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| <b>Cabinet</b><br><br>26 July 2023   | <br><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b> |
| <b>Report of:</b> James Thomas, Corporate Director of Children and Culture     | <b>Classification:</b><br>Unrestricted  |
| <b>Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-2023</b> |   |

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| <b>Lead Member</b>                       | Cllr Maium Talukdar is Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning |
| <b>Originating Officer(s)</b>            | Louise Griffiths – Partnership and Strategy Manager  |
| <b>Wards affected</b>                    | All wards  |
| <b>Key Decision?</b>                     | No   |
| <b>Reason for Key Decision</b>           | Non-Key – For Information  |
| <b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>     | 21/04/2023   |
| <b>Exempt information</b>                | N/A  |
| <b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b> | Accelerate Education   |

### Executive Summary

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 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-23 demonstrates the activity of the THSCP within the last financial year. Which includes the priority sub-groups, data sharing and the impact on children within the borough.

### Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the work that has been carried out by the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children's Partnership over the year 2022-23 and the outcomes that members would like to see from the THSCP over the next year
2. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraph 4.1

## **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The Working Together 2018 Arrangements stipulates in that safeguarding partners must publish a report within every 12-month period, and this should be shared through all agencies. Additionally, the report will be provided to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, and the What Works Centre for Children's within seven days of publication. The report will be signed off by the three partners including DCS for the Local Authority, Borough Commander for the Police and Chief Executive of the local Integrated Care Board as well as the Independent Scrutineer.

## **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 N/A

## **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

The report highlights:

- Working Together 2018 arrangements
- Overview of governance and structure
- Independent scrutiny arrangements including Young Scrutineers programme.
- Funding & budget
- Key demographics
- Key achievements and challenges of the Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Overview of the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Partnership priorities
- Statements from safeguarding partners
- Children and young people's engagement
- Quality Assurance arrangements and updates
- Updates on the data cycle and key learning from multi-agency data
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review process improvements
- Published Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and learning.
- Updates on multi-agency safeguarding training and awareness events.
- Strategic plan for the year ahead.

## **4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 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 safeguarding partnership will continue to prioritise ensuring all children are protected from risk and harm.

## **5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 No other statutory implications have been identified.

## **6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 The Tower Hamlets Safeguarding partnership is funded through contributions from Partners and Council resources. There was a slight overspend in 2022-23, detailed in the presentation pack. There are not expected to be any adverse financial implications for future years

## **7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 Section 16E of the Children Act 2004 requires the safeguarding partners for a local authority area to work together to respond to the safeguarding needs of children in their area. Section 16F of the Children Act 2004 sets out further details of the functions of the safeguarding partnership. Section 16G of the Children Act 2004 requires safeguarding partners to prepare and publish a report at least once every 12 months which sets out their activities and the effectiveness of those activities.

7.2 Working Together 2018 sets out further guidance for safeguarding partnerships on reporting.

7.3 This report demonstrates compliance with the above requirements.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- NONE.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 22-23

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

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/942454/Working\\_together\\_to\\_safeguard\\_children\\_inter\\_agency\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf)

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