

Cabinet

16 November 2016

Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16



Report of Corporate Management Team

**Margaret Whellans, Interim Corporate Director of Children and
Young People's Services**

**Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and
Young People's Services**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16. The full annual report is available on the LSCB website www.durham-lscb.org.uk. Attached at Appendix 2 is the Young People version of the Annual Report.

Background

2. Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004. It is independently chaired (as required by statute) and consists of senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people in County Durham.
3. Its statutory objectives are to:
 - a. Coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
 - b. Ensure the effectiveness of its work.
4. The LSCB's primary responsibility is to provide a way for local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in County Durham and to ensure that they do so effectively.
5. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.
6. The LSCB has had a year of development during 2015/16. Following the Local Government Association peer review in October 2014 a self-improvement plan was implemented which culminated in a "good" Ofsted rating in May 2016.

Annual Report

7. The Durham LSCB Annual Report 2015/16 sets out the work of multi-agency partners to ensure effective arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people from abuse and neglect.
8. The report describes the work undertaken against the 2015-16 priorities and sets out the future priorities for 2016-19. It describes the local governance arrangements and structure of Durham LSCB; the linkages to other strategic partnerships across County Durham; and working with other LSCBs.
9. The report also provides an overview of the performance monitoring framework as well as providing a brief summary of safeguarding privately fostered children; the use of restraint in secure centres; Serious Case Reviews; Child Death Reviews; and the single and multi-agency training provision.
10. As part of the Children Commissioners Takeover Challenge 2016 the LSCB has developed an interactive version of the annual report for young people. Based on the full annual report, and written in clear language for young people, it provides general safeguarding information and covers the LSCB Priorities from a young person's perspective. The Durham LSCB Annual Report for Young People is primarily an interactive electronic document and is best viewed on a computer, tablet or smartphone.
11. We have directly engaged with a range of young people to provide the content for each of the sections. We have also engaged with young people groups within two secondary schools to act as an editor's group; providing feedback and shaping how the final document looks. The Durham LSCB Annual Report for Young People will be officially launched on the 15 November 2016 as part of the planned activity for the Takeover Challenge.

LSCB Priorities for 2016-19

12. Durham LSCB held a development day in February 2016 to review progress on the priorities; consider key challenges; and to set its future priorities. In setting the priorities for 2016-19 the Board considered a number of presentations and information sources which resulted in reaffirming the following strategic priorities:
 - **Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation**
 - **Improving Early Help**
 - **Reducing Neglect (contributory factors are domestic abuse; alcohol misuse; substance misuse; parental mental health)**
 - **Reducing self-harm and improving young people's self-esteem**
 - **Increase the voice of the child**
 - **Ensuring that each agency is accountable for delivery of its own safeguarding responsibilities**

Achievements and Progress Highlights

13. Below are some examples of achievements and progress made by the LSCB in 2015/16:

- Refreshed the Early Help and Neglect Strategy to include more focus on Hidden Harm (domestic abuse; alcohol misuse; substance misuse and parental mental health).
- Developed the Early Help and Neglect Practice Guidance to provide updated toolkits and strategies for practitioners to use and implement.
- Revised the 0-19 Level of Need threshold document which provides a quick-reference guide to support professionals in their decision-making.
- Development and launch of the 'ERASE' brand and website has increased our capability to raise awareness about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- Delivered taxi driver awareness training of CSE with over 1,000 trained to date.
- Delivered a comprehensive training plan for frontline staff and managers and extending the number of e-learning packages available with the aim of impacting on frontline practice.
- Revamped the performance scorecard to provide a realistic number of outcome measures that are aligned to our priorities.
- Completed the section 11 audit which provided evidence that organisations safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people and followed this with a number of Challenge Clinics to hold organisations to account.
- Completed a number of multi-agency audits including attendance by relevant organisations at Section 47 Strategy Meetings.
- Increased visibility and partnership working through implementation of the LSCB Marketing and Communication Strategy, including revising the LSCB website and developing a LSCB Newsletter.
- Increased the voice of the child by widening the engagement networks for children and young people.
- Developed and implemented a child death review database. This allows the LSCB to identify and monitor developing trends through better analysis of data.
- Carried out a number of Lessons Learned events for managers and frontline staff following publication of Serious Case Reviews.

Areas for Development – Ofsted Inspection

14. Following the Ofsted inspection an action plan was put in place to address the recommendations made to the LSCB which included:

- ensuring that quality assurance and performance management processes are further developed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the quality and impact of frontline practice in all service areas to underpin strategic understanding, challenge and development.

- ensuring that quality assurance and audit work contribute to understanding the impact of training and the embedding of lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews.
- developing more effective feedback processes from children, young people and families who have received child protection services to support ongoing service improvement.

Conclusion

15. The Durham LSCB Annual Report 2015-16 was agreed at the LSCB Board Meeting on the 22 September 2016.
16. The annual report is available on the Durham LSCB Website www.durham-lscb.org.uk and will be disseminated through partners own organisational governance structures. The report will also be presented, for information, at the next available Children and Families Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and Safe Durham Partnership Board meetings.
17. The Durham LSCB Annual Report for Young People will be officially launched on the 15 November 2016 as part of the planned activity for the Takeover Challenge.

Recommendations

18. Cabinet is requested to endorse the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Reports (both the full version and the report for Young People attached as Appendix 2).

Contact: Peter Appleton, Head of Planning and Service Strategy
03000 267388

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Yearly financial contributions to Durham LSCB are received from partner agencies and are detailed in the LSCB Annual Report.

Staffing

The priorities identified in the LSCB Annual Report will be delivered using existing resources. Durham County Council will contribute to the delivery of the priorities in partnership with other responsible authorities.

Risk

No adverse implications.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty

The LSCB Annual Report identifies the actions to safeguard the needs of vulnerable children and young people.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and disorder

The LSCB Annual Report reflects priorities and action that impact positively on crime and disorder in County Durham. The report shows effective partnership working with the Safe Durham Partnership.

Human rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

Consultation with partner agencies and stakeholders has been undertaken as part of the development of the LSCB Annual Report.

Procurement

No adverse implications.

Disability Issues

No adverse implications.

Legal Implications

Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004. Working Together to Safeguard Children (Statutory Guidance) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.

Appendix 2 – Durham LSCB Annual Report For Young People

Attached as a separate file