



### Message from Deborah Lightfoot, LSCB Chair

Welcome to the September 2016 LSCB newsletter, in this edition we set out our safeguarding self-assessment for both boroughs and our priorities for the year ahead. Working Together 2015 outlines that the LSCB has a statutory duty to provide a transparent local assessment of safeguarding issues. We make this assessment using quantitative and qualitative information from all partner agencies, children, young people and their families.

### LSCB Safeguarding Self-Assessment

Children in Richmond and in Kingston grow up in an environment of relative affluence, with good local schools, low crime rates and good access to health services. When children and families need early help or more targeted support in general, statutory, private and voluntary agencies work well together, keep the child's voice central to their work and can evidence improved outcomes for children. The safeguarding self-assessment is set in this context and looks at areas for improvement and any possible barriers to achieving these.

This year we have continued to identify that both boroughs faced considerable **organisational change**, these changes have been driven in part by the impact of **austerity** measures. These changes will continue. Both boroughs have been experiencing growing demand for services for instance a rising numbers of young people presenting with self harm concerns. Children's mental health has been an area of focus. There has been a rising number of referrals to Children's Social Care. Some of this represents growing needs and some a greater awareness from services of their role in safeguarding children.

Local learning in both boroughs has illustrated the challenge of working with **private providers and institutions**, such as health and schools and the importance of extending the safeguarding children network to include private and independent providers. **Safeguarding children online** has been and remains a key area of work.

We need to ensure that all appropriate local agencies across the partnership work together to support the delivery of early help for children in particular undertaking **Early Help Assessments** (formerly known as CAFs). Some key aspects of our work remain challenging in both boroughs such as identifying children in **Private Fostering** situations, evidence shows the numbers reported remain low. Identifying the risks to girls of **Female Genital Mutilation** remains a challenge as does protecting children and young people from the threat of **radicalisation**. We have made great strides in both boroughs in respect of identifying and working with children who are missing or who may be at risk of child sexual exploitation. The impact on children from **parental behaviours** such as domestic abuse, substance misuse or parental mental health is also an area where more work is needed

#### Our priorities for 2016-17 are:

Promoting early help; strengthening information sharing and communication; ensuring good mental health support for children and young people; outreach to faith and community groups; coordinating sound work around diversity matters; working to see good transitions for young people from children's to adults' services; and child sexual exploitation

## Learning from Serious Case Reviews

The Government has published the Triennial Analysis of 293 Serious Case Reviews 2011-14 here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/analysis-of-serious-case-reviews-2011-to-2014>

Research in Practice has put together very good briefings and video clips for different sectors – Health, Education, CSC, Police & Criminal Justice, and LSCBs, which can be viewed here: <http://seriouscasereviews.rip.org.uk/>

## Female Genital Mutilation

As we near the end of the school summer holidays when the numbers of girls taken outside of the UK to be cut increases, we are raising awareness of the severe health implications of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for those living in the UK who are members of communities affected by FGM.

This film from the Department for Education (DfE) features a roundtable discussion led by Henry Bonsu, a well-known British African broadcaster, together with a panel of experts all speaking openly and candidly about FGM. Alongside the film, the DfE has produced some short social media videos which are being distributed via Facebook.

The film was broadcast on several UK African satellite TV channels from 9 – 31 July. You can view the film, called 'FGM: The Facts' on NHS Choices – [www.nhs.uk/fgm](http://www.nhs.uk/fgm) or you may have seen it on Vox Africa.

We would be grateful if you could promote this campaign via your own channels, sharing the video and using social media help the campaign reach further.

## Safeguarding Lead Posters

We have new safeguarding lead posters [here](#): available for each borough, with room for you to write on your agency Safeguarding Lead.

## Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Safety

Our CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) Awareness Raising Week is the week of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Kingston and Richmond. Our focus is online safety. Find some helpful information here:

<http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/media/upload/fck/file/Top%20three%20tips%20for%20parents%20and%20carers%20for%20safeguarding%20children%20online.pdf>

This can be circulated to parents, carers, young people and professionals. Please think what your sector or agency can do.

Further information and resources can be accessed here:

<http://kingstonandrichmondscb.org.uk/parents-carers/helping-your-child-stay-safe-online-16.php>

