

AGENDA ITEM
REPORT TO COUNCIL
14 MARCH 2018
REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM

STOCKTON-ON-TEES LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT 2016 / 2017

SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the 2016 / 2017 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. It was also endorsed at Cabinet on 14 December 2017.
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 2016-17;
 - 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 2016 / 2017 are referenced in the SLSCB 2016 /2017 Annual Report which has been circulated with this report. The following is a snapshot of some of the other achievements:
 - All of the Councils Children's Homes, including those developed as part of the joint venture with Spark of Genius, were rated good or outstanding.

- £31million secured to invest in school and nursery buildings across the Borough.
 - 62.4 per cent of young people across Stockton-on-Tees attained five A*-C grades including English and Maths.
 - The joint multi agency Children's Hub with Hartlepool providing advice and guidance on services and support for children, young people and families was established
 - 99% of early years provision were rated good or outstanding
 - 4.7% young people were either Not in Education, Employment or Training or Not Known, compared to a national average of 5.7%.
 - Concordat for Children in Custody alongside a Tees Vulnerable People in Custody Group report was considered and an action plan for improvement was developed.
 - Findings from the CQC Children Looked After and Safeguarding Review (Hartlepool) was discussed to consider the implications for services in Stockton-on-Tees. Assurance was obtained around the CAMHS DNA pathway, and the LAC Nurse/Named Nurse arrangements. This was a productive piece of work from which learning was shared to improve local circumstances.
 - 700 taxi drivers and private hire firms received training so they can help protect vulnerable adults and safeguard children
 - The Youth Offending Team was praised by the Youth Justice Board for its "excellent performance", particular reference was made to safeguarding work.
5. The Year Ahead – 2017 / 2018
- The embedded working approach introduced during 2016 / 2017 will remain, focusing on:
- Ensuring co-operation and co-ordination between agencies
 - Effective challenge and scrutiny of policies, practice and performance
 - Enabling change to improve outcomes
6. In addition the Board will continue with its two operational priority areas of:
- a) **Preventing harm:** tackling the root causes of neglect, with a focus on domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol and parental mental health
 - b) **Protecting vulnerable children:** reducing the risks of children and young people who are VEMT or at risk of being VEMT.

It will also continue to build upon its third priority area - **business improvement**.

7. Work will also include the following, which is not in any particular order and in some cases is already underway as we produce the 2016 / 17 Annual Report:
- Review and propose preferred footprint option for the new Safeguarding Partnership that is required from the Children & Social Work Act 2017.
 - Continue to request Operational Assurance Reports as a means of facilitating effective scrutiny and challenge.
 - Champion the Graded Care Profile 2 Assessment Tool
 - Request assurance of effectiveness of the Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub.
 - Recognise the importance of ensuring Children Missing Education are monitored / seen to avoid them being 'lost'.
 - Challenge all agencies to share learning from single agency audits highlighting that this is not solely the function of Children's Social Care.
 - Monitor improvements and the impact made, following the appointment of the VEMT Co-ordinator.
 - Highlight and share good practice related to the 'Future in Mind Programme' that will take place within schools to support mental wellbeing of children.
 - Continue to ask 'So What' and 'Why' in order to establish the impact of work taking place with children and their families.
8. 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

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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

13. The Report supports the Council's policy principles of:
 - Protecting the vulnerable
 - Developing strong and healthy communities
14. 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
15. 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.
16. 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

17. 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

13. 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.