

Central Bedfordshire Council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 11th September 2018

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report - 2016/2017

Report of the Independent Chair of the LSCB
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Purpose of this report

1. This report provides the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a copy of the 2016/17 Annual Report from the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The Annual Report provides the committee with a detailed account of the work undertaken by the LSCB throughout the year, progress made against the priorities contained within the LSCB Business Plan and the outcomes achieved. Please note that this report was signed off and published by the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board in September 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the information contained within the 2016/17 Annual Report.

Background

2. The Statutory Guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 (Chapter 3 Point 16 and 17) States:

The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. 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 well-being board.

The 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

3. (Working Together 2015 was the statutory guidance in place during the time period covered by this report).
4. The Annual Report for 2016/17 is contained within Appendix A

Council Priorities

5. The delivery of the LSCB Business Plan supports the following Council priority:
 - Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

6. The LSCB has a duty to publish an annual report of its activity as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 (Working Together 2015 was the statutory guidance in place during the time period covered by this report).

Financial and Risk Implications

7. There are no financial implications in relation to producing the LSCB Annual Report.
8. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 (Chapter 3 Point 19) States:

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 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.

9. The LSCB is funded by multi-agency partners on an annual basis and the contributions and LSCB spend for 2016/17 are contained within the Annual Report.

Equalities Implications

10. The Equality Act 2010 puts a responsibility on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity. This applies to the process of identification of need and risk faced by the individual child and the process of assessment. The CBSCB is keen to ensure that no child or group of children are treated any less favourably than others in being able to access effective services which meet their particular need, as a consequence all reports received by the LSCB request agencies to identify any equalities implications. No significant issues were raised during this reporting period.
11. The LSCB feels that this process could be strengthened by specifically asking if an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and whether any specific issues were raised.
12. The LSCB scrutinises equalities information within its day to day work on a regular basis and some examples include CSE, Missing Children, Looked After Children, Neglect, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Abuse, FGM and youth offending data.

Implications for Work Programming

13. There are no work planning implications.

Conclusion and next Steps

14. The LSCB Annual Report for 2016/17 was agreed by the LSCB Strategic Board at its meeting on the 18th September 2017 and was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 21st March 2018. A copy was also be provided to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner. The Annual Report for 2017/18 is due to be agreed and signed off by the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board on the 26th September 2018.
15. The Committee are asked to note the Annual Report 2016/17

Appendices

Appendix A: Central Bedfordshire LSCB Annual Report for 2016/17 – link to the report can be found below:-

<https://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=829&MIId=5447&Ver=4>