

Cabinet 21 October 2020	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: James Thomas – Corporate Director of Children and Culture	Classification: Unrestricted
Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2019-20	

Lead Member	Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children and Schools
Originating Officer(s)	Louise Griffiths, Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategy Manager
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	2 nd October 2020
Reason for Key Decision	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	All

Executive Summary

The Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2019-20 provides an overview of the work undertaken throughout 2019-20 by the Partnership and its partner members. It includes information about the Partnership's key achievements for the year, the impact of the transition to the new safeguarding arrangements on partners, information about learning and development for the year and the plans looking forward for the current financial year 2020-21. The report details significant changes to the safeguarding partnership model, and how these have been implemented.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 amended the Children Act 2004 to dissolve all Local Safeguarding Children Boards by 29th September 2019, and transition into the new local safeguarding children partnership arrangement. This is therefore the first Annual Report of the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP) and as such documents the changes from the Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance 2015 to the Working Together 2018 arrangements and how this has been embedded within Tower Hamlets across all partner agencies to ensure that children and young people are safeguarded, supported and successful.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to::

1. Note the changes in the partnership model and the transition from the Local Safeguarding Children Board to the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership.
2. Note the work that has been carried out by the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children's Partnership over the year 2019-20.
3. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraph 4.1

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP) is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its locality. The THSCP annual report, which fulfils this responsibility, is appended to this paper.
- 1.2 The content of the Annual Report has been developed and agreed by the THSCP statutory partners from the local authority, clinical commissioning group and the borough police.

2 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 The 2017 Children and Social Work Act sets out how agencies must work together by placing new duties on the police, clinical commissioning groups and the local authority to make arrangements to work together and with other partners locally to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.
- 2.2 The report sets out how the changes in legislation called for a change in model and covers the transitional period over the 12 months.
- 2.3 The sections are broken down to cover (but not limited to):
 - Data regarding children and young people in the borough;
 - About the partnership and the Working Together to Safeguard Children Arrangements, including how this has been specifically implemented and carried out in Tower Hamlets;
 - How partners ensure the voice of the child or young person is at the centre of their work;
 - Delivery of multi-agency training and development;
 - The Local Authority Designated Officer;

- Serious Case Reviews and the new process of Rapid Reviews and Local Learning Reviews;
- The Child Death Over Panel (CDOP) and new process of the Child Death Review (CDR);
- Next phases and three areas of key focus for 2020/21.

3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The work and outcomes of the THSCP are designed to ensure that all children have access to early help support and statutory intervention when needed to keep them safe from harm, at home and in the community, and to tackle the challenges they face individually or as a family unit to help them grow in to healthy adults. The new safeguarding partnership will continue to prioritise ensuring all children are protected from risk and harm.

4 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Safeguarding

- 4.2 The report sets out many new ways of working to ensure the strategic view of safeguarding children is reflected equally between the three core partners which are the Local Authority, Police and Clinical Commissioning Group.

5 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The partnership is funded through partner contributions. For 2019/20 the partnership reported a financial pressure of £33k which fell to the Council. If this is an ongoing pressure, this will need to be mitigated through an increase in partner contributions.

6 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 6.1 Section 16E of the Children Act 2004 requires the safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England to work together to exercise their functions in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area. The safeguarding partners include the local authority.

Section 16G of the Children Act 2004 requires the safeguarding partners to prepare and publish a report at least every 12 months on what the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies have done as a result of the children's safeguarding arrangements, and how effective the arrangements have been in practice.

There is also statutory guidance on the working of local safeguarding arrangements in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018, updated 2019).

The matters set out in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2019-2020.

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A