

This supplementary report seeks to give further clarity on the 'Missing' paper presented to the senior strategic partners in January. The report should be read in conjunction with the original to ensure full understanding. The two areas that are subject of the report arise from discussions that took place at the Senior Leadership Group (SLG) meeting following the presentation of the paper.

### **Assurance**

Working Together 2018 sets out the role of Independent Scrutiny '*is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. This independent scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections*'.

From the scrutiny I have conducted I conclude that Multi-agency arrangements for missing children are good across Kingston and Richmond.

**Leadership** - Leaders from all agencies recognise the importance of missing episodes in terms of safeguarding. They have shown commitment through the commission of this paper, multi-agency audits and revision of multi-agency policy. Individual agencies have prioritised this area of safeguarding as a priority with the Metropolitan Police Service making significant changes to practice following a critical HMI paper.

**Policy** – Multi-agency practice is being revised and recommendations have been made to ensure this opportunity is maximised.

**Practice** – Evidence from the multi-agency audit, focus groups and themed learning event shows that the majority of practitioners and managers are aware of professionals' roles and responsibilities across the Partnership. They are confident in their own practice and view missing as a priority. This understanding was most evident from social care, police and education colleagues. The cases audited drew praise and the contribution in focus groups was professional, incisive and showed a real commitment to safeguarding young people.

**Training** – Multi-agency training in this area is delivered as part of wider safeguarding training. Whilst this in itself is adequate there is a need to review this offer to ensure Missing maintains its current position as a safeguarding issue. The completion of the policy review may afford an ideal opportunity for a focussed training input.

### **Strategic Recommendations**

My original report made a number of recommendations, some of which were described as 'quick wins' and were aimed at management / operational issues. I will set out the strategic recommendations that arise below;

1. **Leadership** - The SLG should consider identifying a single senior leader to lead in this area. This would afford greater accountability, increase confidence (internal and external) through strategic commitment and oversight on improvements.
2. **Prevention** - The SLG should prioritise the development of a preventative strategy and programme of preventative multi-agency work will be delivered to children and young people. The strategy should be developed across the Partnership and would add significantly to excellent work that is already taking place. It is key to involve young people, families and practitioners in the development of this strategy.
3. **Data** - The SLG should commission a review of current statistical information presented in this area. The review should be tasked with finding the best possible opportunity for strategic leaders to understand the full picture and take informed policy, recourse and practice decisions that will improve outcomes for children.
4. **Monitoring** - The SLG should seek assurance that all other actions are being progressed and the impact on practice.

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