

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

21 JUNE 2017

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs McCoy

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2015/
2016**

1. Summary

The Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) is produced annually and is presented to Cabinet for information to Councillors in relation to the achievements and future challenges of the SLSCB. The Annual Report is attached.

2. Recommendations

1. That the 2015/2016 Annual Report of the Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board be noted.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

There is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004 and the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 for Local Safeguarding Children Boards to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area, including the implementation of Serious Case Review action plans.

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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2016**

SUMMARY

The Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) Annual Report is presented to Cabinet for information to Councillors in relation to the achievements and future challenges of the SLSCB. The Annual Report is attached.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the 2015 / 2016 Annual Report of the Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board be noted.

DETAIL

1. There is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004 and the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 for Local Safeguarding Children Boards to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area, including the implementation of Serious Case Review action plans.
2. In accordance with this statutory requirement the report was 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.
3. It is the intention of SLSCB to share this with all partner agencies and with those that have influence over the services provided to children and families in Stockton-on-Tees. The purpose of this report is:
 - To provide an outline of the main activities of SLSCB and achievements during 2015-16;
 - To comment on the effectiveness of safeguarding activity and of SLSCB in supporting this;
 - To provide the public and partner agencies with an overview of safeguarding activity;
 - To identify gaps and challenges in service development in the year ahead.
4. The key achievements and challenges of the Board for 2015 / 2016 are referenced in the SLSCB Annual Report which has been circulated with this report. The following is a snapshot of some of them:
 - Improved engagement with schools across Stockton-on-Tees.

- Improved intelligence sharing that allows the LSCB to understand how well partners are working together, where there are any potential shortcomings, and identify any specific areas for improvement.
- Endorsement and support of the Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub.
- New relationship twinned with colleagues working in Hartlepool which will allow this to be taken onto a new level, whilst at the same bringing further consistency of practice across the two Local Authority areas.
- Training needs analysis undertaken and greater recognition of impact evaluations used to influence the 2016 / 2017 multi-agency training programme.
- Time invested exploring ways of developing service interventions that bring about change and deliver help at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Investment in ways of working to listen, hear and respond to the voice of the child.
- Revised operating structure focusing on:
 - ❖ Ensuring co-operation and co-ordination between agencies;
 - ❖ Effective challenge and scrutiny of policies, practice and performance;
 - ❖ Enabling change to improve outcomes.

5. During the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and review of effectiveness of the LSCB, Ofsted noted that *"the Board has a very good understanding of its strengths and weaknesses. SLSCB meets its statutory functions. It benefits from appropriate multi-agency membership, very good attendance and strong commitment, including from three lay members who bring independent challenge to the board's work"*. A series of recommendations were made, many of which were already in hand having been recognised by the Board as areas for improvement.

- Development and implementation of the Tees LSCBs Performance Framework.
- Improved understanding of thresholds for referrals to the Children's Hub.
- Greater involvement and response to the views of children and young people to influence the work of the Board and the safeguarding practice of all partner agencies.
- Multi-agency training programme to be based on evaluation of need.
- 2015/2016 SLSCB Report to be succinct, and include a clear analysis of performance and the effectiveness of partner agencies in undertaking their safeguarding functions.

6. All partners of SLSCB strive to make continual improvements of their effectiveness in ensuring the safety and well-being of children both individually and as a partnership whilst at the same time recognising the challenges faced, locally, regionally and nationally.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

7. It is not considered necessary to produce an equality impact assessment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Financial contributions are made to SLSCB by member agencies and this forms part of the mainstream budget reporting through the usual channels.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The legal context for SLSCB activity is covered in the following legislation:

- Section 14 (1) of the Children Act 2004
- Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
- Working Together to Safeguard Children Statutory Guidance 2015

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. SLSCB Annual Report 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

11. The Report supports the Council's policy principles of:
 - Protecting the vulnerable
 - Developing strong and healthy communities
12. The Report particularly supports the approach of the Council and partners to protect the vulnerable and develop strong and healthy communities, through providing assurance of how this partnership Board is working together to safeguard children, improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities. This is being progressed through a combination of universal and targeted activities, to meet the varying needs of children and their families
13. Improving outcomes for children by effective service delivery will impact on their potential quality of life in adulthood thus protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention.
14. In addition the effective safeguarding of children and young people will also have a significant impact on developing strong and healthy communities.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

15. For those children who are looked after, the Council has a responsibility as corporate parent to ensure that their needs are appropriately met, this includes ensuring they are safe and in suitable secure placements.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

16. The report has been considered by the Council's Leader and Chief Executive Officer. Additionally, the Independent Chair of the Board has presented the Annual Report to the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board and Children & Young People Select Committee.

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Education related
 No

Background Papers
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:
 Not applicable

Property
 There are no implications for Council property.