

10 November 2014**Agenda Item: 04****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**
**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL
REPORT 2013/14****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2013/14, which is available as a Background Paper.

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.
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 May 2014 a new set of procedures were published to reflect the changes of practice implicit within 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' and take on board the recommendations of the Munro review into social work. The new procedures are web enabled and have a revised structure designed to be practically useful to staff. Users can quickly access key information and then choose to follow links to additional information on safeguarding in specific circumstances if required.

The learning from reviews and case audits has guided the inclusion of new and updated content.

7. A 'Learning and Improvement Framework' was developed and implemented during 2013/14 and details are set out within the new procedures. The framework aims to ensure that organisations learn from experience, act and secure improvement as a result.
8. During 2013-14 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. A new e-learning module on Child Sexual Exploitation has been introduced for 2014-15 along with a self-registration system to facilitate greater access.
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 response to a number of fatal road accidents involving young people the NSCB funded the development of a short film made by young people aimed at raising awareness of road safety issues to complement that already provided through schools and the NCC Road Safety Team. The film was launched at an event showcasing the creative skills of young people in the County and will be distributed, with accompanying lesson notes, to schools shortly. A serious case review commissioned in the previous year was completed and published. A further three serious case reviews were commissioned during the reporting period and these have now been completed with two of the reports published and the third awaiting the outcome of other proceedings. A summary of the learning from the case reviews completed during the year is included within the report.
11. Multi-agency audit arrangements have been considerably strengthened. A new sub-group to the Board has been formed with senior leadership and representation from partner agencies. The NSCB has received a report outlining the findings from the 'Voice of the Child' audit which examined how agencies listened and responded to the views of children. Further audits have been conducted to look at key areas of safeguarding including Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) and Missing Children and the programme of audits for 2014/15 has been developed and is ongoing.
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; and safeguarding looked after children. Details of the work carried out in these areas are provided.
13. The report shows the NSCB's multi-agency financial arrangements for 2013/14 and sets out the Board's priorities for 2014/15. It highlights the main contextual influences which will impact on safeguarding arrangements over the next period of time.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. 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 2013/14, which is available as a Background Paper, be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 23/10/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2013/14

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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