

LSCB Annual Report 2012/13 Executive Summary

The 2012/13 Annual Report of the LSCB for Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster is the first such report for the Board which was established in April 2012. The report aims to provide a rigorous assessment of the performance of local safeguarding services and of the effectiveness of the LSCB itself.

The report details a number of achievements and strengths of the local arrangements including:

- Compliance with LSCB statutory responsibilities
- Maintenance of effective and good safeguarding partnerships through inaugural year and an effective governance structure to co-ordinate the work of statutory partners
- Strengthening links to local communities through the appointment of lay members and creation of posts for better engagement with community groups, children and young people
- A developing quality assurance framework to support the Board's scrutiny role and identification of and advice on areas for improvement
- Successful delivery of a multi-agency safeguarding Learning and Development programme aligned to the Board's priorities, regularly monitored with new courses commissioned in response to need
- Establishment of case review subgroup to proactively consider and disseminate lessons learnt both locally and nationally in order to improve practice
- Improved visibility of outcomes for those children and young people who are looked after across the three boroughs, including those looked after because they are remanded
- Establishing a direction of travel to improve safeguarding of children and young people across cultures and faiths and agreed resources to lead the required inter-agency improvements
- The use of compare and contrast activity to learn from local best practice relating to young people involved in serious youth violence and gang related sexual exploitation

The annual report also identifies areas for attention and further development by the constituent agencies of the LSCB. These include:

- Improved engagement and representation of schools in the work of the Board
- Strengthening the role of a rapidly changing Metropolitan Police Service in operational and strategic safeguarding activity
- Improved sharing of quality assurance material particularly by the Police, Probation and Housing services, the more systematic use of inspection findings across agencies and strengthened scrutiny and challenge by the Board
- A need to develop accessible resources and communication channels via a single LSCB website
- Influencing commissioning and priority setting across other strategic partnerships
- The need to extend the capacity of the LSCB support team within the local authorities
- Ensuring all lessons learnt reach front line practitioners within a wider Learning and Development Framework
- Wider dissemination of the multi-agency learning and development programme across more sectors and development of evaluation to ensure that activity is making an impact on children and young people becoming safer
- Improved engagement with children and young people

- Extending the LSCB's oversight of how effectively agencies engage with diverse communities
- Increasing the LSCB's understanding of the effectiveness of early help services
- Specific strengthening of local responses to children who go missing from home and care

The first annual report provides an important opportunity to reflect across agencies the difference being made to the safety of children and young people in Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.