

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 4 September 2019

**Subject:** Annual Report of Manchester Safeguarding Children Board April 2018 – March 2019

**Report of:** Strategic Director of Children and Education Services  
Julia Stephens-Row, Former Independent Chair of Manchester Safeguarding Children Board

---

**Summary**

This is a covering report providing an overview of Manchester Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report which is for the period from April 2018 - March 2019. This document reports on the work of the partnership.

**Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the publication of the Manchester Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) Annual report 2018–2019.
  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.
- 

**Wards Affected:** All

---

|   |
|---|
| <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city |
|   |

| <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 in Manchester is Safe, Happy, Healthy and Successful. To achieve this we will: Be child-centred, listen to and respond to children and young people, focus on strengths and resilience and take early action" which supports this outcome. |
| A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth                                  |  |

#### **Contact Officers:**

Name: Julia Stephens-Row  
Position: Former Independent Chair Manchester Safeguarding Children Board  
Telephone: 0161 234 3330  
E-mail: manchestersafeguardingboards@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Heather Clarkson  
Position: Adults and Children Safeguarding Board Coordinator  
Telephone: 07976 910 296  
E-mail: heather.clarkson@manchester.gov.uk

#### **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.

We are currently working with a student from The Manchester College to complete the design work on the document. The content of the report will remain the same. Once this report is approved by the Committee, it will be uploaded onto the Manchester Safeguarding Boards website here:

<https://www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk/resource/mscb/> until the final design version of the report is ready for publication.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Manchester Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) annual report covers the period from April 2018 - March 2019. 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.
- 1.2 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).
- 1.3 Local Safeguarding Children Boards are inter-agency partnerships with statutory responsibility to coordinate local safeguarding arrangements which promote the welfare of children and make sure they are working effectively. Manchester Safeguarding Children Board includes representation from the Local Authority, Greater Manchester Police, Health Services, Housing, Probation and the Voluntary sector.

Our statutory functions and objectives are to:

- Coordinate 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.
- Ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for those purposes.
- Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority.
- Raise awareness within communities of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, how this can best be done, and encourage them to do so.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve.
- Participate in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority.
- Undertake Serious Case Reviews and advise the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 This report details the progress we have made around all of our priorities set out in the 2018/19 Business Plan and in safeguarding prevention so as to keep children safe from harm, along with the areas identified as future challenges relating to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. It is put together along with contribution from partners and sub groups and includes information regarding the progress of the Board over the last year.
- 2.2 An important function of the Board is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by all Board safeguarding partners both

individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including advising them on ways to improve. In addition to the various assurance activities carries out such as Section 11 and multi-agency case audits, the Board has held a number of learning events to promote findings from serious case reviews and launched a modern slavery and human trafficking strategy.

2.3 The Board meets regularly and is supported by a number of subgroups, detailed in the report.

#### 2.4 **Business Priorities**

The Board rolled forward the priorities from 2017/18 into 2018/19.

- 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 and 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.

2.5 Each of the multi-agency audits contain a question regarding the “Voice of the Child” and the annual self-assessments ask agencies to assess the standards they meet regarding the “Voice of the Child”.

2.6 We have regular updates on the Domestic Violence and Abuse strategy and implementation and held a very successful complex safeguarding conference.

2.7 We have established a multi-agency Neglect strategy implementation group and Graded Care Profile 2 - our chosen launched the Neglect assessment tool continues to be implemented across agencies.

2.8 We have along with Children's Social Care commissioned a review of the Front door arrangements with a focus on increasing conversations between professionals and Early Help and reducing the unnecessary referrals that do not require social work intervention. The new ways of working were introduced in March 2019 and are proving very successful.

2.9 In October 2018 a conference took place focusing on raising awareness of potential risks which contribute to the vulnerability, ill health or death across the city embedding learning from reviews of child deaths that take place.

2.10 Nearly 1400 people have attended face to face learning events and nearly 5,000 e learning courses completed by both adults and children's workforces.

2.11 The MSCB held a joint meeting with the MSAB in January and March 2019 in order to agree the priorities for 2019/20. These have been determined to be Adverse Childhood Experiences; Complex Safeguarding; Transitions; Neglect and Mental Health.

## 2.12 **Future Challenges and Improvement**

In addition to the areas identified as priorities in the 2019/ 2020 Business Plan which are summarised above, other areas of challenge have been identified as follows:

2.13 There is still a need to increase the awareness of the Neglect Strategy or familiarity of the tools to identify neglect. This should be aided by the multi-agency Neglect implementation steering group and the refresh of the existing strategy which will be promoted widely.

2.14 There is a need to review the Levels of need framework to make it more accessible to practitioners and consistent with Signs of Safety and the iThrive framework used in mental health. A subgroup has been set up to develop this further.

2.15 The number of serious case reviews which are to be completed presents both a challenge in terms of resources required to complete these very complex pieces of work, and also in terms of ensuring the learning across such a large number of agencies is shared and embedded to ensure that changes in practice are made and sustained.

2.16 Future arrangements for Safeguarding. Following a legislative change there was a requirement for Local Safeguarding Childrens Board to be replaced. Manchester now has a new multi-agency safeguarding partnership which has also brought the Children and Adults Boards together. As required the three statutory partners of the Local Authority, Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group published their plan at the end of June 2019 and are in a transitional period until end of September. More details of the new arrangements are subject to a separate report to the scrutiny committee. The development of one board for children and adults reflects the direction of travel over the last two to three years. However, retaining two separate executive groups for Adults and Children ensures that the focus on single issues is not lost.

## 3.0 **Recommendations**

3.1 Note the publication of the Manchester Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) Annual report 2018–2019.

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The work and reach of the MSCB, as evidenced in this report is considerable, however there is much more to do if as a new partnership we are to achieve the vision that Every child in Manchester is safe, happy, healthy and successful.