

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL  
REPORT 2014/15****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2014/15, 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.
2. 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.
3. In May/June 2015 Ofsted conducted a review of the Board in parallel with their inspection of Children's Services in Nottinghamshire, and judged the Board to be "Good", endorsing our view that the Board is providing effective leadership and scrutiny of the safeguarding arrangements in our county.
4. The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) Annual Report outlines the context, both national and local, which has driven the work of the Board during the year.
5. The report identifies the governance and accountability arrangements and the organisational structure that supports the work of the Board together with the relevant areas of responsibility.
6. A key area of work for the Board is the provision of policies, procedures and guidance that detail the principles which underpin professional practice and the procedures to follow when child protection concerns emerge. The development of a new set of procedures was reported in last year's annual report, and during this reporting period two

post implementation workshops were held to gather information about the impact the new procedures had made and to collate feedback for the first revision which took place in November 2014. In addition to the feedback gathered, learning from serious case reviews, audit and performance monitoring was incorporated within the amendments along with the inclusion of material on areas which had been identified as national issues, such as child sexual exploitation and neglect.

7. During 2014-15 the NSCB has delivered a wide ranging programme of multi-agency training courses and seminars covering core safeguarding practice and more specialist subject areas such as fabricated and induced illness. The impact of the training provision has been monitored and levels of reported confidence of practitioners have significantly increased between pre and post course evaluations. In addition to face to face training event free e-learning to partners is available and well used on awareness of child abuse and neglect. A new e-learning course was introduced in this reporting period on Child Sexual Exploitation. There has been a welcome increase in attendance at events in comparison with last year. Learning and Improvement Bulletins have also been introduced which are available on the NSCB website. These contain accessible summaries of learning from serious case reviews in order to cascade the learning to as wide an audience as possible.
9. The NSCB has continued to strengthen its arrangements for providing scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements. The report includes a section detailing the quality and effectiveness of arrangements and practice. Detailed data for the year is contained within an appendix to the report.
10. The Child Death Overview Panel has continued to conduct reviews into expected and unexpected child deaths in Nottinghamshire. Two serious case reviews (SCRs) were commissioned (IN14 and JN15), and these were both completed during the reporting period. A further SCR was completed (HN13). All three SCR reports were signed off and are awaiting publication dependent on the outcome of coronial and/or criminal proceedings. A health learning review, regarding the death of a baby recently discharged from hospital was completed. Two reports were published in the reporting period, EN12 and GN13. A summary of the learning from the case reviews completed during the year is included within the report.
11. Five multi-agency audits reported to the NSCB Board April 2014 to March 2015, on the Early Help Unit, accessibility of services to young people, sexual abuse, Initial Child Protection Conferences and Child Sexual Exploitation. Two scheduled audits were not completed and have been brought forward into the 2015-16 audit programme which has been agreed and is on-going. 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.
12. The NSCB has focused its activity on priority groups of children including: children at risk of sexual exploitation; missing children; children at risk through domestic violence; safeguarding looked after children, children with parents or carers with mental health and/or drug and/or alcohol problems, young carers and privately fostered children. Details of the work carried out in these areas are provided in the report.

13. The report shows the NSCB's multi-agency financial arrangements for 2014/15 and sets out the Board's priorities and challenges for 2015/16. It highlights the main contextual influences which will impact on safeguarding arrangements.
14. The key challenges going forward include:
  - The need to reassure and maintain the confidence of the people of Nottinghamshire in the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, particularly in terms of responses to child sexual exploitation and historic sexual abuse.
  - Improvements to child protection planning to be continued.
  - New arrangements for CAMHS provision to be implemented quickly and effectively.
  - For the Board to be assured that all appropriate agencies are fully engaged in child protection strategy meetings and conferences.
  - For the Board to be assured that effective action is taken to identify and meet the needs of children who are privately fostered.

### **Other Options Considered**

3. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

4. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

5. 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 only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2014/15 which is available as a Background Paper be noted.

**Chris Few**

**Independent Chair, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

6. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (KAS 09/11/15)**

7. There are no financial implications contained within the 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 2014/15

### **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

All