

Report to Schools, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

November 2016

Birmingham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual report 2015 / 16

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 2015/16 for consideration and discussion.

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 The BSCB Annual report provides a full description and robust analysis of the Board's activities in 2015/16 and the impact of that activity on improving outcomes for the children and young people of the City. The report reflects on the positive progress over this period and sets out the challenges being addressed in the Business Improvement Plan 2016/17.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee receives the BSCB Annual report 2015/16

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 2015/16 and report on progress in taking forward the six challenges

5.0 Main Issues

- 5.1 The report has been drafted in line with national guidance on what a good report should contain. It assesses the Board's work objectively against core functions of the LSCB set out in Statute and DfE guidelines.
- 5.2 The final section of the Report, identifies the key challenges ahead that have shaped the safeguarding priorities set out in the Business Improvement Plan 2016/17
- 5.3 The challenges are:
 1. That the BSCB is influential in making the aspiration to become a Family Friendly City a reality.

2. For the BSCB to move from ensuring there are safe systems in place, to ensuring safe, consistent and sustainable multi – agency practice is in place at every stage of the child’s journey to keep them safe.
3. 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.
4. The BSCB supports the Strategic Leaders’ Forum to review the strategic partnership arrangements which discharge the functions of Safeguarding Children and Adults, Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing, clarifying lines of accountability.
5. The Police and Local Authority to jointly lead a review of the city’s approach to Child Sexual Exploitation and missing children. That the findings are presented to the Board to inform development of CSE strategy and practice.
6. The safeguarding system aims to manifestly become a learning system undertaking systemic audits, assurance work and sharing lessons from individual cases and themed reviews to support improvement and provide evidence for assurance.

6.0 Looking Ahead – Business and Improvement Plan 2016 / 17

- 6.1 Throughout the year ahead the Board will closely monitor progress on responding to the identified challenges and ensuring effective implementation of the Business and Improvement Plan. The major challenge for the Board looking forward, is having the impact on practice that is needed to improve the quality of safeguarding and the degree to which we make a real difference to children’s lives.

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