

9 November 2016**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN BOARD
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL
REPORT 2015/16****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2015/16, 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 2015/16 is in a new shorter format designed to make it more accessible. It includes links to relevant documents already published on the NSCB website which provide further information.
5. The report outlines changes that have been made to the way the NSCB operates. New strategies have been developed to guide the work of the Board and its partners in relation to: child neglect; children exposed to parental substance misuse and/or mental ill health; and child sexual exploitation. Steps have been taken to improve information sharing processes with a review of the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team (SCIMT) leading to the relocation of the team within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). A new NSCB website has been developed which provides easier access to information about multi-agency training, policies/procedures and resources for professionals, parents and carers and children and young people
6. During 2015/16 the NSCB has delivered a wide ranging programme of multi-agency training courses and seminars. These events have covered core safeguarding practice and specialist subject areas such as Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII). NSCB multi-agency training events have been attended by over 2,300 staff working with children and

families during the year - 500 more training places than the previous year. The offer of E-learning modules available to partner organisations has also been broadened with additional modules and easier access. Over 4,500 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 LSCB regulations. The reviews are used to identify learning and to improve practice. During 2015/16 five serious case reviews were commissioned and these are ongoing and at various stages of completion. Themes regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding practice identified from two reviews completed during the year (IN14 & JN15), are included within the report.
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 50 children died in Nottinghamshire and the panel conducted 37 reviews following the completion of other processes (e.g. Inquests). The panel identified actions to prevent future deaths, in particular, safer sleep for babies, early identification and response to sepsis and GP's responses to weight loss and abdominal pain in children.
9. Multi-agency audits were undertaken and their findings reported to the Board regarding Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) and adult and children's services joint working. 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 summary of the various inspections that have been carried out during 2015/16 involving NSCB partner agencies. The findings from those inspections and action taken by the Board are detailed.
11. The report concludes by setting out areas identified for development through the NSCB learning and improvement framework and verified at a 'Meeting the Challenge' event involving NSCB members. A new NSCB Business Plan (2016/18) has been agreed which 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 such as strategy discussions and child protection conferences.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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/S

- 1) That the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2015/16, which is available as a Background Paper, be noted.

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Independent Chair, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board

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Constitutional Comments (LM 28/10/16)

12. The report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (KS 21/10/16)

13. 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 2015/16

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/115868/nscb-report-15-16-annual.pdf>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

See Chair's report

- Item 18: Children in need of help or protection