

## **Health and Wellbeing Board**

**18 September 2018**

### **Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2017-2018**

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board acknowledges the delay in production of the WSCB Annual Report and agrees the process for distribution of the final document when published.

#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Working Together (2015) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an annual report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The report is submitted to the Leader of the local authority and to the Chief Executive, reflecting the fact that currently overall accountability for the safety and welfare of children and young people resides with them. It is also sent to relevant Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Police and Crime Commissioner reflecting the lead agency roles of Health and Police in safeguarding children. A copy should also be lodged with the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.2 The guidance states that the annual 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 these weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action'. In doing this the report will recognise achievements and progress as well as identifying challenges and will demonstrate the extent to which the functions of your Safeguarding Children Board are being discharged. This will include commentary upon Serious Case Reviews commissioned through the Board and the progress made on actions arising from them along with a report on the work of the Child Death Overview Panel. All of this feeds into the priority setting and the work programme for the following year.

#### **2.0 Production of the Annual Report for 2017/18**

- 2.1 The report has not reached publication stage and the content is not ready to be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board in draft.
- 2.2 The reasons for this are outlined below:-
  - i) The post of Independent Chair was held up to November 2017 by David Peplow and, upon his resignation, w.e.f 1/11/2017, Mike Taylor took on the

- post of interim Joint Chair of both Safeguarding Boards. This led to inconsistency of oversight of management of the Board Development Manager and a presumption that the process for collecting the relevant material and drafting the report would be the same for both Boards;
- ii) The demands upon the workload of the Board Development Manager were extensive throughout 2017/18 with the engagement with the Ofsted inspection and the consequent response to the section of the findings relating to the performance of the LSCB, which was found to be requiring improvement. Alongside this, the postholder made a significant direct contribution – around 30% of her time - to the work of Serious Case Reviews commissioned by the LSCB and this reduced availability for Board management tasks.
  - iii) The Board Development Manager left her post in mid-July 2018 and there was delay in resolving the means of covering her workload, which has only just been resolved.
  - iv) There is no statutory timescale for production and publication of the report. Up to 6 months beyond year end would seem reasonable and effective to deal with scrutiny feedback. Statistics and activity measures are not required to be lodged with the Department for Education until October. Whilst the report is not dependent upon these, they do form a significant element of our reporting. The Board has been without a Chair of its Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee for several months and this has compounded the collection and analysis.

### **3.0 Conclusions**

- 3.1 It is right and proper that I take responsibility for the failure to deliver a finished article in time for this Board meeting and I apologise to members for that. I will lead on the production of an Annual Report for 2017/18.
- 3.2 Once ready for publication, I propose to submit it to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board with a covering report advising on key issues and recommending any matters requiring reference to the Board. I am aware that your next full meeting is in January 2019 and this will be a full 9 months after the year in question.
- 3.3 Members will note that there has recently been an appointment to the substantive post of Joint Chair of your Safeguarding Boards and the new Working Together, published earlier this year, gives equivalent responsibility to the three Safeguarding Partners and opens up the possibility of major revision to the scrutiny of safeguarding services and performance reporting which will apply in 2019/20.

### **Background papers**

- 1. Working Together 2015

Report Author: Mike Taylor – Interim Independent Chair Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board