

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:-</b>	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services
2.	<b>Date:-</b>	19th September, 2012
3.	<b>Title:-</b>	Independent Chair of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board – Waiving of Standing Orders
4.	<b>Directorate:-</b>	Children and Young People's Services

### 5. Summary

The role of Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) should be undertaken by an individual who is independent of the local agencies so that the LSCB can exercise its local challenge function effectively as defined by section 3.52 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2010). Section 3.62 of the same documents reflects on the importance on 'consistency and continuity of membership' of LSCB's.

The RLSCB Chair has been key in driving developments in safeguarding across all agencies and in particular lessons learned from recent serious case reviews. This work has contributed to improvements across agencies as reflected in inspection outcomes.

The current contract ended on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and a waiver is sought to extend the contract by 12 months with the intention of ensuring momentum and continuity to the ongoing improvements to safeguard children in the Borough.

### 6. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- 6.1 **Waive (in accordance with Standing Order 49 - Tender invitation and Receipt of tenders) for provision of Independent Chair of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board for the period 27<sup>th</sup> August 2012 until 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

### **7.1 Independent Chair– Current Position**

The Independent Chair was appointed in August 2009 following a tendering / recruitment exercise. Since this appointment (and in compliance with section 3.53 of working together) the Independent Chair has ensured that the Board operates effectively and has acted as the independent voice for the RLSCB. The Chair has the standing, objectivity and expertise that command the respect and support of all partners.

A 360 degree appraisal of the Chair's performance has recently been undertaken which has had a successful outcome and identified few areas for development for the next 12 months. An extension is sought to ensure these developments are implemented and the RLSCB is in a stronger position to ensure children are protected and to face future inspections.

### **8. Finance**

The current provision of Independent Chair costs £20,000 per annum. This represents a 9% (£2,000) saving on the previous year which has been ratified by the RLSCB in its 2012/13 budget.

### **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Should the contract not be extended a period of uncertainty and inconsistency may be experienced by the RLSCB which may be felt across all agencies.

### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

This role has a major impact on the four Big Things within the revised Children and Young People's Plan clearly Keeping Children and Young People Safe is the main focus but it also contributes to Prevention and Early Intervention, Tackling Inequality and Transforming Rotherham Learning.

### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

N/A

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