1. **Decision required**

This report makes the following recommendations to the decision-maker:

1.1 Note the 2018/19 Royal Borough of Greenwich Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, and make any comments on the report which may assist the Safeguarding Children Board in assuring itself of the effectiveness of safeguarding for children in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

2. **Links to the Royal Greenwich high level objectives**

2.1 This report relates to the Council’s agreed high level objectives as follows:

- Support and protect children and families in need
- Social care and health

3. **Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

3.1 The Annual Report informs Cabinet of the effectiveness of local arrangements for safeguarding children and actions being taken across agencies and how they are being strengthened. The independent chair will be able to respond to any questions about the annual report at Cabinet.

4. **Introduction and Background**

4.1 The functions of the local Safeguarding Children Board are to act as the statutory inter-agency mechanism for agreeing how the different services and professional groups should co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Greenwich and to hold each other to account, ensuring that safeguarding children remains high on each partner agency’s agenda (Children Act 2004). The Board has a lead role in monitoring and scrutinising those
arrangements to ensure that they work effectively and result in better outcomes for children, and driving improvement across the partnership.

4.2 The work of the Greenwich Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB) sits within the wider context of our partnership arrangements to improve outcomes for all children, although it is an independent body. The Cabinet Member for Children & Young People attends the GSCB Executive as a ‘participant observer’. The GSCB chair meets with the chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board to address cross cutting areas of work.

5. **GSCB Annual Report**

5.1 It is a statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The report should:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, set against a comprehensive analysis of the local area safeguarding context;
- Recognise progress that has been made in the local authority area as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that still remain;
- Demonstrate the extent to which the functions of the Board, as set out in statutory guidance, are being effectively discharged;
- Include a clear account of progress in implementing actions from individual Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) completed during the year;
- Inform and challenge to the work of the Children’s Trust Board in driving improvements in the safeguarding of children and young people and in promoting their welfare.

5.2 The GSCB’s Annual Report, attached as Appendix 1, covers the twelve months from April 2018 to March 2019

5.3 Three key achievements for 2018/19 were as follows:

- The Board has had to focus this year on developing new arrangements as required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018. This has involved a review of all the sub groups of the current board, functions, membership and funding. We were lucky to be accepted as one of the Early Adopters of the new arrangements alongside Bexley and Lewisham. This enabled us to look at how we might work more effectively across borough boundaries, avoiding duplication but also sharing learning. It has also helped us consider and develop the new independent scrutineer role required in the new partnership arrangements. We published our Partnership plan outlining our new arrangements at end of March.
• The Audit work group completed a thorough deep dive audit in relation to provision for children and young people’s mental health which gathered evidence from a number of sources including hearing the views of parents, practitioners and almost 100 children and young people.

• The Board revised its processes for undertaking section 11 audits in 2016/17 and has repeated this process again this year but in a more limited focus due to capacity. This year the Section 11 audit focussed on 2 sectors of the workforce; Sports and Leisure, and schools. The Sports and Leisure audit took some important steps in forming links with a sector which we have previously had very limited engagement with but has an important role in safeguarding children. Our schools audit demonstrated strong commitment from the vast majority of our schools towards safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

5.4 Three key areas of focus for 2019/20 are as follows:

• Tackling the risks to adolescents, particularly those associated with exploitation violence and neglect.

• Supporting children to maintain positive mental health, with a particular focus on deliberate self-harm and suicide

• Recognising vulnerability and providing the right support to protect and nurture during pregnancy and early infancy.

5.5 The Annual Report for 2018/19 will be presented to Cabinet in September 2019.

6. Reasons for Recommendations
For Information Only

7. Consultation Results

7.1 The Annual Report has been approved by the Royal Borough of Greenwich Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Leadership Executive Group.

8. Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications

The GSCB has an annual budget funded by partner agencies. The GSCB budget ended 2018-19 with an overspend position of £4,244.43. This was due to Serious Case Review costs, some of which related to 2018/2019. A draw down from the GSCB reserve was made to fund this overspend.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Implications</th>
<th>Sign-off</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal</strong></td>
<td>There are no Legal or Human Rights implications for the Royal Borough of</td>
<td>Davidaire Horsford Assistant Head of Legal Services, 04/10/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights Act</td>
<td>Greenwich arising from this report.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Finance</strong></td>
<td>There are no financial implications for the Royal Borough of Greenwich arising</td>
<td>Agnes Narkotey Accountancy Business Change Manager, 04/10/2019</td>
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<td>and other resources including procurement implications</td>
<td>from this report.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equalities</strong></td>
<td>The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance</td>
<td>Sarah Ingram 24/09/19</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>to the substance of the Equality Act</td>
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9. **Report Appendices**

9.1 The following documents are to be published with and form part of the report:
- Appendix A: Royal Borough of Greenwich Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

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