

<b>Committee/Meeting:</b> Cabinet	<b>Date:</b> 9 October 2013	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No:</b> CAB 037/134
<b>Report of:</b>  Corporate Director, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing – Children’s Social Care  <b>Originating officer(s)</b>  Monawara Bakht, Senior Strategy, Policy & Performance Officer (Safeguarding Children Board Business Lead)		<b>Title:</b>  Safeguarding Children Board Annual (LSCB) Report 2012-13 and Business Plan 2013-14  <b>Wards Affected: All</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	Cllr Oliur Rahman
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	Safe & Supportive Community
<b>Strategic Priority</b>	To inform the public how effective Children’s Safeguarding arrangements are in Tower Hamlets, how we have promoted the welfare of children and how we plan to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in the future

1. **SUMMARY**

1.1 The Safeguarding Children Board is required to publish an annual report of the work it has carried out to safeguarding children in conjunction with its key statutory partners.

2. **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:-

2.1 To note the content of the Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and be advised of the appointment of the new Independent LSCB Chair by the Head of Paid Service.

3. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

3.1 In accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, LSCBs are required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding arrangements and promoting the welfare of children in their localities. Tower Hamlets LSCB seeks to ensure the report is available within the professional and public domain.

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

4.1 No alternative options have been considered as the LSCB annual report is presented only for Cabinet’s information.

## **5. BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) publishes an annual report about the work it has undertaken in the preceding year, the learning from reviews and multi-agency audits; identifies areas for improvement and sets out the priorities for the year ahead.

## **6. BODY OF REPORT**

- 6.1 The Annual Report outlines what has been undertaken by the LSCB as a whole and the key statutory partners to improve single agency and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The report provides information on key achievements, data and learning to highlight local safeguarding children performance.

- 6.2 The annual report contains additional information on the governance and accountability arrangements for all partner agencies that make up the statutory body and outlines the business plan and priority areas for the coming year, which are:

- To embed Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 into everyday practice
- Develop our workforce in line with our local learning and improvement framework
- Ensure learning from the serious case review (Child F) is taken forward and embedding in practice across the LSCB partnership
- Recruit two lay members to the LSCB membership
- Through our quality assurance strategy, undertaken a range of practice audit, themed reviews and deep dive exercises to measure the effectiveness and impact of our partnership working
- Embed the Family Wellbeing Model to ensure our Early Help offers reaches out across the borough
- Recognise the impact of Child Sexual Exploitation and promote our services to safeguarding vulnerable children and young people
- Recognise the impact of domestic violence on children and young people and continue to develop our services to support children and families at risk
- Work with Commissioners and Providers to ensure robust children's safeguarding structures and systems are in place across the LSCB partnership
- Embed the engagement and participation of young people with the LSCB

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

- 4.1.1 The LSCB operates a pooled budget with member agencies providing both cash and in-kind (staff time, training, venues etc.) contributions. The Authority funds the cost

of an LSCB business manager and training support. Appendix 7 to the report indicates that £95k was spent in 2012/13 (£51k salaries, £44k other activities), once the Serious Case Review activities are discounted. Appendix 8 to the report indicates the priorities for funding for 2013/14.

- 4.1.2 This report is not seeking any additional funding, but it does identify the need to review partner contributions during the 2014/15 budget setting cycle on page 12 of the LSCB report.

## **8. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 8.1 The Council has established the LSCB in accordance with its obligation under section 13 of the Children Act 2004. The LSCB carries out the following functions as prescribed in the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 –

- (a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Tower Hamlets;
- (b) communicating to persons and bodies in Tower Hamlets the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done, and encouraging them to do so;
- (c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and advising them on ways to improve;
- (d) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- (e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

- 8.2 The LSCB is required by section 14A of the Children Act 2004 to prepare and publish an annual report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Tower Hamlets.

- 8.3 The Council's functions in relation to children include an obligation under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to ensure that its functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Consideration of the annual report of the LSCB may assist the Council in the discharge of its functions.

## **9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 The report supports One Tower Hamlets by developing our approach to ensuring all children are appropriately safeguarded at all times

## **10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 10.1 This is not applicable to this report

## **11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The LSCB maintains a Risk and Issues Register, capturing risks as identified by a member agency. The risks, mitigation and remedial actions are monitored by the

LSCB Independent Chair and the Executive Business Group. Issues causing concern are escalated by the LSCB Chair to the Chief Executive or Senior Officer of the relevant agency.

**12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 This is not applicable to this report

**13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

13.1 This is not applicable to this report

**14. APPENDICES**

Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012-13 and Business Plan 2013-14

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**Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England)  
Regulations 2012**

Brief description of "background papers"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
None	Monawara Bakht Senior Strategy, Policy & Performance Officer (with Safeguarding Children Lead) Mulberry Place 5 Clove Crescent London E14 2BG  Tel: 020 7364 2063