

Children and Young People's Services Select Committee

20 June 2018

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17

Report by Executive Director Children, Adults, Families, Health & Education and Director of Children and Family Services

Summary

The West Sussex Safeguarding Childrens Board (WSSCB) Annual Report is presented as a means of highlighting the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The report provides an overview of the progress made with regards to Child Sexual Exploitation, changes within the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help model and the improvements within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub during 2016/17.

The focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to consider the Report, and to comment on whether any further scrutiny into these areas is required.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the Committee considers the successes and areas for improvement for the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (WSSCB) in 2016/17
- (2) That the Committee consider the WSSCB's Key Messages for partner agencies and West Sussex County Council

Proposal

1. Background and Context

- 1.1. The WSSCB Annual Report is presented to the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee as a means of highlighting the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. This affords an opportunity for the Committee to understand the progress and challenges in the delivery of services to safeguard children and promote their well-being, and how we can ensure a joined up approach to the delivery of safeguarding priorities across the whole West Sussex community.
- 1.2 The Annual Report provides a reflective approach through 2016/17 which follows the journey of the child through the multi-agency safeguarding system, highlighting the partnership's strengths and the challenges it faces. The recent significant changes and successes in 2017/18 such as the development of the 'Pause Project' and the implementation of 'Mind of My Own', with the recruitment of a new independent chair and board manager will be captured within this year's report, due for publication in the autumn 2018.

2. Proposal

2.1. 2016/17 saw the successful instigation and delivery of a number of key strands of work across children's safeguarding, including:

- The introduction of the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help (IPEH) model throughout the county.
- The development and improvement of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- The development of robust services to effectively manage Child Sexual Exploitation.

2.2. The WSSCB acknowledges that there are still improvements to be made in 2017/18, including:

- The continuing development of additional partner agency resources within the MASH.
- Improving the community awareness and development of responses to child exploitation and wider criminalisation.
- Developing and implementing our learning throughout the partnership from our Serious Case Reviews.

3. Child Exploitation and Missing

3.1 In 2016/17 the partnership made improvements to our work to address Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children across West Sussex. This has now been developed to ensure all Child Exploitation (CE), Criminalisation and Missing continue to be priorities in 2017/18. In particular we will be continuing to develop our improvements in identifying and responding to CE. The specific focus will be upon our most vulnerable children, and engaging with our partners across the Service Industry and Night Time Economy to increase exploitation awareness.

4. Improving the effectiveness of the Board

4.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the Wood Review were published during the year. These documents amend the overarching 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guidance and in turn require the WSSCB to review, reflect and create a new structure to ensure it underpins its formal requirements.

4.2 Significant changes have also been made to Chapters 3, 4 and 5 of Working Together to Safeguard Children, which deal with the arrangements for Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Overview Panels. These require the Board to amend their processes to reflect these changes, for example the development to National Serious Case Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or the transferring of 'Child Death Overview' from Department for Education to the Department of Health.

4.3 This emerging landscape allows the WSSCB an opportunity to develop innovative structures and processes to ensure the newly developed partnership is effective and accountable.

5. Our priority areas for Multi-Agency action 2016-19

5.1 The WSSCB Business Plan focuses on four priority areas:

- Prevention and protection of children at risk of or experiencing neglect.
- Provision of Early Help to children.
- Prevention and protection of children from exploitation and abuse.
- Children's emotional well-being and mental health.

6. Key messages for Partner Agencies

6.1 The WSSCB annual report includes our messages for partner agencies to take forward in their work in 2017/18.

6.2 To improve our services we will develop a culture of listening to children, young people and their families about their experiences and how we can best support them in the future.

6.3 We recognise and value the strength of partner engagement with the WSSCB. We will maximise the delivery of our partnership of services to improve our ability to work together, particularly in relation to the neglect, exploitation and mental health of the children we serve.

6.4 We will develop a robust and effective structure to enable the WSSCB to comply with the new Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance, providing a clear accountable framework to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people in West Sussex.

7. Key messages for Local Politicians

7.1 The WSSCB asks the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee to consider the following key messages:

- Your role is fundamental in advocating for children and families and ensuring that everyone is prioritising keeping children safe.
- To continue to support the WSSCB by ensuring that the partnership provides the most effective level of service to safeguard our children.

8. Resources

8.1 There are no resource implications arising from this retrospective review.

Factors taken into account

9. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee

- 9.1 The Committee considers the WSSCB Annual Report on an annual basis. Members are asked to consider the report, and whether there are any areas for further scrutiny.

10. Consultation

- 10.1 The original report received full consultation, and there is no further requirement for consultation as part of this retrospective scrutiny exercise.

11. Risk Management Implications

- 11.1 The original report was fully risk-assessed, and no further consideration is necessary as part of this retrospective scrutiny exercise.

12. Other Options Considered

- 12.1 Not required, as this report is providing an update on outcomes.

13. Equality Duty

- 13.1 The original report was fully appraised under the Equality Duty, and no further consideration is necessary as part of this retrospective scrutiny exercise.

14. Social Value

- 14.1 The report describes and evidences the Social Value of partner's activity throughout the county.

15. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 15.1 None

16. Human Rights Implications

- 16.1 None

Kim Curry
Executive Director Children,
Adults, Families, Health & Education

Annie MacIver
Director of Children and
Family Services

Contact: Jonathan Brydon, Head of Safeguarding.

Appendix A: WSSCB Annual Report 2016/17

Background Papers - None