

## **Summary Sheet**

### **Council Report**

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Annual Report 2015-2016

### **Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

Not applicable

### **Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Thomas

### **Report Author(s)**

Christine Cassell, Independent Chair of the LSCB (from November 2015).

### **Ward(s) Affected**

All wards

### **Summary**

Since April 2010, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have been required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in the local area. This report introduces the 2015-16 Rotherham LSCB Annual Report and offers background information to it.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Improving Lives Select Commission note the report.

### **List of Appendices Included**

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015 - 2016

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

The report is to be considered by the Health and Well Being Board on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Annual Report 2015-2016

### 1. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Improving Lives Select Commission note the report.

### 2. Background

The requirement for LSCBs to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in the local area is mandated in the Children Act 2004 (S14a) as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

Under revised statutory guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* (HM Government March 2015), the annual report:

- Should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board.
- It should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.

### 3. Key Issues

In 2015 -16 the LSCB, in response to the Ofsted Inspection in autumn 2014, received increased resources from key statutory partners. This has supported the development of a partnership Performance Management Framework and an increase in case audit activity. In combination with the work of the LSCBs Sub Groups and the Children's Improvement Board this has enabled a comprehensive overview of the effectiveness of the safeguarding system in the borough and enabled the LSCB to provide appropriate scrutiny and challenge to organisations and services for children and their families.

The LSCB publishes a biennial business plan, which outlines the agreed priorities of focus for the Board and its partners which guides the activity of the Board business unit and the Sub Groups of the LSCB.

#### Key priorities for 2016-18

**Governance and accountability** – There needs to be a clearer articulation and understanding of the responsibilities and relationship between the LSCB and the Health and Well Being Board, Children's Partnership, Children's Improvement Board and Community Safety Partnership. The LSCB needs to have defined priorities for focus of its work in the context of the work of other strategic partnership boards. The LSCB needs to have greater influence in terms of the priorities and planning for other partnership boards and partners need to hold each other to account much more in relation to safeguarding practice and issues.

**Community engagement and the voice of children** – The Board needs to do more in terms of engagement with local communities in relation to raising awareness and listening to their views. The voice of children needs to be taken into account more when evaluating safeguarding outcomes for children and young people. The council has declared its intention to be a child centred borough. The Board will test the evidence that the council and its partners are providing child centred services.

**Scrutinising front-line practice** – There needs to be continued, regular and effective monitoring of frontline practice including the use of thresholds and the impact of Early Help. Smarter opportunities need to be used for learning from practice and sharing the learning across the partnership.

**Children in specific circumstances** – Safeguarding of Looked After Children, Child Sexual Exploitation and Children who go Missing, and Neglect have been identified as priority areas of safeguarding where the LSCB needs to challenge and monitor progress.

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