

## Health and Wellbeing Board

9 January 2019

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

#### Recommendation

1. The Health and Well Being Board receive Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB) Annual Report for 2017-2018 (**Appendix.1**) and note the progress it has made against its strategic priorities; and how this has contributed towards vulnerable members of our communities being supported to be independent and safe.

#### 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.
- 1.2 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.

#### 2.0 Content and Outcomes

- 2.1 2017-2018 remained a busy year for WSCB. Amongst conducting its statutory functions of carrying out serious case reviews and maintaining an overview of child deaths across the county, the Board was also placed under the scrutiny of an Ofsted Inspection in May 2017.
- 2.2 The Inspection found a number of areas of good practice, pertaining to:
  - The work of the Child Death Overview Panel; and
  - The development of a robust understanding of children missing and at high risk of sexual exploitation

It also identified a number of areas requiring improvement, as illustrated below:

- LSCB needs to complete a review of the effectiveness of the early help offer without delay.

- LSCB needs to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of multi-agency and single agency auditing of safeguarding practice.
- LSCB should ensure it has a full understanding of any gaps in the provision of equitable services to children who have a disability or are of different cultural and ethnic background
- LSCB needs to ensure that neglect screening and assessment tools are implemented and that a plan is in place to review their effectiveness.

Good progress was made in respect of Early Help with the engagement of the Local Government Association in a Peer Review, which resulted in a defined action plan and engagement with the Board in the formulation of an Early Help Strategy. This provides WSCB with a clear role in monitoring delivery against the Strategy and the newly developed Threshold document.

A Neglect toolkit has now been developed and implemented, the effectiveness of which will be evaluated through audits and other scrutiny work.

2.3 WSCB continued to deliver a multi-agency training programme throughout the year, building into the content areas of learning identified through serious case reviews and child death reviews, to promote awareness and understanding.

2.4 The performance data for 2017-2018 presents the following information:

- Number of contacts and referrals received remained relatively the same as the previous year, whilst the source of referrals coming in from individuals, family/relative or carers and acquaintances continued to rise (**1,995 in 2016-2017 to 2,552 in 2017-2018**). This could be interpreted as there being more confidence amongst individuals to make referrals and seek support.
- Number of Looked After Children continued to rise from **698 in 2016-2017 to 711 in 2017-2018**. This trend is also reflected in the number of Children subject to Child Protection Plans (**439 in 2016-2017 to 564 in 2017-2018**)
- **Males remained the highest number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan** in line with previous years (with the exception of 2016-2017, when females were the highest recorded number)
- **Multiple types of abuse was registered as the highest category of abuse** for Children subject to a Child Protection Plan, followed by Emotional Abuse and Neglect

2.5 The review of Working Together to Safeguarding Children has enabled the Board to engage in discussion with Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) to look at any opportunities, which would help to better align/strengthen the work of the two boards, providing a 'Think Family' approach to safeguarding across Warwickshire; and ensure better use of resources.

These discussions continue to take place as the strategic lead partners start to define the new partnership arrangements for the LSCB, which will replace the Board with effect from June 2019 under the guidance of the new Working Together 2018 statutory guidance.

### 3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The Annual Report has now been published on the Safeguarding Warwickshire website and distributed amongst partner organisations for wider circulation.

### Background papers

1. WSCB Annual Report 2017-2018

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