

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR EDUCATION, ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	6 NOVEMBER 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	READING LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR JAN GAVIN	PORTFOLIO:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SERVICE:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Reading and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do (Working Together To Safeguard Children 2013).
- 1.2 This Annual Report is being presented to the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee to ensure members are informed about the achievements of the LSCB for the 2013/2014 financial year. The Annual Report has a wide distribution and is sent to key stakeholders and partners so that they can be informed about the work and use the information in planning within their own organisations to keep children and young people safe.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee note the attached annual report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 As required by Working Together 2013, the LSCB Chair is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting welfare of children in Reading.
- 3.2 In line with this statutory guidance the report is presented to the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee for information. It has also been presented to the Children's Trust Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Partnership working is a vital ingredient for an effective LSCB and this report contains information on some of the activities and achievements which have taken place that demonstrate this. Board members both champion and lead the safeguarding agenda within their agency and bring to the LSCB issues regarding safeguarding that relate primarily to their own agency, but which have implications for the co-operation between agencies and the monitoring role of the Board.

4.2 Within the report the LSCB achievements and challenges are listed. For reference these are:

LSCB Achievements

- Hosting arrangements have been put in place for all sub-groups to improve communication links with LSCBs;
- Workshop on Serious Case Review models held March 2014 to consider the range of models available;
- Business planning session was carried out in December 2013 to identify priorities for the 2014-2017 LSCB Business Plan;
- LSCB member development session held with members in October 2013 on leadership and challenge, with a further session for Executive members in June 2014;
- Berkshire West LSCBs and Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board held their annual joint safeguarding conference in September 2013; the theme for the conference was Sexual Abuse;
- Raising awareness of child sexual exploitation amongst young people, parents and the wider community, through a LSCB and Thames Valley Police jointly funded project with performances of 'Chelsea's Choice' in Reading secondary schools.
- Reading safeguarding information updates emailed weekly;
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) operational multi-agency sub-group established to address CSE locally;
- New CSE e-learning course launched for all LSCB partner organisations;
- Developed effective links with CCGs in their first year of operation; including reps for the LSCB and LSCB executive;
- Published threshold criteria and assessment protocol for Children's Services;
- Recruited successfully new lay members
- Berkshire wide lay members meetings held to increase awareness of the role and to network with others across Berkshire;
- Commissioned a presentation on the Serious Case Review of Daniel Pelka which was delivered to the LSCB and made available as PowerPoint for dissemination to all LSCB partners;
- Agreed a protocol between the Thames Valley LSCBs and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre; to improve communication and reporting;
- Task-group set up to take forward the intercollegiate recommendations Tackling FGM in the UK;
- Berkshire Child Protection Procedures have been updated in relation to recent guidance on CSE, missing children and safe staffing;
- A signs of safety model approach has been introduced to the front sheets submitted with each report to the LSCB to ensure achievements and challenges are easily identified, plus impact on children and young people;

- The Youth Cabinet presented issues surrounding mental health at a Board meeting which has led to actions being taken forward across agency, and the LSCB support of their Mental Health charter and campaign.

LSCB Challenges

- Developing an agreed dataset; agencies providing context and commentary to the data;
- Monitor police and GP attendance and reporting to Child Protection Conferences to ensure contribution is effective;
- Voice of the child - this issue is discussed at every Board meeting and impact is requested as part of the front sheet but more work is needed to really hear the child's voice in the work of the LSCB;
- Ensure a section 11 return is completed by the local authority and any other organisations allocated to Reading LSCB by the pan-Berkshire Section 11 panel;
- Improve links with NHS England Local Area Teams and ensure they are fulfilling their Section 11 duties; including providing regular reports on the SARC

4.3 Evidencing the impact of safeguarding work is key to understanding what works and how we can improve. Within this report there are blue boxes which highlight where there is clear positive impact for children and young people in Reading.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 This report contributes to the following Council strategic aims:

- To establish Reading as a learning City and a stimulating and rewarding place to live and visit
- To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 This report has been written with contributions from all LSCB partners and circulated to the Board. It will be disseminated to all partners, the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Trust Board.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out for this report however, equality and diversity continues to be a key theme for the LSCB.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications with this report. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 requires that the LSCB to produce an annual report and that it be submitted to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None