

REPORT TITLE: PRESENTATION OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) ANNUAL REPORT

To: Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)

Date: 15th September 2016

From: Andrew Jarvis, LSCB Business Manager

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To present the LSCB Annual Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). The purpose of the LSCB Annual Report is:

- to provide an outline of the main activities of the Cambridgeshire LSCB and the achievements during 2015-16 against the objectives in the LSCB Business Plan;
- to comment on the effectiveness of safeguarding activity and of the LSCB in supporting this;
- to provide the public and partner agencies with an overview of LSCB safeguarding activity;
- To identify gaps and challenges in service development in the year ahead.

1.2 To summarise progress to date on enhancing transition arrangements from children to adult services

1.3 To propose that the Chairs of the key partnership arrangements in Cambridgeshire responsible for the safeguarding, safety and wellbeing of the community meet to:

- confirm their priorities for the forthcoming year,
- identify areas of shared interest and responsibility,
- ensure top level plans are aligned
- improve communication to enhance the impact of activity.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Cambridgeshire LSCB publishes an Annual Report as required by statutory guidance, Working Together 2015.

2.2 "The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board.

2.3 The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those

weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period..."Working Together 2015

3.0 SUPPORTING PARAGRAPHS

- 3.1 The Report for 2015-16 is now published and available on the LSCB Website at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/>
- 3.2 The Report demonstrates that Cambridgeshire has a functioning and effective arrangement in place that safeguards children.
- 3.3 Numbers of children within the Child Protection (CP) system are rising. Feedback from Children Social Care (CSC) is that this reflects an increase in demand on the system rather than a change in organisational thresholds. It is an increase that is reflected nationally and regionally.
- 3.4 Partner agencies have continued to plan for a significant level of resource reduction in line with government requirements. These reductions might be most immediately felt in "Early Help" preventative work. However, it is only by having effective Early Help that the numbers of children coming into the CP system will reduce.
- 3.5 Agencies responsible for safeguarding children are faced with growing demand on services and reducing resources. To target those resources effectively and to coordinate effort has never been more important. If effective preventative work is to be in place it needs to be delivered in line with the work of other strategic partnerships that have a responsibility for the wellbeing, healthy development and safety of children.
- 3.6 The Report demonstrates how the LSCB has carried out its role in a way that consistently adds to the quality of safeguarding in Cambridgeshire. It does so by using its position and authority to monitor, audit and assess the effectiveness of services; challenge partner agencies to justify or enhance how they work; prioritise and coordinate improvement; develop a trained and aware workforce and act as a catalyst in the development of key areas of practice.
- 3.7 The report summarises:
- How proper governance is ensured for the LSCB.
 - How it has delivered on its priority areas in its Business Plan 2015-16.
 - How it has sought to challenge partner agencies to deliver high quality services.
 - How it has delivered its functions as laid down in *Working Together*.
- 3.8 The Report includes:
- Qualitative and quantitative evidence of agency performance in safeguarding children
 - Evidence on Board activity and impact
 - The LSCB Business Plan 2016-18

3.9 The LSCB has:

- Built on an innovative and ground-breaking project to improve safeguarding for children in the Eastern European communities.
- Worked to ensure the perspective of children and young people is taken into account by agencies and ourselves
- Met its aims in improving services for children at risk from Child Sexual Exploitation, Domestic abuse and those who were vulnerable through Disability.

3.10 The LSCB has delivered a comprehensive range of high quality training.

- Over 50 high quality courses delivered to 1000 practitioners in 2015-16
- Practice Liaison Groups that attracted over 350 practitioners
- Two successful Conferences:
 - i. 'When it's one of us: Professionals who abuse'
 - ii. "Neglect: More than just a grubby child" (jointly with Peterborough SCB).

Its rigorous validation process supports agencies in ensuring the quality of their training and provides assurance that the training is fit for purpose.

3.11 Work has been completed to improve the effectiveness of transition processes between children and adult services. Progress has been made in the management of transfers from YOS to the two probation services providers. Children services are addressing the challenges presented by Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and the complexity this brings, particularly for young people approaching adulthood. Communication of information between social care and health providers has been given a structure by the recently issued NICE Guidance on ["Transition from children's to adults' services for young people using health or social care services"](#).

3.12 The priorities for 2016-18 are:

1. Ensure effective safeguarding of children against Neglect.
2. Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing
3. The Voice of the Child
4. Enhancement of LSCB effectiveness in discharging its responsibilities
5. Developing and Supporting an Effective Workforce

3.13 As an objective under priority 4, the LSCB Business Plan for 2016-17 includes

Objective	Accountability	Success Criteria
Improve effective coordination with strategic partnerships in Cambridgeshire.	Chair of LSCB and Business Unit	To enable Partnership Chairs to meet with the intention to agree a protocol for coordination across Partnerships and a high level plan covering Cambridgeshire priorities and accountability. LSCB, SAB, HWB, CJC. By March 2016

- 3.14 The HWB is asked to consider the benefits of such an approach and give its approval.
- 3.15 During 2015-16 the government commissioned a review of LSCBs from Alan Wood. His Report and the Government response can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wood-review-of-lscbs-government-response>

To summarise the proposals:

- The Local Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council), Police and Health will have a strengthened responsibility to ensure there is an arrangement in place to coordinate effective safeguarding of children.
- Subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State, they will have more flexibility in deciding how they will deliver this arrangement.
- There will be new system for Serious Case reviews, with a number of high profile reviews being managed nationally and others remaining at a local level.
- The Child Death Overview Panel will become regional and be located within health.

- 3.16 The Serious Case Review legislation is before parliament, but the other changes will require legislation and may take some years to implement.

4.0 ALIGNMENT WITH THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

- 4.1 Priority 1: Ensure a positive start to life for children, young people and their families
 Priority 4: Create a safe environment and help to build strong communities, wellbeing and Mental health
 Priority 6: Work together effectively

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed high level Plan for Cambridgeshire strategic partnerships is designed to complement and support the priorities and Business Planning processes for the Boards, including the HWB.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION/DECISION REQUIRED

- 6.1 Acknowledge receipt of the LSCB Annual Report 2015-16
 6.2 Approve the proposal to develop a high level plan coordinating the priorities and business plans of the relevant strategic partnerships.

7.0 SOURCE DOCUMENTS

7.1

Source Documents	Location
None except those referenced and linked within the body of the Report	NA