

Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information No.

Title of Report **Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012/2013**

Meeting Date: 7 November 2013

Responsible Officer(s) Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

Presented by: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

Action Required:

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board comment on the Annual Report 2012/2013 of the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board.

Executive Summary

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| 1. | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
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Background

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| 2. | <p>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</p> |
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	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 2013”.
3.	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.
4.	Currently the Report goes to the Children’s Trust. Recent recommendations from Professor Munro to the Government suggest that the Report should be submitted to named individuals, e.g. Chief Constable of the Police, the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council etc. This will be forwarded to them after the Board has commented on this report and the covering letter will include comments from the Health and Wellbeing Board and a response to their comments from either the Chair of the Safeguarding Board or the Director, as appropriate. Other chief officers in partner organisations will be encouraged to discuss this report at the own Governance Boards.
5.	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 2012/2013 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.
6.	Performance in relation to child protection key indicators has remained good throughout the year and is reviewed regularly by the Board.
7.	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 2013/14 which have been agreed by the Board and are set out in the Business Plan of the Board for the year ahead.
Detailed Recommendation	
8.	The Committee is requested to comment on the Annual Report 2012/2013 of the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (Appendix 1).

Issues	
Strategy Implications	
7.	The Annual Report contributes to priorities within the Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-16 in respect of early intervention and prevention, and ensuring the health and wellbeing of children.

8.	The Annual Report also contributes to priorities and outcomes within the Central Bedfordshire Children’s Trust Children and Young People’s Plan June 2013 – March 2015, where priorities include protecting vulnerable children, early help and improving life chances, and being healthy and positive.
Governance & Delivery	
9.	The Health and Wellbeing Board will lead strategies for the health of children. Clear processes which allow the CBSCB to effectively contribute to and challenge the new strategies and their outcomes are a key requirement.
Management Responsibility	
10.	<p>The LSCB Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.</p> <p>LSCB objectives are to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area, and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.</p> <p>Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>Various other statutory duties apply to other specific organisations working with children and families. .</p>
Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	
11.	The PSED requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
	Are there any risks issues relating Public Sector Equality Duty No
	No Yes <i>Please describe in risk analysis</i>

Risk Analysis

Briefly analyse the major risks associated with the proposal and explain how these risks will be managed. This information may be presented in the following table.

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk

Source Documents	Location (including url where possible)

Presented by Edwina Grant