

6th December 2017**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL
REPORT 2016/17****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2016/17, which is available as a Background Paper.

Information and Advice

2. National statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015', notes the requirement for the Chair of each Local Safeguarding Children Board to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. This report should recognise achievements and the progress that has been made in the local authority area as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that still remain and the action being taken to address them. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.
3. The Annual Report should be made available to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
4. The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) Annual Report 2016/17 includes links to relevant documents already published on the NSCB website which provide further information.
5. The report provides details of the work carried out by the Board to update and improve the way it carries out its functions. The [online NSCB safeguarding procedures](#) were updated twice during the year (November 2016 and April 2017) to ensure they remain current and include learning from local and national sources. A new Communications and Engagement Strategy has been developed and this will be used to benchmark the success of NSCB communications and engagement work. The NSCB website continues to be the primary means of communication with NSCB stakeholders and includes resources for professionals, parents/carers and children and young people. The NSCB was also pleased to support financially, and through consultation with members, the work led by Nottinghamshire County

Council Public Health and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to provide the [Health for Teens](#) website specifically aimed at young people.

6. During 2016/17 the NSCB has delivered a wide ranging programme of multi-agency training courses and seminars. These events have covered core safeguarding practice and specialist areas of practice. Specific courses have been developed to respond to key learning identified through the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework including; *Decision Making and Disguised Compliance, Hidden Men, Information Sharing and Neglect*. NSCB multi-agency training events have been attended by over 2,100 staff working with children and families during the year. A new e-learning package was procured during the year which increased the number of modules available to partner organisations from four to 22. Over 4,100 staff have completed e-learning modules during the year on safeguarding subjects including; *awareness of abuse and neglect, child sexual exploitation and safe sleeping for babies*.
7. A key responsibility for the Board is to commission and undertake serious case reviews according to the criteria set out in national statutory guidance and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) regulations. The reviews are used to identify learning and to improve practice. During 2016/17 one serious case review was commissioned (PN16) and is ongoing at this time. Themes regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding practice identified from two reviews commissioned the previous year and completed during this reporting period (LN15 & NN15), are included within the report. A further three reviews were ongoing at the end of the reporting period due to a number of factors including the complexity of the case, parallel criminal/coronial proceedings and restrictions on access to children, families or professionals involved. Of these, two have subsequently been signed off by the Board and a third is very near completion.
8. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) has conducted reviews into expected and unexpected child deaths in Nottinghamshire in line with statutory guidance. During the course of the year 39 children died in Nottinghamshire and the panel conducted 58 reviews following the completion of other processes (e.g. Inquests). The panel identified actions to prevent future deaths, in particular safer sleep for babies, and a working group has developed a framework for action - the progress against which is noted within the report.
9. The NSCB has continued to strengthen its multi-agency audit work and a total of six audits examining operational practice in a range of areas were undertaken and their findings reported to the Board. In addition three organisational audits were also undertaken and reported. All audits identified areas of good practice in addition to areas for improvement. Full details of the recommendations and impact of the audits are included in the report.
10. The report includes a section containing examples of the way the Board has carried out its scrutiny and challenge function in addition to the case reviews, programmed audit work and analysis of performance information. Issues such as the arrangements for the provision of medical assessments, elective home education, domestic violence and abuse, safeguarding of looked after children and preventing radicalisation have all been examined by the Board.
11. The report concludes by setting out areas identified for development through the NSCB learning and improvement framework. The NSCB Business Plan (2016/18) has been regularly reviewed and updated and captures the key areas of work for the Board including

the focus on vulnerable children groups, performance monitoring and the effectiveness of multi-agency working in relation to child protection enquiries. In addition the NSCB has identified a number of ways to further improve the way it delivers its core functions and these are detailed within the report.

12. In April 2017 the Children and Social Work Act received Royal Assent. The measures within the Act, which include the abolition of Local Safeguarding Children Boards and a requirement on 'safeguarding partners' to establish new safeguarding arrangements, will be introduced once revised statutory guidance has been published and following an implementation period. Further details on the implications of the new legislation and revised statutory guidance are contained in **Appendix A** to this report for information.

Other Options Considered

13. As this is a report for endorsement, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The report is provided for endorsement and to inform the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2016/17, which is available as a Background Paper, is endorsed.

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Independent Chair
Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

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Constitutional Comments (EP 09/11/2017)

16. The Health and Wellbeing Board is the appropriate body to consider the contents of this report.

Financial Comments (DG 15/11/17)

17. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 16 of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2016/17

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.