

**Report to:** Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Subject:** Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018/19

## **1.0 Purpose of report and decisions to be made**

- 1.1 To present to the Committee the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Report 2018/19 for consideration and discussion.

## **2.0 Summary**

- 2.1 The BSCB Annual 2018/19 provides an overview of progress against the safeguarding priorities detailed within the Business Improvement Plan 2017-19. The Annual Report also sets out the transitional arrangements for the new statutory Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for Birmingham which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

## **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Committee receives the BSCB Annual report 2018/19

## **4.0 Context**

- 4.1 The BSCB is an independent statutory multi – agency Board established under Section 13 of the Children Act 2014, with two 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
  - To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.
- 4.2 Independently chaired, the Board is required to report annually on the effectiveness of those two objectives. The Report must be presented to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Local Authority, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 4.3 The Independent Chair's Accountability Report 2018/19 was published in April 2019 (Appendix 1) with the formal more detailed Annual Report published on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. The Independent Chair has been invited to present the Annual Report 2018/19 (Appendix 2) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- ## **5.0 Main Issues**
- 5.1 The report examines how the BSCB discharged its core functions as set out in Statute and Department for Education guidelines. The report incorporates a specific section on the crucial role that statutory agencies play in safeguarding and promotion the wellbeing of children and young people in Birmingham.

- 5.2 The report also sets out the transitional arrangements for the new Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, replacing the former Local Safeguarding Children Board. The report highlights the introduction of new child death review arrangements from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

## 6.0 Looking Ahead

- 6.1 The Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership has published its Governance Arrangements, together with a Business Improvement Plan 2019/21, setting out four safeguarding priorities for the next two years. These build on the work of the former BSCB but also take into account emerging issues and the city's ambition:

- 6.2 *'Birmingham is a family city where children will flourish, feel safe, listened to, learn and grow up, able to actively contribute to society'.*

- 6.3 The four safeguarding priorities are:

**Priority 1:** Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership;

**Priority 2:** Continuous Improvement of Child Protection Practice across the system and in all agencies;

**Priority 3:** Developing an effective multi-agency response to Contextual Safeguarding, recognising exploitation of young people in all its forms;

**Priority 4:** Evidencing the impact of the new Safeguarding Children Partnership.

- 6.4 The golden thread that links these priorities is an obsession that the voice and lived experience of children and young people informs and influences the continuous improvement in partnership working across the city.

## 7.0 Contact Officer Details:

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- 8.0 **Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019

## 9.0 List of Appendices

Appendix 1- Independent Chair's Accountability Report 2018/19  
Appendix 2 - Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018/19