

Committee:	<b>Children's Services Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>21<sup>st</sup> November 2011</b>
Title of Report:	<b>Annual Report Local Safeguarding Children Board 2010/11</b>
By:	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
Purpose of Report:	<b>To advise Scrutiny Committee Members of the inter-agency arrangements in place to safeguard children in East Sussex</b>

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**RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is recommended to endorse the annual report on the Local Safeguarding Children Board business plan.**

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## **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 There are no financial implications. The report describes services that are already provided from within Children's Services' budgets.

## **2. Supporting information**

2.1 The Children Act 2004 placed a duty on Local Authorities to establish Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and in March 2010 the Government updated the 2006 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' defining the role of Elected Members with regard to the LSCBs as:

- 'Local Authority Elected Members and non-executive directors of other board partners should through their membership of governance bodies such as the cabinet of the local authority or a scrutiny committee or governance board, hold their organisation and it's officers to account for their contribution to the effective functioning of the LSCB.
- Lead Members for Children's Services have delegated responsibility from the Council for children, local young people and families and are politically accountable for ensuring that the local authority fulfils its legal responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The Lead Member should provide the political leadership needed for the effective co-ordination of work with other relevant agencies with safeguarding responsibilities (such as the police and the health service). Lead Members should also take steps to assure themselves that effective quality assurance systems for safeguarding are in place and functioning effectively.
- The Lead Member should be a 'participating observer' of the LSCB. In practice this
- means routinely attending meetings as an observer and receiving all it's written
- reports. Lead Members should engage in discussions, ask questions and seek clarity,
- but not be part of the decision making process. This will enable the Lead Member to
- challenge, when necessary, from a well informed position.
- The Directors of Children's Services will be held to account for the effective working of the LSCB by their Chief Executive and challenged where appropriate by their Lead Member.'

It was therefore agreed that the annual report and business plan of the LSCB should be presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny committee in order to fulfil that accountability.

2.2 This report advises the Committee on the work undertaken by the East Sussex LSCB in 2010/11 and outlines the business plan for 2011-12. Attached as Appendix 1 is the annual report of the East Sussex LSCB for 2010/11.

2.3 Since the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's last discussions of the LSCB report, relevant Lead Members and other members of the East Sussex Children's Services Scrutiny Committee have been notified of the content of the agenda prior to the meetings and immediately after the Board they have received a briefing about the issues discussed at the meeting.

2.4 Key issues addressed by the Board in 2010/11 included:

- A robust Training Programme targeted to current challenges

- An extensive project taking E Safety advice and guidance to a range of schools, clubs, professionals as well as being available directly to children/young people, and members of the public
- The board has supported the Young Runaways project with real improvement in outcomes for these young people
- Improving relationships with Adult Services particularly in the areas of domestic violence and substance abuse
- Launch of the web-based version of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures and launch of the East Sussex LSCB website.
- Improved audit and quality assurance functions with an improved level in the quality of data collection and reporting

2.5 The work of the LSCB during this year has very much been influenced by the continued increase of numbers of children being referred to all agencies due to safeguarding and child protection concerns and the rise in the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans. This increase has been replicated in many other parts of the country. This has had budget implications for all agencies, as well as placing extra pressure on staff, which in turn impacts on the retention and recruitment of staff. This has been compounded by enormous change within the NHS and a real lack of clarity as to where the responsibility for safeguarding will lie.

2.6 Two development days were held in 2011 that focussed on the membership and roles of board members and to identify the priorities for the year 2011/12. The LSCB Steering Group is responsible for overseeing the LSCB Work Plan, the work of the sub groups and the work of the Business Manager. The steering group receives and scrutinises the notes of the sub group meetings and through this mechanism, the progress of the work plan for the sub groups. The Steering Group also receives a formal update of the Business Manager's work programme and the progress being made against the priorities identified within the LSCB Business Plan.

2.7 There have been no new Serious Case Reviews during the period from April 2010 to March 2011, however work has continued on the 2 SCRs from 2008. The detailed Action Plans from both SCRs have been addressed by all agencies of the LSCB and both Executive Summaries will be published in late 2011. East Sussex is also contributing to a Surrey SCR regarding the death of two children in January 2010 who lived in Surrey but were known to services in East Sussex and the Executive Summary is due to be published in December 2011.

2.8 The annual report also includes statistical information about the safeguarding services as well as details about the training provided in 2010/11 and the outline training plan for 2011-12. The key challenges for 2011-12 will be implementing the recommendations from the Munro Review of Child Protection which increases the expectations on LSCBs to implement early help for families, to consider every intervention from the child and families point of view, and to monitor the effectiveness of all protection plans and support professionals to exercise professional judgement. Other issues for 2011-12 include the response to Ofsted and CQC inspections; audit and quality assurance development; changes within health services and GP commissioning; and the response to budget challenges.

2.9 East Sussex LSCB was also cited as an example of good practice in a recent Ofsted report.

### **3. Conclusion**

3.1 An effective Local Safeguarding Children Board is in place within East Sussex with an Independent Chair and the business plan for 2011/12 will meet the statutory requirements for the LSCB.

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Local Members: All

#### Background Documents:

- *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010*
- *The Roles and responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services 2009*