

|  |   |                                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Title of paper:</b>   | NCSCB ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15   |                                     |
| <b>Report to:</b>  | Children's Partnership Board  |                                     |
| <b>Date:</b>   | 16.12.2015  |                                     |
| <b>Relevant Director:</b>  | Alison Michalska<br>(Corporate Director, Children and Adults)   | <b>Wards affected:</b> All          |
| <b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>   | Chris Cook<br>(Independent Chair – Nottingham City Safeguarding Board)  |                                     |
| <b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>   | Safeguarding Boards Business Office   |                                     |
| <b>Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) priority:</b>  |   |                                     |
| <b>Safeguarding and supporting children and families:</b> Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.                                     |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people:</b> From pregnancy and throughout life, babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. |   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Supporting achievement and academic attainment:</b> All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.  |   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing:</b> More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>  |   |                                     |
| The Safeguarding Board's key purpose is to secure effective safeguarding arrangements for the children of Nottingham and to secure effective co-ordination between all agencies responsible for safeguarding.  |   |                                     |
| <b>Recommendations:</b>  |   |                                     |
| <b>1</b>   | To consider the annual report and identify any comments, proposed additions or amendments that the Board would wish to include. |                                     |
| <b>2</b>   | Subject to any comments, proposed additions or amendments to agree the Annual Report.   |                                     |
| <b>3</b>   | To identify any issues arising from the Annual report that will be built into Strategic Commissioning.                          |                                     |

## **1 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS**

It has been agreed that the Children's Partnership Board will be a partnership board that receives the Safeguarding Board's Annual Report as part of the annual consultative process. In addition, it has been agreed that the Children's Partnership Board will consider how the key objectives in the Safeguarding Board's Annual Business Plan will be built into Strategic Commissioning Plans.

It is a statutory requirement that the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board produce an Annual Report setting out its performance against key objectives and priorities for action in the Board Business Plan. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, as a result of the Care Act 2014, it became a statutory responsibility to produce an Annual Report for the Safeguarding Adult Board though this requirement would apply to the year 2015/16. It has always been our practice in Nottingham City to produce an annual report for the Children's Safeguarding Board even though this has not been a statutory requirement.

The main purpose of the annual reports is to assess the impact of the work we have undertaken in 2014/15 on service quality and effectiveness and on outcomes for children, young people in Nottingham City. Specifically the annual reports evaluate our performance against the priorities that we set in our Business Plans 2014/15 and other statutory functions that the LSCB must undertake.

Last year we combined the annual reports of the safeguarding boards into one report. This year we have reverted to presenting separate annual reports for the NCSCB and the NCASPB. The reasons are twofold. First there have been changes to the statutory frameworks within which both Boards work that underline the need for bespoke annual reports. Second, feedback from readers of last years' annual report suggested that the combined report was too complex and lengthy and risked diverting attention from key issues in the children and adult safeguarding arenas. For this reason two separate annual reports are being produced for presentation to the Health and Well-Being Board, the Scrutiny Committee, and the Children's Partnership Board. In addition there is an expectation that the Annual Reports will be presented to key strategic forums within those organisations that are members of the safeguarding boards.

The Annual Report covers a range of issues including:

- An outline of the local area safeguarding context setting out some core statistical and socio-economic profile information;
- The governance and accountability framework within which the Board operate including the relationship between the safeguarding board and the Children's Partnership Board and steps that have been taken to clarify inter-relationships between the safeguarding boards and the wider partnership geography in the city. This part of the annual report also sets out attendance at the board, an account of our annual expenditure and an analysis of the effectiveness of the Boards;
- Performance against the Business Plans for 2014/15 that analyses what we did and its impact on outcomes in relation to service effectiveness and outcomes for service users; this includes outlines of key work undertaken in safeguarding priority areas such as: sexual abuse; domestic violence (including the launch of DART); Missing Children; Child Sexual Exploitation Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Allegations Management; safeguarding policies and procedures; safeguarding training

and development activity; safeguarding in childcare and early years settings;  
safeguarding in schools and education settings;

- Specific reports from the Serious Case Review and Child Death Overview sub-groups of the Children's Safeguarding Board;
- An outline of individual partner agency safeguarding performance during 2014/15;
- A digest of the future challenges facing the Boards including our Business Plan for 2015/16.
- Analysis of the Board's quality assurance and performance management work in 2014/15 is set out in relevant sections of the report

Each report recognises much positive progress in relation to priorities set in the Business Plans 2014/15. In addition the reports identify areas for development and improvement. Headlines include:

### **In relation to children and young people:**

#### Strengths

- Continued commitment and engagement from the majority of partners on the Board and its constituent committees – including sharing of the chairing of sub-groups across agencies;
- Effective interfaces between NCSCB and the Children's Partnership Board and with the wider partnership geography through the Safeguarding Assurance Forum;
- Formulation and revision of practice guidance to ensure effective safeguarding and reflect national and local learning from reviews including serious case reviews;
- Significant focus on areas of improvement identified in the Ofsted inspection 2014 with some measure of success in many areas:
- Further embedding of 'Signs of Safety'
- Remodelled structures and organisational arrangements including review 'Front Door' arrangements and co-location of early help, targeted support/youth offending service and children's social care in one Directorate better to promote co-ordination of delivery and processes;
- CSE strategy and action plans have been health checked against the learning from national reviews in Rotherham, Oxfordshire and through Ofsted and action taken to address any areas of improvement that need to be applied in Nottingham City;
- A range of CSE training and awareness including the Pint Sized Theatre production LUVU2 in schools;
- The Concerns Network has supported the development of cross-agency co-ordination and collaboration in relation to CSE;
- Work with schools in relation to domestic violence including the Great programmes and the implementation of the early alert system;
- Work of the Domestic Abuse Response Team which received positive evaluation from Ofsted;
- Major review and revision of cross-authority multi-agency safeguarding procedures to ensure that they are Working Together 2013/2015 with positive reviews of impact from subsequent audit processes;

- Creation of a Communication and Engagement Sub-Group, launch of new NCSCB bulletin and identification of engagement initiatives across the partnership that can provide the basis for wider engagement of children and young people;
- Extensive programme of training and development from which 'end of course' evaluation evidence high levels of satisfaction;
- Publication of two serious case reviews and the implementation of recommendations for these and four learning reviews – the impact of which will be tested through the Quality Assurance Framework in 2015/16;
- Effective CDOP arrangements that have led to improvements in services and impact on 'avoidable' deaths.

#### Key areas for development and improvement

- Improved attendance and engagement from NHS England and from schools
- Recruitment of new lay members
- Consistency of attendance at subgroups most importantly the Quality Assurance Subgroup which has failed to secure quoracy on a number of occasions during 2014/15;
- Secure full compliance with the new budget contribution formula which requires either a reduction in overall budget or an increase in the level of contribution from the City Council;
- Further test the impact and effectiveness of the assessment framework, threshold protocol (Family Support Pathway) and Learning and Improvement Framework that was introduced post-Working Together 2013;
- Improved engagement of partners in the provision of quality assurance and performance management information for the Board to ensure that it is effectively able to test its impact;
- Extension of the Board's engagement with children and young people to ensure that their views and opinions shape the work of the NCSCB;
- Improvements in the provision of data for CSE and a greater emphasis on prosecutions of CSE perpetrators
- The appointment of a CSE Co-ordinator
- Greater interaction between the NCSCB and the Priority Families Programme;
- Finalise the safeguarding competency framework against which the longer term impact of training and development activities are evaluated;
- Act on the areas of improvement identified in SCRs and other learning reviews including: the impact of emotional health and well-being/emotional abuse on safeguarding risk; escalation; children places on special guardianship orders; quality of assessments; responses to families out of hours. Further factors are also touched on in the main report;

These and other priorities for action are set out in the Business Plan 2015/16 which features as an appendix to the Annual Report

#### **Across the boards:**

#### Strengths

- Steps taken to improve cross-reporting between children and adult services where each identifies safeguarding concerns in relation to service users in the other;
- A transitions document has been formulated with the County Council supported by a good practice guidance document – this is now being reviewed in the light of the Care Act
- Targets met through the Priority Families programme have supported the reduction in safeguarding risk for some families in the City

#### Key areas for development and improvement

- Ensure that the new Board arrangements with two Independent Chairs secure improved focus on children and adult safeguarding whilst continuing to ensure cohesion and co-ordination across the safeguarding agenda as a whole;
- Improve the interface between the two safeguarding boards and the Priority Families Programme to maximise improved performance that might have mutual benefit;

**Safeguarding performance** as evidenced through the quality assurance framework employed by the two Boards presents a mixed picture. Set out below are some of the headlines in relation to both children and adult safeguarding:

#### **Safeguarding of Children and Young People – Performance across the Child’s Journey**

- Reduction in number of contacts – targets met;
- Assessments undertaken within 45 days (85%) which is above target and average for statistical neighbours;
- Reduction in the number of CAFs has caused a concern though we witnessed an increase in the last quarter of the year;
- 80% of CAFs record positive outcomes but there has been an increase in the number of cases escalating to social care which will be something that requires careful monitoring during 2015/16;
- The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan has risen;
- 99% of child protection cases have been reviewed within timescale;
- The number of children in care has reduced slightly – and performance on key indicators is better than statistical neighbours
- The % of care leavers in suitable accommodation has reduced from 89.6% to 84.9%. The number of care leavers in suitable education, employment and training presents a challenge but does match statistical neighbours and is a 7% improvement on the previous year.

During the year two Serious Case Reviews were published, two were commissioned and one learning review was commissioned. There is strong evidence to show that learning from these reviews has been implemented and impact will be tested through the quality assurance framework

The Annual Report sets out the priorities for action in the current year (2015/16) and these have been incorporated into the business plans for 2015/16. Clearly the areas for improvement for the Board itself that are reported on within the annual reports are key

priorities in the current year. In addition the NCSCB will take a role in monitoring and evaluating the performance of the local authority and its partners in response to the Ofsted inspection of 2014 and, indeed, inspection undertaken by other inspectorates such as CQC and HMIC. There is an expectation that an integrated inspection regime will be introduced in the near future in the children's services arena.

The Business Plan for 2015/16 sets out priorities for action for the current year and sets out both the quality assurance and performance management indicators that will be applied to assess impact against each of the priorities and the actions that will be undertaken to support the achievement of these impacts and outcomes.

## **2 RISKS**

The NCSCB and NCASPB operate their own risk registers that are monitored by both the Quality Assurance Sub-Group and the Operational Management Group.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Both the NCSCB and NCASPB are funded through a budget to which all statutory partners contribute through a formula agreed by the Board. These contributions have been agreed and there are no financial implications specifically for the Children's Partnership Board.

## **4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **5 CLIENT GROUP**

All children and young people

## **6 IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES**

All plans are Equality Impact Assessed

## **7 OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED**

**Safeguarding and supporting children and families:** Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.

### **Additional information**

The Annual Report is attached as an appendix.

The Business Plans for the NCSCB and NCASPB for 2015/16 are statutorily required and are published. Both are available on the Safeguarding Board websites.