

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 25 September 2018
Subject:	Serious Case Review		
Report of:	Director of Social Care and Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Children, Schools and Safeguarding		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Sefton Local Safeguarding Children's Board undertook a Serious Case Review which was published on the LSCB's website on 31st July 2018 in line with procedures in Working Together 2015.

Progress on recommendations from the Serious Case Review will be monitored through the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and have been incorporated into the CSC Continuous Improvement Plan which has also been tabled for this committee meeting.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) Overview and Scrutiny committee receive the findings of the Serious Case Review.
- (2) Over view and Scrutiny committee continues to receive 6 monthly progress reports on the improvement plan which includes recommendations from this review.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a good understanding of the Serious Case Review Process and how learning is embedded within Children's Services and the wider partnerships.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)
N/A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications: Statutory Guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: This is a core function of the service who provide statutory social work services to children and young people including those in need of help and protection, looked after and care leavers.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Ensuring children are safeguarded improves their life chances and supports them to become successful adults.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The service provides statutory social work services to vulnerable children.
Place – leadership and influencer: N/A
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Protecting vulnerable children supports them to achieve and attain and increase their chances of becoming successful adults.
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5301/18) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 4526/18.....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

(Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Serious Case Review Report
7 Minute briefing – learning form Serious Case Review

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 A Serious Case Review (SCR) is undertaken when abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and either the child has died; or the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.
- 1.2 The prime purpose of an SCR is for agencies and individuals to learn lessons to improve the way in which they work both individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. After the completion of a review the LSCB will publish an anonymised Executive Summary which will include information on the review process, key issues arising from the case, the recommendations and the action plans. For all SCRs initiated on and after 10th June 2010, the government has instructed all local safeguarding children boards to also publish anonymised Overview Reports.
- 1.3 Sefton LSCB has a sub group (Practice Review Panel) which oversees and quality assures SCRs undertaken by the Board, and provides advice on whether the criteria for conducting a review have been met. The sub group has developed local procedures for Serious Case Reviews in conjunction with Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government 2015). Any professional or agency may refer a case to the LSCB if the criteria is met for a SCR. The independent chair makes the decision of whether to instigate a SCR.
- 1.4 Local Safeguarding Children's Boards are transitioning to new Multi -agency Safeguarding Arrangements in line with Working Together 2018. This will eventually change the way Serious Case Reviews are conducted and the LSCB is responding to this and is developing these arrangements. This review was conducted under the 2015 Working Together Guidance
- 1.5 Children's Social Care held a Practice and Performance Workshop on 15th September 2018 which is a quarterly meeting of frontline practitioners, the focus of the meeting and main agenda item was the learning from this review and how we can support frontline practitioners to improve and embed the learning form this review.