

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT

1. Meeting:	Health and Well Being Board
2. Date:	16th October 2013
3. Title:	Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012-13
4. Directorate:	Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board

5. 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 2012-13 Rotherham LSCB Annual Report and offers background information to it.

6. Recommendations

- **That the Health and Well Being Board receive this report as an introduction to the 2012-13 Rotherham LSCB Annual Report (separate report).**

7. Proposals and Details

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 the recently 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 2013), the annual report should:

1. 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
2. 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 wellbeing board.
3. list the contributions made to the LSCB by partner agencies and details of what the LSCB has spent, including on Child Death Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and other specific expenditure such as learning events or training. All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies.

Key priorities for Rotherham LSCB - highlighted in the 2012-13 Annual Report, being progressed through 2013-16 RLSCB Business Plan and the work of its Sub Groups

These include:

- A multi-agency local protocol (framework) for the assessment of children
- A performance and quality framework to measure the effectiveness of Early Help Services on outcomes for children and their families
- A Learning and Improvement Framework to enable lessons learned to be translated into improved outcomes for children
- Revised protocols for effective governance and partnership arrangements within the Borough (for example between the LSCB and Health and Wellbeing Board)
- An updated LSCB constitution and revisions to its Sub Groups so that they can deliver the work and priorities of the board

- Ensure that the Child Sexual Exploitation Service, including other partners, are responsive to the need of young people involved in or vulnerable to CSE, through the implementation of the CSE Strategy and delivery of the CSE Action Plan
- Continue to develop the importance of understanding the child's voice and journey through services, in particular the child protection process
- Ensure that children subject to Child Protection Plan receive thorough multiagency assessments of need and risk, effective care plans that address these and review them well.

8. Finance

The LSCB has its own budget financed by member agencies, the key agencies for such financing being Children's Social Care Services, Children's Health Services, and the Police. A budget statement is included in the RLSCB Annual Report.

9. Risks and uncertainties

The revised Ofsted framework for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers is due to be implemented nationally from November 2013. Rotherham LSCB is working with partner agencies to assess and prepare the evidence of positive outcomes for children that will be required when the inspection is undertaken in Rotherham.

10. Policy and performance information

The LSCB Annual Report, in terms of the effectiveness of the LSCB, its partners, and outcomes for children, should inform local policy and commissioning priorities relating to safeguarding children and young people, and also informs the regulatory inspection of children's services from Ofsted and other inspectorates.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Framework 2012
 Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
 Working Together to Safeguard Children - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children: HM Government 2013
 Rotherham LSCB Annual Report 2012 - 13
 Rotherham LSCB Business Plan 2013-16
 Proposals for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers: Ofsted 2013

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