
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 4 September 2012
Subject: Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011/2012

Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services

Summary: The Annual Report of the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board sets out the activity and interventions carried out by the Council and its partners to secure children's safety and manage their circumstances in a safe and effective manner where they are deemed to be at risk of, or likely risk of, harm.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child protection in their local area. The Report is considered by the Children's Trust. The Report recognises achievements and the progress that has been made against the Business Plan for the Board and demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the LSCB as set out in national guidance "Working Together 2010" are being effectively discharged.

Contact Officer: Yolanda Corden, Interim Assistant Director Children's Services Operations
Public/Exempt: Public
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The Annual Report supports Priority 2 of Central Bedfordshire's Strategic Plan 2009-2011, Educating, Protecting and Providing Opportunities for Children and Young People. The report also supports the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan Priority 2, Protecting children and keeping them safe.

Financial:

2. The provision of services is funded through core budgets by individual partner agencies. Key statutory agencies contribute towards an annual budget to facilitate the work of a business support team for the Central Bedfordshire and the Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Boards.

Legal:

3. The Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board to co-ordinate and monitor safeguarding and child protection activity in their area.

Risk Management:

4. There are no new risk management implications arising from the Annual Report. Reputational and child protection and safeguarding risks would arise if Central Bedfordshire Council, in conjunction with partner agencies, did not ensure that robust arrangements are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at risk of harm and that the effectiveness of multi agency arrangements was not appropriately monitored, reviewed and responded to by the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. None

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. Adherence to Human Rights and Equality issues is maintained

Community Safety:

7. There are no new community safety issues arising from the Report

Sustainability:

8. There are no new sustainability implications arising from the Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- **comment on the Annual Report 2011/2012 of the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (Appendix 1)**

Background Information

9. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children requires effective co-ordination. The Children Act 2004 requires each Council to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) as a statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. The core functions of the LSCB are set out in regulation and are informed by guidance known as "Working Together 2010".
10. The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child protection in their local area.

11. Currently the Report goes to the Children's Trust. Recent recommendations from Professor Munro to the Government, which have not yet been implemented, suggest that in future, the Report will be submitted to named individuals, e.g. Chief Constable of the Police, the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council etc.

Outcomes

12. The Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board works to ensure that children's protection remains a high priority for the council and its partners. The Annual Report 2011/2012 outlines the activity and interventions carried out by the Council and its partners to secure children's safety and manage their circumstances in a safe and effective manner.
13. Performance in relation to child protection key indicators has remained good throughout the year and is reviewed regularly by the Board.
14. The strategic priorities of the Board for the last year have been achieved. The work of the Board has led to the identification of revised priorities for 2012/13 which have been agreed by the Board and are set out in the Business Plan of the Board for the year ahead.

Conclusions and Next Steps

15. The Committee is requested to comment on the Annual Report 2011/2012 of the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (Appendix 1).

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011/2012

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands