

**Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board
9 November 2016**

**Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual
Report**

Summary:

The independent chair of WSCB produces an annual report each year which evaluates the effectiveness of partner agencies' work to safeguard children.

The report includes an analysis of the year's performance data, and reports on the impact of work done under each of the WSCB's strategic priorities. It makes recommendations for further work to be carried out in 2016-17.

Recommendation:

That the HWBB notes the conclusions and recommendations of the WSCB Annual Report, and considers the implications of these for its own priorities and objectives.

1. Purpose of the report.

- 1.1 Working Together (2015) requires that the independent Chair of each LSCB must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area, and provide the report to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Well-being Board.
- 1.2 The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.
- 1.3 LSCBs should conduct regular assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation and include in the report information on the outcome of these assessments. This should include an analysis of how the LSCB partners have used their data to promote service improvement for vulnerable children and families, including in respect of sexual abuse. The report should also include appropriate data on children missing from care, and how the LSCB is addressing the issue.
- 1.4 WSCB has four strategic priorities, one of which is CSE. The others are the board's own governance, neglect and diversity and equality. The progress, and impact of work carried out under these priorities is addressed in the report.

- 1.5 Additionally WSCB has core statutory business which is set out in Working Together. As well as production of the Annual Report these are:
- Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority.
 - Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve.
 - Communicate to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raise their awareness of how this can best be done and encourage them to do so.
 - Undertake reviews of serious cases, sharing learning across the organisations and supporting organisational change where appropriate to promote the welfare of children through improved safeguarding practices.
 - Participate in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority.
 - A review of each death of a child normally resident in the LSCB's area is undertaken by a CDOP

The report also addresses these activities.

2. Conclusions.

- 2.1 The overall evaluation and conclusion can be found on pages 71-73 of the report.
- 2.2 Work to tackle area of CSE is going well. There is an improvement in understanding of the issues among staff in Warwickshire, and the increase in referrals and plans for children with CSE related needs is seen as a strength. The County Council's response to missing children is improving.
- 2.3 Interpretation of thresholds for services is still problematic, with variation across the County that cannot be explained by demographic variation. This means we cannot be sure that children across Warwickshire have equal access to safeguarding services based on need.
- 2.4 Agencies are still not consistently recording information about the diversity of their service users, which suggests this issues does not have the profile it should within agencies. We are therefore not able to understand the apparent under representation of black, minority ethnic and non-English speaking children in our performance data.

Enquiries: Cornelia Heaney, WSCB Development Manager
corneliaheaney@warwickshire.gov.uk