

Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP)

Annual Report 23-24 Summary

Purpose of the Report: The Working Together 2023 (WT23) Arrangements stipulates in that safeguarding partners must publish a report within every 12-month period which demonstrates local safeguarding activity.

Governance Structure: In Tower Hamlets, the Executive Group oversees all activity, this consists of Steve Reddy - Director of Children's Services (Local Authority), Korkor Ceasar - Associate Director for Safeguarding Children (Integrated Care Board), James Conway - Detective Chief Superintendent (Metropolitan Police), their deputies and an Independent Scrutineer. The following Groups sit underneath containing a mix of safeguarding partners:

- Quality Assurance & Performance Sub-Group (QA&P)
- Rapid Review Panel
- Rapid Review Working Group
- Education Safeguarding Forum
- The THSCP Delivery Group (which delivers the THSCP Priorities of Neglect, Infant Safety, Peer-on-Peer Harm and Anti-Racism.)
- Strategic Exploitation and Missing Group
- The Effective Learning Group

Scrutiny: WT23 requires Safeguarding Partnerships to have an Independent Scrutineer - Laurelle Brown. Her role is to judge the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements and promote the welfare of children. Two Young Scrutineers work with the Partnership and their role is to ensure the voice of the child is present in all aspects of the THSCP work.

Some Key Achievements:

Publication of new arrangements:

The THSCP Arrangements were updated to reflect current practice, demonstrating Partnership development and commitment to transparency.

Delivered Safeguarding Month (Additional Events):

- 1 conference (Anti-Racism) and weekly safeguarding bulletins sent out.

Set new priorities:

- Set new priority areas of Neglect, Infant Safety, Peer-on-Peer Harm and Anti-Racism following a review of data, audits, review learning, feedback from partner, children and young people.

Improvements to Rapid Reviews:

- Including changes to the Rapid Review Working Group and use of 30-minute learning webinars.

Improvements to meeting governance:

- Including the introduction of a shared risk register.

New webpage:

- Making information more accessible and saving over £3k a year

3-way serious incident notifications and set up of 'Effective Learning Group':

- To ensure rigour of decision-making processes and bring together training, audits and implementing learning.

Development of Strategic Exploitation Group:

- To review policies and procedures, allowing professionals to focus on individual children at MACE meetings.

Strengthened scrutiny and audits:

- Via the Six Steps of Scrutiny and multi-agency audits, including an audit of the MASH.

Review of multi-agency dataset:

- Data is collected quarterly from 10 different teams and agencies.

CSPR 1-year-on session:

- Introduced to revisit the themes of a review and discuss how practice has changed.

Some Key Challenges:

- Workforce vacancies within the Business Unit.
- Limitations of current budget.
- Changes in leadership in the Local Authority and Police.
- Implementation of priority areas.
- Partnership capacity
- Delays in publishing a CSPR.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR): The Executive Board has taken the decision to publish a briefing and recommendations of the most recent CSPR, which contains themes of infant safety, overcrowding, neglect, domestic abuse, and step-down decision making. This is due to privacy and safety concerns for the families involved.

Forward Plan: Improve dataset, deliver priority areas, complete a Section 11 audit, improve CSPR processes, further inclusion of the voice of the child.

