

Cabinet 24 July 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Steve Reddy, Corporate Director Childrens Services	Classification: Unrestricted
Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023-2024	

Lead Member	Cllr Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Originating Officer(s)	Louise Griffiths – Partnership and Strategy Manager
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	Non-Key – For Information
Forward Plan Notice Published	18/04/2024
Exempt information	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	All

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 2023-24 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 2020-21 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 2023 Arrangements stipulates that the safeguarding partners must publish a report within every 12 months, and this should be shared through all agencies. The report will also go to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children within 7 days of publication. The report will be signed off by the three partners including DCS for the Local Authority, the Borough Commander for the Police, and the Chief Executive of the local Integrated Care Board as well as the Independent Scrutineer.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 None.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 The report highlights:

- Working Together 2024 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 None.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 Section 16G of the Children Act 2004 requires the safeguarding partners for each area (local authority, police and health) to prepare and publish a report at least once in every 12 month period. The statute requires the report to contain information about what has been done by the partners and how effective it has been in practice.

7.2 Further guidance about the contents of reports and their publication is set out in the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

7.3 This report demonstrates the Council's compliance with the above legislation and guidance.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices

- 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 2023

Officer contact details for documents:

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