

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

5 October 2016

Report title	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Cabinet member for Children	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders People Directorate	
Originating service	Safeguarding and Quality	
Accountable employee(s)	Gillian Ming	Children Board Manager
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Report to be/has been considered by	People Leadership Team	22 August 2016
	Strategic Executive Board	23 August 2016
	Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board	7 September 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Comment on the annual report detailing the work of the members of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB) over the last year partners organisations to meet their statutory responsibilities.
2. Note the range of work that is taking place to safeguard children in Wolverhampton, and No Marking the continued challenges, developments and achievements in this critical area of work.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the panel with a copy of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board's (WSCB) Annual Report for 2015 -2016(Appendix 1). The annual report gives information on the safeguarding activity for the reporting period and an update of the progress made against the WSCB Business Priorities for 2013-16.
- 1.2 The annual report provides an overview of how partners have discharged their safeguarding responsibilities over the preceding year.

2.0 Background

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004. WSCB is independently chaired (as required by statute) and consists of senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people in the City.

Its statutory objectives are to:

- Coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Ensure the effectiveness of its work

Safeguarding means to: undertake any activity which prevents a child's health, welfare or development being impaired, and includes activity to protect from abuse and other risks such as neglect.

The Board is independent of any of the partners, funded by them all and hosted and supported by Wolverhampton City County Council. The WSCB Chair works closely with all Board partners and particularly with the Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services (under Section 18 of the Children Act 2004). The Strategic Director of Children's Services has the responsibility within the local authority for improving outcomes for children, local authority children's social care functions and local cooperation arrangements for children's services in Wolverhampton.

Statutory Partner Agencies (which includes both the health commissioning bodies and provider bodies), the police, probation and the council, are under a duty to co-operate with the Board and those accountabilities are defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

The Board has no service delivery functions but is required to inform (through its co-ordination and effectiveness responsibilities) the commissioning intentions of partner agencies, It is also required to monitor, quality assure and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the services commissioned and delivered in the local area.

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015](#) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an annual report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. 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.

The report sets out the achievements and progress made during 2015/16 and identifies the challenges facing the Board in 2016/17. As a minimum the report demonstrates how the board has monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve' (Regulation 5c of the LSCB Regulations 2006).

3.0 The Implications to Policy and Practice contained within the Care Act 2014

There are no direct implications to Policy and Practice arising from this report
The Annual Report is produced in line with The Children Act 2004

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
[GS/27092016/U]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
[RB/29092016/G]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 How and in what ways we safeguard children must reflect the differing cultural values and norms within communities. Although the legal framework is universal how we ensure children and parents understand recognise and respond to potential safeguarding issues varies and is reflected for example in our work to reach out to faith communities and through our links with the Refugee and Migrant Centre.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Report to PLT 22.08.2016

Report to SEB 23.08.2016

Report to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Report 07.09.2016.

CYP Panel: 05.10.2016