

**Report to:** Schools, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Subject:** Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board Annual report 2016 / 17

**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 2016/17 for consideration and discussion.

**2.0 Summary**

- 2.1 The BSCB Annual report provides an overview of the Board's activities in 2016/17 and the impact of that activity on improving outcomes for the children and young people of the City. The report reflects on progress during this period and sets out the challenges being addressed in the Business Improvement Plan 2017/18.

**3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Committee receives the BSCB Annual report 2016/17

**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 of the Local Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board. The overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested the BSCB present the key findings set out in the Annual report 2016/17 and report on progress on the key challenges ahead.
- 5.0 Main Issues**
- 5.1 The report complies with national guidance set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015). It assesses the Board's work objectively against core functions of the LSCB set out in Statute and Department for Education guidelines.
- 5.2 The report also incorporates a specific section that focuses on the crucial role that statutory agencies play in safeguarding and promotion the wellbeing of children and young people in Birmingham.
- 5.3 The Report, identifies the key challenges ahead that have shaped the safeguarding priorities set out in the Business Improvement Plan 2017/18

#### 5.4 The challenges are:

- i. To work closely with the West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Clinical Commission Groups in the development of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements as prescribed in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- ii. That the BSCB is influential in making the aspiration for Birmingham to be 'A great place to grow up in' becomes a reality, with BSCB fully contributing to the City's improvement agenda and benefitting from the monitoring visits and reports from OFSTED.
- iii. The need for BSCB to influence the review of strategic partnership arrangements which discharge the functions of Safeguarding Children and Adults, Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing, to clarify lines of accountability, better target finite resources to maximum effect, and lead to improved outcomes.
- iv. That the BSCB endorses the multi – agency Domestic Abuse Strategy incorporating a whole city, whole system approach and receives a six month progress report detailing the impact on reducing risk for children living in violent households.
- v. Ensure that the learning from LGA Diagnostic conducted in November 2017 informs the development of the city's strategy, practice and approach to Child Sexual Exploitation and missing children. That the LGA diagnostic findings are presented to the Executive Board in February 2018.
- vi. That the Executive Board seeks assurance of partnership engagement in the 'Prevent Delivery Plan' to reduce risk to children and young people exposed to extremist views.
- vii. That the Executive Board oversee a review and refresh of the Early Help Strategy and partner organizations' 'Early Help Offer' following the re-launch of 'Right Help, Right Time' threshold guidance in January 2018.
- viii. To utilize emerging learning from Joint Targeted Area Inspections and national good practice to inform the development of a multi-agency neglect strategy for Birmingham.

#### 6.0 **Looking Ahead – Business and Improvement Plan 2017 / 18**

- 6.1 Throughout the year the Executive Board closely monitors progress on responding to the identified challenges to ensure effective implementation of the Business and Improvement Plan. The major focus of the Executive Board will be to assist in the smooth transition to the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, whilst continuing to improve safeguarding practice to make a real difference to children's lives.

Contact Officer Details:

Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair  
BSCB Simon Cross, Business Manager  
BSCB

Tel: 0121 464 2612

Email: [simon.cross@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:simon.cross@birmingham.gov.uk)

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017