

**11 November 2013****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL  
REPORT 2012/13****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2012/13, which is attached as an **Appendix**.

**Information and Advice**

2. National statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013', 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. The report was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 6 November and arrangements are in place to ensure further dissemination in line with the statutory guidance.
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. In June 2012 a revised set of procedures were published that included amendments that responded to the learning from reviews and case audits such as the importance of face to face strategy meetings and the significance of bruising to small babies. A web enabled version of the procedures was also made available making it easier for professionals to search and access the information they need to protect children and young people.

7. During 2012-13 the NSCB has delivered a wide ranging programme of multi-agency training courses and seminars covering core safeguarding practice and more specialist subject areas. The impact of the training provision has been monitored and levels of reported confidence have significantly increased between pre and post course evaluations. In addition to courses and seminars E-learning is increasingly being used as an effective way to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect amongst the wider workforce. During 2013-14 further work to understand the impact of training will be undertaken and along with the learning from reviews this will help to shape the future training programme.
8. The NSCB has continued to strengthen its arrangements for providing scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements and this has included monitoring of important safeguarding initiatives such as the implementation of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. The report contains details of performance information reporting and an appendix provides detailed data for the year.
9. A significant multi-agency audit was undertaken by the NSCB to explore the extent to which the voice of children and young people is heard by agencies. The findings of the audit were positive and practice pointers identified through the audit were communicated to staff. In May 2012 all NSCB partner agencies completed a self assessment of safeguarding standards known as a Section 11 audit. Analysis of the returns was reported to the NSCB Executive and updates against the areas requiring development will be provided by agencies in October 2013.
10. The Child Death Overview Panel has continued to conduct reviews into expected and unexpected child deaths. In response to a number of fatal road accidents involving young people the NSCB is funding the development of a short film made by young people aimed at raising awareness of road safety issues which will complement that already provided through schools and the NCC Road Safety Team. One serious case review was commissioned during the reporting period and is currently ongoing. A summary of the learning from case reviews is included within the report.
11. 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; and safeguarding looked after children. Details of the work carried out in these areas are provided.
12. The Report shows the NSCB's multi-agency financial arrangements for 2012/13 and sets out the Board's priorities for 2013/14. It highlights the main contextual influences which will impact on safeguarding arrangements over the next period of time.

### **Other Options Considered**

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

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

14. The report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2012/13, which is attached as an **Appendix**, be noted.

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (ZM 16/10/13)**

17. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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