

## READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	March 2019	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	17
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2017/2018		
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<b>ORGANISATION:</b>	Reading LSCB		

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board is the key statutory partnership whose role is to oversee how the relevant organisations co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Reading and to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements. (Working Together To Safeguard Children 2015).
- 1.2 This Annual Report is being presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure members are informed about the work of and achievements of the LSCB for the 2017/2018 financial year.

### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the attached annual report.
- 2.2 That the Health and Wellbeing Board request a report to a future meeting from the statutory safeguarding partners regarding the future multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, as required by Working Together 2018.

### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 As required by Working Together 2015, the LSCB Chair is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding arrangements and promotion of the welfare of children in Reading. The report must be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, the CEO of the Local Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.2 In line with this statutory guidance the report is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for information.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Partnership working and scrutiny underpin an effective LSCB and this report contains information on some of the activities and achievements which have taken place that demonstrate this and the impact this has on practice. 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 The LSCB achievements and progress for 2017/18 are listed within the annual report under the priority headings. Also specified are the ongoing concerns which the LSCB will continue to challenge in 2018/19, and associated actions, all of which are included within the LSCB Business Plan or via other partnership groups.

### **4.3 The future of the LSCB:**

During this reporting year and in line with recommendations made by partners involved in the three West of Berkshire LSCBs (Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham), the LSCB Chair oversaw the merger of the three Boards into one Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Board. This was developed as a transitional year, to establish how well a shared Board arrangement could work, and how this arrangement could morph into our future multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, as required by Working Together 2018.

### **4.4 Working Together Safeguard Children 2018**

Working Together 2018 requires a significant range of changes for LSCBs, including the removal of the statutory requirement to have an LSCB, an Independent LSCB Chair and a requirement for the three Safeguarding partners (Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Police) to agree and publish multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The three safeguarding partners will be expected to jointly ensure safeguarding practices are maintained, monitored and improved. In addition, Working Together 2018 includes the establishment of a new national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to undertake reviews of serious cases and the transfer of responsibility for child death reviews from LSCBs to new Child Death Review Partners under the governance of the Department of Health.

4.5 The statutory partners from across Berkshire West have been meeting as a Programme Board and plan to publish our local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

5.1 The work of the LSCB aligns with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy by contributing to the Strategy's priority to 'Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in children and young people'.

5.2 The report also supports the fact that Reading's 2017-20 Health and Wellbeing Strategy is built on three foundations - safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, recognising and supporting all carers, and high quality co-ordinated information to support wellbeing. The LSCB specifically addresses the first statement in all the work that it does.

## **6. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

6.1 The Annual report has been written with contributions from all LSCB partners and circulated to and agreed by the Board. It was disseminated to all partners and published on the LSCB website in November 18.

## **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 2015 requires that the LSCB to produce an annual report.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None