016 to measure progress in the member organisations.

The SAB Business Plan identifies a priority need to develop LBTH Performance Reports in relation to Adult Safeguarding, and to establish a joint performance report across key partner agencies.

3. What is being done to ensure learning is filtering down to staff and that they are aware of how SAB is improving their practice/learning

Minutes from SAB meetings are circulated to staff and information cascaded via team meetings for the Service Managers of Social Care Teams and Team Meetings. The SAB strategy will be presented to frontline staff throughout the months of November and December by the SAB Manager, who will also seek feedback to promote the development of the SAB Business plan.

Learning and Development will be conducting a further review of the learning needs of staff in partnership with the Good Practice and Training sub-group as part of the Business Plan for the year.

4. The costs to LBTH of the Board Chairs and how is this benchmarked?

The independent chair is paid £600 per day for up to 20 days of work per year. Although no formal benchmarking has been undertaken, a review of pay rates across London reveals that £600 per day is the same as many other London Boroughs.

Luke Addams
Interim Corporate Director Children's Services

Date: 16/11/2015

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