


Cabinet 1 October 2014	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Robert McCulloch-Graham - Corporate Director, ESCW	Classification: Unrestricted
Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2013-14 and Business Plan 2014-16	

Lead Member	Cllr Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
Wards affected	All Wards
Community Plan Theme	A Health and Supportive Community
Key Decision?	No

Executive Summary

Tower Hamlets Local Safeguarding Children Board is required to publish an annual report of the work it has carried out to safeguard children in conjunction with its key statutory partners.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. To note the content of the Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report and the appointment (3-year contract) of an Independent LSCB Chair by the Head of Paid Service.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 In accordance with DfE 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 annual report is available within the professional and public domain

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 No alternative options have been considered as the LSCB Annual Report is presented only for Cabinet's information and oversight.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The Safeguarding Children Board publishes an annual report about the work it has undertaken in the preceding year, the learning from serious/case reviews and multi-agency audits; identifies its strengths, areas for improvement and sets out the priorities for the year ahead.
- 3.2 The Annual Report outlines what has been undertaken by the LSCB in order to deliver its statutory functions alongside key statutory partners to improve single and multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements. The report provides information on key achievements, data and learning to highlight local safeguarding children performance.
- 3.3 The Annual Report contains additional information on the revised governance and accountability arrangements for all partners.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1. The LSCB operates a pooled budget with member agencies providing both cash and in kind contributions e.g. staff time, training, venue costs etc. The Authority funds the cost of an LSCB Business Manager and training support. The LSCB pooled budget covers the expenses for serious case reviews, independent review authors and the LSCB chair.
- 4.2. This report is not seeking any additional funding.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1. 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.

- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. 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.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1. The Annual Report supports One Tower Hamlets by developing our approach to ensuring all children are appropriately safeguarded at all times.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1 This is not applicable to this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The LSCB maintains a Risk and Issues Register, capturing risks as identified by a member agency or the LSCB Independent Chair. The risks, mitigation and remedial actions are monitored by the LSCB Chair and Board Members.
- 8.2. Risks causing concern are escalated by the LSCB Chair to the Chief Executive or senior officer of the relevant agency. The Head of Paid Services is also kept informed of the LSCB risk register through monthly one-to-one meetings with the LSCB independent chair.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This is not applicable to this report.

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 10.1 This is not applicable to this report

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- LSCB Annual Report 2013-14 and Business Plan 2014-16

Appendices

- None

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

None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A