

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 14 NOVEMBER 2012

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

REPORT OF AD SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

PRESENTED BY CHRIS BRANNAN – INDEPENDENT CHAIR

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

The purpose of this report is to raise awareness of the critical role of the Safeguarding Board to keep children and young people in the Borough safe.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- consideration be given to the focus and progress made delivering the LSCB Business Plan.
- the role of the LSCB in driving change and improvement in response to the OFSTED ‘Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children’ is acknowledged

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Co-operative Council Priority: ‘Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults’
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The objectives and actions of the LSCB Business Plan impact across all sections of the Borough, in particular children, young people, parents and carers – including work to support and protect the most vulnerable in the community
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY	LSCB Annual Report April 2011- March 2012	

DATE		
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The total budget available to fund the work of the LSCB in 2011-12 is £203,810 provided by contributions from a number of partners including the PCT and the Police. Financial reports are presented bi-annually to the LSCB and are reported yearly in the Boards Annual Report
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 (2004 Act) requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). LSCB functions are prescribed by Section 14 of the 2004 Act and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 (as amended). Section 14A of the 2004 Act requires all LSCBs to prepare and publish a report at least once in every 12 month period about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its local area
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The scope of the actions in the LSCB Annual Report impacts on many aspects of the lives of children, young people, parents and carers – including work to support and protect the most vulnerable in the community.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

Local Safeguarding Boards (LSCB)

The Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The LSCB is the statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

As well as the statutory requirement, the activities and focus of the Board are aligned with the Co-operative Council priorities of 'Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults' and 'Putting Children & Young People First'.

Working Together To Safeguard Children 2010 requires all LSCBs to produce an annual report which reflects the progress of its business plan as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges which will remain. The report (Appendix 1) sets out progress against its priorities including:

- Children Abused Through Exploitation – mainstreaming of the CATE service in the Targeted Youth Support and Cohesion Services – to build on the success of Operation Chalice.
- Getting the Right Help at the Right Time – this objective extends across the children and young people partnership landscape. Critical to this is the ongoing implementation of Family Connect – to provide a single front door to all children, young people and family enquiries. Another area where significant progress has been made is the development of a pre-birth pathway. It is anticipated that this will lead to early identification and support given to families at the earliest opportunity.
- Missing Children – supported the development and launch of a joint regional protocol to provide consistent information sharing across care provides and 'return interview' to enable the risk of children going missing again to be reduced. This has allowed in some instances the young person to be reintroduced to their family successfully.
- Children & Young People Feeling Safe – the work commissioned by the Board led to the development of a chatterbox leaflet to raise awareness of bullying amongst children, parents, carers and schools to ensure that children are able to identify what bullying is, what to do about it and where to seek help. It also considered domestic abuse and health relationships (low level sexual abuse). This work has been recognised as best practice by the Children's Commissioner as this was designed by children for children.

Developing the Board

Since the completion of this report, OFSTED have undertaken an Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children services (Appendix One presents a head-line summary of the judgements). This report was published on 10th August 2012. Overall, both safeguarding and looked after children services were found to be adequate in their effectiveness (meet minimum standards), and the inspectors endorsed the direction and vision for children's services following the strategic review in 2011. The OFSTED report compliments the working of the Board stating that the 'fully established LSCB successfully demonstrates a culture of appropriate challenge resulting in effective governance of safeguarding issues by the Council and its partners'.

Whilst recognising the Board's strengths, the OFSTED report is also very clear where the role and effectiveness of the Board can be strengthened. OFSTED consider that the Board has a critical role in ensuring that their (OFSTED's) recommendations are effectively and speedily implemented. The Board will agree and then monitor the implementation of the action plan to improve all the areas identified.

The Board is moving quickly to update its Business Plan in response to the OFSTED report. It is critical that the Board is self aware and continues to develop its role as a result. Two particular areas which the Board will focus on as a result of the inspection are:

- training – ensuring that all identified staff are compliant with safeguarding training
- ensuring that the recommendations made by the Board are linked more directly in front-line social work practice.

As the lead organisation for Safeguarding and Children in Care, the Council is taking action to address the recommendations identified by OFSTED – the 'immediate' recommendations have already been addressed. The Council will be responsible to the independent LSCB for the delivery of these recommendations and ensuring that they deliver the necessary outcomes and improvements. As the OFSTED report has highlighted, the Board offers an appropriate level of challenge to the Council and its partners and is therefore well placed to ensure the necessary actions are effectively implemented.

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APPENDIX ONE: OFSTED INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN: SUMMARY JUDGEMENTS

Safeguarding services	
Overall effectiveness	Adequate
Capacity for improvement	Adequate
Safeguarding outcomes for children and young people	
Children and young people are safe and feel safe	Adequate
Quality of provision	Inadequate
The contribution of health agencies to keeping children and young people safe	Adequate
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Adequate
Performance management and quality assurance	Adequate
Partnership working	Good
Equality and diversity	Adequate
Services for looked after children	
Overall effectiveness	Adequate
Capacity for improvement	Adequate
How good are outcomes for looked after children and care leavers?	
Being healthy	Adequate
Staying safe	Good
Enjoying and achieving	Adequate
Making a positive contribution, including user engagement	Good
Economic well-being	Adequate
Quality of provision	Inadequate
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Adequate
Equality and diversity	Adequate