

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

19 JANUARY 2017

**REPORT OF CHILDREN & YOUNG
PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Children and Young People - Councillor Ann McCoy

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF STOCKTON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (SLSCB)

1. Summary

The attached report presents the Children & Young People Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of the SLSCB.

2. Recommendations

That the Stockton LSCB be recommended to:

1) participate and initiate discussion where necessary with other Tees Boards about the response to the Wood review and the opportunities to collaborate further and ensure a streamlined and efficient approach with partners.

2) continue to develop a self-assessment and review format of Board and sub group meetings to focus discussion on key issues and strengthen the co-ordination, challenge and change functions including the potential role of an Executive.

3) continue to identify ways to encourage all partner agencies to play a more active role in discussions, including varying the format of meetings.

4) provide training for SLSCB members to ensure that they have the skills to fulfil their roles, especially around assurance roles.

5) assure itself that it has responded to the Ofsted recommendations.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2015/16.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, in

accordance with paragraph 18 of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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- 3) continue to identify ways to encourage all partner agencies to play a more active role in discussions, including varying the format of meetings.
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DETAIL

1. Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) is the key statutory body responsible for overseeing and monitoring the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children in the borough and it is important that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, as the lead agency, takes steps to evaluate the effectiveness of SLSCB against the Ofsted inspection criteria.
2. The aim of the review by the Select Committee was to enable an independent assessment of the progress made by SLSCB to date and determine whether any additional actions are necessary.
3. During the course of the review, Ofsted undertook an inspection of children's services and rated the effectiveness of the SLSCB as "requiring improvement". The Committee have reviewed the relevant section of the report and recommendations.

4. The Committee undertook the following key lines of enquiry:

- What is the outgoing Chair's view about the effectiveness of the Board?
- What do Peer Reviews tell us about the effectiveness of the Board?
- How is the LSCB held to account?
- How effective has the LSCB been in monitoring and challenging the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements? What evidence is there that this challenge has led to changes in these arrangements and local working practices and relationships?
- How effective is the LSCB Local Learning and Improvement Framework in sharing lessons from experience and driving service quality and development?
- How does the LSCB systematically ensure that the voice and feedback of children is embedded in local safeguarding arrangements at the individual and strategic levels? Does the approach enable children from diverse backgrounds and with different needs to share their voice?
- What information does the Board received in order to meet its statutory duties?
- How is disagreement/ professional challenge resolved?
- How do we ensure that all partners procedures are in place?
- Are Governance structures fit for purpose?
- How does the Board deal with serious case reviews?
- How does the Board oversee early help services?
- What difference has the Board made?
- Why have we got four LSCBs across Tees?
- How is the Board financed?
- What interface does the Board have with other Boards?
- What do Ofsted judgements tell us about best practice?
- What does success look like?

5. In order to inform the review evidence has been taken from:

- Martin Gray
- Neil Schneider – Chief Executive
- Councillor Ann McCoy
- Colin Morris – Outgoing Chair of the Board
- Dave Pickard – Incoming Chair
- Board Members at Select Committee meetings
- Online Survey of Board Members
- Survey of Safeguarding Forum members (schools)
- Margaret Whellans, Assistant Director (Durham County Council)

In addition, Committee Members attended the LSCB at Durham County Council (rated "good" by Ofsted) and two LSCB meetings at Stockton.

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6. This report is not subject to an Impact Assessment at this stage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. This review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

10. The review seeks to support the Council's policy principles of:

- Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention
- Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention
- Developing strong and healthy communities

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

11. The Committee have received evidence as set out in the final report of the Select Committee.

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Education related? Yes

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

The proposals as a whole are not ward specific.

Property None