

Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (CBSCB) Annual Report 2014-15

PURPOSE

1. To provide details as to the effectiveness of work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Central Bedfordshire – as set out in the Annual Report (31 March 2014 – 31 March 2015).

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Children's Trust Board members note and comment on the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, 31 March 2014 – 31 March 2015. (Appendix A).
3. That Children's Trust Board members note and comment on the key messages for all stakeholders and partners.

PUBLIC/EXEMPT: Public

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4. The Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report (Appendix A) provides detail as to how CBSCB partners have worked together and individually to keep children safe.
5. The Annual Report provides information on LSCB statutory functions and the progress made against CBSCB Business Plan priorities 2014-15. It also explains how self evaluation, performance analysis, case audits and overall effectiveness have all helped to inform CBSCB priorities for 2015/16.
6. Working Together 2015 states that the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area (this is a statutory requirement under section 14A of the Children Act 2004). 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 Wellbeing board.

7. The Annual Report 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.
8. The report should also 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. 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.
9. This report therefore provides Children's Trust Board members with a view of the Central Bedfordshire LSCB's achievements and challenges during 2014-2015. This report shows how LSCB partners have worked together and individually to keep children safe, deliver our agreed Board priorities and meet our statutory objectives 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.
10. The foreword from the Independent Chair provides a summary of the key achievements and challenges and the key messages about keeping children safe (section 6).

CONCLUSION

11. Board members are asked to note and comment on the Annual Report - including key achievements, challenges and messages for partners and stakeholders.