

15 October 2018

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Purpose of the Report

1. The report informs Members of the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2017/18, which is available as a Background Paper, and asks the Committee to consider whether there are any further actions it requires in relation to the information contained in the report.

Information

2. National statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015'¹, 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 2017/18 includes links to relevant documents already published on the NSCB website which provide further information.
5. The NSCB is required to set out how agencies and organisations should work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The [online NSCB safeguarding procedures](#) were updated twice during the year (June 2017 and January 2018) to ensure they remain current and include learning from local and national sources.

¹ Working Together to Safeguard Children was updated on 29th June 2018 however the 2015 version covers the period of this report.

6. The NSCB is funded, in part, through contributions from partner agencies. A breakdown of the income and expenditure is included within the Annual Report.
7. This year a safeguarding survey was undertaken with practitioners that work with children and families. The survey provided an opportunity to gain further understanding of the issues affecting frontline staff and will be used to triangulate information from other sources and guide improvements to safeguarding practice.
8. During 2017/18 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 *Safeguarding Babies, Responding to Sexual Abuse and Neglect*. NSCB multi-agency training events have been attended by 1995 staff during the year. As a result of promoting e-learning courses to coincide with national awareness weeks and providing an increased range of modules, there has been a significant increase in the completion of NSCB e-learning with over 6,300 staff completing courses.
9. 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 2017/18 one serious case review was commissioned (QN17) and this review was completed in July 2018 and is due to be published shortly following completion of the Inquest. Themes regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding practice identified from two reviews commissioned the previous year and completed during this reporting period (MN15 & ON16), are included within the report. A further two reviews (KN15 & PN16) were completed during the reporting period and are awaiting publication pending the completion of an Inquest (KN15) and feedback to the young person involved (PN16).
10. 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 53 children died in Nottinghamshire and the panel conducted 46 reviews following the completion of other processes (e.g. Inquests). The Panel has continued to take forward actions to prevent future deaths, including promoting messages regarding safer sleep for babies, and the management of asthma in children. During the course of the year a learning review was undertaken in response to five deaths by apparent suicide. The review was used to consider if there were any common features and identify any immediate action to prevent future deaths. The review concluded that there was no connection or link between the deaths and the circumstances of each individual case were consistent with research into findings of similar deaths. Analysis conducted by Public Health concluded that the cluster did not indicate a statistically significant upward trend at this stage and that in 2016 Nottinghamshire had a lower than national rate of suicides in the 10 -17 age bracket.
11. The NSCB has continued to strengthen its multi-agency audit work and a total of five audits examining operational practice in a range of areas were undertaken and their findings reported to the Board. 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 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 safeguarding children in education, private fostering, allegations against people that work with children and the development of a regional sexual abuse referral centre have all been examined by the Board.
13. 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. A significant area of work for the forthcoming months will be the transition to new safeguarding arrangements following the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 which abolishes local safeguarding children boards and requires the local authority, police and clinical commissioning groups to develop new safeguarding arrangements.

Other Options Considered

14. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. The report provides the opportunity for the Committee to consider any further actions arising from the information contained in the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, 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, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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 Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 21/09/18)

17. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report. Member should consider whether there are any actions they require in relation to the issues contained within the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 21/09/18)

18. There are no financial implications arising directly from 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 2017/18

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb/about-the-board>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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