



Oldham
Council

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership – Annual report 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2019

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

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Purpose of the report

The Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP) is a statutory partnership which replaced the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) on 30 September 2019. As a Board and now as a Partnership there is a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which describes how our partners safeguard children and young people.

This annual report covers the period from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2019 in order to conclude the work of the LSCB and introduce the new Safeguarding Partnership arrangements.

Background

The Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) were introduced in April 2006 with the primary responsibility of coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the work undertaken by partner agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Following a national review of their effectiveness by Sir Alan Wood in 2016 the LSCBs were replaced by new safeguarding arrangements which places statutory responsibility for safeguarding children on three key agencies: Local Authority; Clinical Commissioning Group and Police. The statutory partners have identified other relevant agencies who are considered key to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Oldham. Collectively these agencies make up the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership.

This 18-month report demonstrates the activity and impact that Oldham LSCB had in year one of our three-year strategic plan (2018-2021) across six key priority areas:

- Domestic Abuse

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- Complex and Contextual Safeguarding
 - Children not accessing education
 - Transitions
 - Understanding the impact of trauma
 - Child's lived experience

A key element of the new arrangements is the closer alignment of the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Safeguarding Adult Board. This will be achieved by joint working arrangements between the two Business Units, and the introduction of joint subgroups focusing on Complex and Contextual Safeguarding, Transitions, Workforce Development and Communications.

Current position

The vision and aims of the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership are those stated in the Oldham Strategic Safeguarding Plan 2018-2021. While the plan was originally developed and signed off by partners under the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) arrangements, the local safeguarding partners continue to be committed to this vision and aims, demonstrating the continuity of their commitment to the safeguarding partnership, irrespective of change to governance structures.

The vision of the partnership is:

“For everyone to work together to ensure that all children and young people are safe and feel safe within their homes, schools and communities,”

Over the period from 1 April 2018 to March 2021 the strategic aims of the Board and now the Partnership are to ensure:

- Excellent practice is the norm across all practitioners in Oldham
- Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification of new safeguarding issues
- Learning is promoted and embedded
- Information is shared effectively
- The public feel confident that children are protected

Key issues for Health and Wellbeing Board to consider

In the 18 month period between 1 April 2018 and 30 September 2019 progress was evident in all priority areas with key successes including the introduction of Operation Encompass to support information sharing about domestic abuse between police and schools; the introduction of multi-agency training to support trauma informed practice across the Partnership and dedicated work with children and young people to develop tools to support access to mental health support services.

Learning and improvement activity focused on areas of complex safeguarding. The GM peer review took place in September 2019 which highlighted a lot of good practice and areas for improvement, all of which are being used to shape and develop Oldham's Complex Safeguarding offer.

Six serious case reviews and two multi agency concise reviews were held during the period of the report, highlighting key learning themes which include:

- The need for evidence-based approaches and interventions relating to children's mental health and trauma;
- A focus on improving the quality of assessments

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- A collective commitment to addressing neglect
 - A focus on collaborative working, decision making and planning
 - Early identification of risk specifically in relation to unborn babies, non-mobile children and those at risk of exploitation
 - Supporting professionals to be culturally competent in their practice

Multi- Agency training continues to be of high quality with over 52 training opportunities made available to professionals from across the Partnership. These are delivered through a variety of access points which includes briefings, half day events, one and two-day courses, targeted training linking into strategic plans and quality assured e-learning modules where appropriate.

Next Steps

The Partnership's focus from 30 September 2019 is on the embedding the new safeguarding arrangements, evaluating their effectiveness and impact against the key strategic aims.

Joint working with Safeguarding Adult Board will continue to develop with the implementation of a joint Safeguarding Oldham brand, social media and website platforms and the engagement of adult safeguarding colleagues in a new model of learning and improvement for children's partnership (the learning hub) which will ensure that cross cutting themes are identified and responded to quickly and effectively.

Recommendation

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2019.

Appendices

1. The Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2019