

CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB)
ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

To: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 17th Sept 2015

From: Andy Jarvis, LSCB Business Manager on behalf of
Flick Schofield, LSCB Chair

1. PURPOSE

1. 1 The purpose of the Annual Report is:

- to provide an outline of the main activities of the Cambridgeshire LSCB and the achievements during 2014-15 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 Working Together (2015) states:

1. 3 “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.

1. 4 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...”

1. 5 It is the intention of the LSCB to share this report with all partner agencies and with those that have influence over the services provided to children and families in Cambridgeshire.

1. 6 In preparing this report, contributions were sought from Board members and the chairs of all sub-groups as well as from other partnerships. It summarises

the information contained in reports presented to the LSCB, either on a statutory basis or at the Board's request.

1. 7 In submitting the report to this meeting (see Appendix A), the LSCB is fulfilling this duty. Please note, this is a draft of the report as at the date of submission the report had not been presented yet to the LSCB on 22nd September 2015

1. 8 Once published it will be put on the website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/

2.0 BACKGROUND

2. 1 Since the beginning of 2014 OFSTED has been reviewing LSCBs, alongside the inspection of the Local Authority. One of the descriptors of a 'good' LSCB in the OFSTED framework is that "through its annual report, provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It identifies areas of weakness and the causes of those weaknesses, and evaluates and where necessary challenges the action being taken. The report includes lessons from management reviews, serious case reviews and child deaths within the reporting period"

2. 2 When the LSCB was reviewed by OFSTED in June 2014 a part of the Council's inspection of safeguarding and services for Looked after Children (LAC), the LSCB was judged to be 'good'.

2. 3 To meet its purpose the Report is lengthy. Half of the pages make up five appendices that provide more detailed information referred to within the body of the Report.

2. 4 The Report does have an executive summary that covers the most significant content of the full Report.

2. 5 Since April the LSCB has been working to the Action Plans attached to the Report. Significant progress has been made towards the year's targets.

2. 6 A further Serious Case review has been published, a multi-agency audit has been completed and a second one is in progress. The lessons from these activities are processed into changes in service delivery through a Learning and Improvement Framework, which is currently being refreshed.

2. 7 As part of a wider focus on protecting children from professionals who pose a risk, a well-attended and very positively received Conference "When it's one of us, professionals who abuse" took place in July.

2. 8 The capacity of the Board to support this work has been hampered by the absence of a Business Manager, but the new post holder has now started. It is also in the process of appointing a CSE Strategy Coordinator to increase the LSCBs capacity to support the development of multi-agency working in this critical area of concern.

3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

3.1. The work of the LSCB detailed in its Annual Report is aligned to the following areas of the Health and Wellbeing strategy 2012-17:

- Priority One: Ensure a positive start to life for children, young people and their families – ensuring the basic safety to the child or young person is the fundamental aim of the LSCB partners
- Priority Four: Create a safe environment and help to build strong communities, wellbeing and mental health, especially around the focus areas of domestic abuse and alcohol misuse and their impact upon children
- Priority Six: Working Together Effective, especially in demonstrating the LSCB's effectiveness in achieving its objective of co-ordination of safeguarding children work and the ensuring the effectiveness of that work

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The LSCB will continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of services which safeguard children in Cambridgeshire and will identify any gaps in service provision and support the management of the risks to effective safeguarding.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION/DECISION REQUIRED

5.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- offer feedback and comment on the work of the LSCB
- confirm that, including the Safeguarding Adults Board, all three statutory partnerships share the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategic priority to:

“Develop integrated services across education, health, social care and the voluntary sector which focus on the needs of the child in the community, including the growing numbers of children with the most complex needs, and where appropriate ensure an effective transition to adult services”

Source Documents	Location
OFSTED framework for the Inspection for the Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection	http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-and-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-services-for-children-need-of-help-and-protection
The full Ofsted Report	http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/cambridgeshire