

Health and Wellbeing Board

21st January 2015

Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Annual Report 2013-14

Recommendation

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board considers and comments on the content of the report.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 The independent chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is required to publish an annual report which evaluates the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children in the local authority area. This report must be submitted to the LA Chief Executive, the leader of the Council, the PCC and the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.2 The substance of the WSCB report is set out in three main parts. The first addresses progress against the WSCB strategic objectives, the second contains reports from partner agencies on their individual safeguarding activity during the year, and the final part contains performance data and an analysis of this. The main findings of the performance data are summarised at page 50.
- 1.3 A report of the Child Death review function of the LSCB is provided separately. This is because Warwickshire has a partnership arrangement with Coventry and Solihull Local authorities and a report is compiled in respect of the sub-region. The Child Death Review panel reviews all children who die in the County, and identifies modifiable factors in the services provided to the child and their family, which if changed might prevent future similar deaths.
- 1.4 A substantial finding of the report is that children with disabilities and children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are under-represented at all levels of the safeguarding continuum. This raises the question of whether the safeguarding needs of these children are being recognised and addressed.
- 1.5 It was not possible to be provided with all the performance measures requested to assess child sexual exploitation (CSE) activity, because some agencies were not collecting data in a way that facilitated extracting the information requested. Partners have been asked to address this so that progress in this important area can be tracked.

- 1.6 Only a fifth of children reported missing to the police are receiving the 'return home' interview required by statutory guidance because the single Missing Children's practitioner has insufficient capacity to see more. The evidence suggests that where this intervention is offered it is effective in preventing or reducing further missing episodes, and these interventions have also resulted in potentially harmful CSE activity being identified and curtailed.
- 1.7 There has been a steady increase in private fostering activity during the time the specialist practice leader has been in post. This includes increasing numbers of consultations, referrals, and assessments of new private fostering situations, and means more of these vulnerable children are being appropriately supported.
- 1.8 Overall, safeguarding activity continues to rise. The increases are greater in the number of children receiving services at CAF/ early help and child in need levels, suggesting some success at intervening earlier.

Background papers

1. WSCB annual report 2013-2014
2. CDOP Annual report 2013-2014

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