

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 9 October 2018

**Subject:** Annual Report of Manchester Safeguarding Children Board April 2017 – March 2018

**Report of:** Paul Marshall Strategic Director of Children’s Services  
Julia Stephens-Row, Independent Chair of Manchester Safeguarding Children Board

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**Summary**

This is a covering report providing an overview of Manchester Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report which is for the period from April 2017 - March 2018. This document reports on the work of the partnership.

**Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the publication of the Manchester Safeguarding Children’s Board (MSCB) Annual report 2017– 2018
  2. To promote the importance of safeguarding of children and young people across MCC and in the services that are commissioned ensuring that safeguarding is at the heart of all that is delivered.
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**Wards Affected: All**

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**Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes (if applicable)**

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city’s economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by	

unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The vision of the Manchester Safeguarding Children's Board is that "every child and young person in Manchester should be able to grow up safe; free from abuse, neglect or crime; so allowing them to enjoy a happy and healthy childhood and fulfil their potential" which supports this outcome.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

<https://www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk/resource/mscb/>

## **1 Introduction**

The Manchester Safeguarding Children's Board (MSCB) annual report covers the period from April 2017- March 2018. This report demonstrates the significant amount of work undertaken across a range of organisations and in partnership to safeguard children and young people in Manchester.

This report contains a variety of information detailing the work of the partners and some of key pieces of work undertaken by the MSCB. It also provides information on the work of the various sub groups which report to the Board, four of which are integrated with the Manchester Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB)

### **2.0 Background**

Safeguarding Children's Boards are in place across the country and have a legal duty "to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such persons or body for those purposes".

Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is undertaken by the Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve is an important function of the Safeguarding Board. In addition to the various assurance activities carried out throughout the year, such as Section 11 and multi-agency case audits, each Board partner has submitted an assurance statement setting out main developments around safeguarding and work that is ongoing in their agency.

### **2.1 Business Priorities**

Towards the end of the 2016/2017 period, MSCB began the process of planning its vision and priorities for the 2017/2018 year. As part of this preparation, the Board felt very strongly that the views of children and young people should be sought and a short questionnaire was set up on the Safeguarding Boards website and promoted through both the Board and through individual agencies. Some focus groups were also held by partners with young people to gather views.

In early April, a Visioning and Priority Setting Event was held and partners came together to review what progress had been made during the year and identify what challenges remain on our improvement journey. There was also an opportunity to consider the factors, legislative, financial and others - that will have an impact in the forthcoming year.

The responses from the survey of young people were shared at that event and partners were able to analyse the findings and use them to help inform a picture of what the next year should bring for MSCB in terms of priorities. The priorities identified for 2017/18 were:-

- Engagement and Involvement – listening and learning; hearing the voice of children

- Complex Safeguarding – Domestic Violence and Abuse; Female Genital Mutilation; Sexual Exploitation; Radicalisation; Missing; Organised
- Crime; Trafficking & Modern Slavery; So-called Honour Based Violence
- Transitions – Moving from child to adulthood in a safe and positive way
- Neglect – Ensuring the basic needs of every child are met.

These themes whilst shared with the MSAB have ‘child’ specific pieces of work which are being delivered. Details of the work undertaken to work towards achieving these priorities is contained within the annual report supported by some case studies.

We have asked each partner to complete a self-assessment on how they are taking into account the “Voice of the Child” and added this aspect to each of our multi agency audits

We have regular updates on the Domestic Violence and Abuse strategy and implementation and delivered multi agency raising awareness events regarding modern slavery

We have contributed to the multi-agency transitions workshop and will maintain this focus going forward.

We have launched the Neglect Strategy with multi agency events and introduced a new assessment tool which will continue to be rolled out in 2018/19. It has been agreed that these priority areas have been carried forward into 2018/19.

## **2.2 Challenges and Improvement**

In addition to the areas identified as priorities in the 2017/2018 Business Plan which are summarised above, other areas of challenge and concern have been identified and addressed by the Board. Some of these are highlighted as follows:

Reducing the number of missing from home episodes and improving the number of Safe and Well checks undertaken by Greater Manchester Police.

Published 3 Safeguarding Children Reviews and provided learning events for practitioners and managers supported by seven minute briefings with a focus on improving practice

Ensured that child deaths are appropriately reviewed and lessons learnt shared. For example 65% of cases (41 of 62) were of babies under one year old a factor which has informed the Population Health infant mortality strategy.

The Board held a Professional Curiosity Confidence and Challenge Conference which gave the opportunity for practitioners to reflect on how they may improve their practice when working with parents and carers and families.

Relaunched the website and training website, introduced a monthly newsletter and developed a successful Trust your instincts campaign.

## **2.3 Future arrangements for Safeguarding**

A new Working Together to Safeguard Children was published in July 2018 and Local Safeguarding Boards are to be replaced with new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements which have to be established by September 2019 at the latest. The three statutory partners of the Local Authority, Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group have until June 2019 to publish their plan. Until these new arrangements are in place the statutory requirements for the MSCB remain and it will be vital to ensure that the transition arrangements are robust to ensure that the safeguarding of children and young people remain at the heart of what is developed in the future. Early discussions are taking place in which the MSCB is actively engaged

## **3.0 Conclusion**

The work and reach of the MSCB, as evidenced in this report is considerable, however there is much more to do if as a partnership we are to achieve the vision of the MSCB that Every child and young person in Manchester should be able to grow up safe; free from abuse, neglect or crime; so allowing them to enjoy a happy and healthy childhood and fulfil their potential.