**Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP)**

**Annual Report 22-23 Summary**

**Purpose of the Report:** The Working Together 2018 (WT18) 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, Executive Group overseas all activity, this consists of James Thomas - Director of Childrens 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
* Priority area 1: Vulnerable Young People & Exploitation
* Priority area 2: Domestic Abuse & the Impact on Children and Young People
* Priority area 3: Staying Safe Online

**Scrutiny:** WT18 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. Three Young Scrutineers have joined us this year and their role is to ensure the voice of the child is present in all aspects of the THSCP work.

**Some Key Achievements:**

**Increased Training & Awareness Programme and**

**E-Bulletin Activity:**

* **21** multi-agency training courses offered and delivered. **4** partnership events delivered. **23** E-Bulletins sent out to over 200 partners.

**Delivered Safeguarding Month (Additional Events):**

* **1** conference (Infant Safety) and **4** awareness sessions delivered.

**6- Steps of Scrutiny:**

* Full review of the effectiveness of the THSCP.

**A Thematic Review into Serious Youth Violence:**

* Reviewed common themes of older children subject to serious violence.

**Closed Priority Task and Finish Groups:**

* Produced outcomes such as awareness campaigns, survey of 2000 children and young people, and new tool kits.

**Improvements to Rapid Review and CSPR Processes & Embedding Learning:**

* New Rapid Review & CSPR protocol, templates, working group set up to embed learning, new CSPR approach nationally praised, and received a positive audit result.

**Produced New Policies and Procedures:**

* Including, multi-agency escalation policy, non-recent abuse allegations procedure and private fostering guidance.

**Improvements to Muli-Agency Data Set:**

* Data now collected on a quarterly basis from **10** agencies and teams and key partners scrutinise at QA&P.

**Quality Assurance Improvement:**

* QA forward plan now available and multi-agency audit into exploitation took place.

**Some Key Challenges:**

* Partners feeling a disconnect from the THSCP Executive.
* Delays with commissioning CSPR authors.
* Attendance at training & awareness events.
* Capacity and funding.
* Infant safety – A key concern coming through reviews.
* Pace of priority group delivery.

**Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR):** One review under the pseudonym [Julie](http://www.childrenandfamiliestrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Local-Child-Safeguarding-Practice-Review-Julie.pdf) published containing themes of infant safety, safe sleeping, neglect, step down decision making, covid-19, use of interpreters, parental vulnerabilities, and domestic abuse. Another live review will be published end of July 23, containing themes of infant safety, overcrowding, neglect, domestic abuse, and step-down decision making.

**Forward Plan:** Setting and delivering new priorities, embedding learning from CSPRs, improvement to partner engagement, training offer expansion, formal improvement plan and improvements to the THSCP digital presence**.**