

Committee:	<b>Children's Services Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>21 September 2015</b>
Title of Report:	<b>East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2014/15 and Business Plan 2015 - 2018</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 receive and consider Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and Business Plan.

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## **1. Background**

1.1 Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that should be represented on LSCBs.

1.2 Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are: (a) 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 (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

1.3 Working Together 2015 states it is the responsibility of the Chief Executive to appoint or remove the LSCB chair with the agreement of a panel including LSCB partners and lay members. The Chief Executive, drawing on other LSCB partners and, where appropriate, the Lead Member will hold the Chair to account for the effective working of the LSCB. The Lead Member for Children should be a participating observer of the LSCB. In practice this means routinely attending meetings as an observer and receiving all its written reports.

1.4 The LSCB Chair should work closely with all LSCB partners and particularly with the Director of Children's Services. The Director of Children's Services has the responsibility within the local authority, under section 18 of the Children Act 2004, for improving outcomes for children, local authority children's social care functions and local cooperation arrangements for children's services.

1.5 The Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. 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.

1.6 The purpose of this report is to assess how we are doing in ensuring local services are keeping children safe. This is done in three main ways:

- Holding organisations to account at regular Board meetings
- Providing vital training to professionals through the ESSCB training programme
- Driving improved practices by conducting targeted reviews and audits of cases.

## **2 Supporting Information**

2.1 The Ofsted inspection of the LSCB published in January 2014 found the LSCB to be 'good', one of the first boards in the country to receive this grading under the new inspection framework.

2.2 The annual report and business plan of the LSCB (**Appendix 1**) is submitted to the Children's Services Scrutiny committee as part of the accountability arrangements for ensuring effective safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children and young people in East Sussex. It outlines the work undertaken by the East Sussex LSCB in 2014/15 and outlines the business plan for 2015-18.

2.3 The key issues addressed by the LSCB in 2014/15 are highlighted in the report's introduction

together with the key achievements, future challenges and priorities for 2015/16, including:

- Continued development of the multi-agency response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and implementation of new MACSE (multi-agency CSE) strategic structure and action plan
- Increased capacity of What is Sexual Exploitation (WiSE) service to deliver individual work and increased awareness raising
- Increased provision of CSE training across a range of audiences from frontline social workers to foster carers; residential staff and schools
- Improved targeting and provision of early help services to ensure fewer families need social care intervention
- Reduction in the numbers of children subject to child protection plans to be more in line with national reporting
- Development of a multi-agency Quality Assurance dashboard
- Completion of the Section 11 self-assessment demonstrating compliance by all relevant agencies, with further scrutiny of the audit by an LSCB Peer Audit Panel of 5 agencies
- Increased range of training reflecting the local and national safeguarding agenda, including additional courses with domestic abuse as the focus; engaging with fathers/significant males; communicating safeguarding concerns; emotional abuse and neglect
- Development of the School Designated Safeguarding Leads training with new trainers in place
- Embedding the learning from case reviews
- One Serious Case Review (SCR) was published in April 2014 in respect of a young child having suffered significant physical abuse. One further SCR was conducted in 2014/15 but published in June 2015 in respect of the death of a young baby. Two further SCRs are in progress and are expected to be published in 2015.
- The LSCB strongly reinforces the message that safeguarding children is everyone's business, not just the job of professionals
- The LSCB has 2 dedicated, skilled and effective Lay Members

2.4 A development day was held to agree the priorities for the business plan 2015/18 which was greatly assisted by the attendance of representatives from the Children in Care Council and the Youth Cabinet. The new plan has five priorities;

- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- Improving Safeguarding in Education
- On-line safety
- Mental health service provision to those who need it
- Tackling the impact of domestic abuse on children

### **3 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations**

3.1 An effective Local Safeguarding Children Board is in place in East Sussex with an Independent Chair. The business plan for 2015-18 will meet the statutory requirements for the LSCB.

3.2 The Scrutiny Committee is requested to receive and consider the LSCB Annual Report 2014/15 and Business Plan 2015 – 2018; and to make any constructive observations, comments and recommendations that will assist the LSCB in its future work.

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Local Members: All

Background Documents: LSCB Annual Report 2014/15, Working Together 2015