

**TO: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
15 JANUARY 2014**

**LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (LSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13
Director of Children, Young People and Learning**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The LSCB's 2012/13 Annual Report regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection practice in Bracknell Forest locality is provided to the Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel for information.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the learning and key messages from the LSCB 2012/13 Annual Report (Annex 1).**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Statutory Guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 states that the LSCB Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. 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. Whilst it is not a statutory requirement for other bodies to receive this report, it is good practice to do so, and serves as a reminder of the safeguarding roles and responsibilities of all agencies that work with children, young people and families.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None applicable

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) provides the statutory framework for the safeguarding responsibilities of those working with children and young people, including the responsibilities of the LSCB.
- 5.2 The report summarises the main areas of activity in the last year, some areas to note are:
- The overall approach that has been taken to the completion of the Section 11 safeguarding self assessment for organisations working across Berkshire. This process has been well coordinated by a Pan Berkshire Group, which has provided appropriate support and challenge throughout.
 - The strong and robust response to the Section 11 self assessment process by Bracknell Forest Council, which has been led by the Chief Executive and

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demonstrated a strong commitment to safeguarding across all Council Departments.

- The undertaking of in-depth case review of a small number of children where there had been a significant safeguarding incident that had not met the criteria for a Serious Case Review, but the LSCB felt that further analysis would be beneficial in learning from them to inform future practice.
- The ongoing commitment to monitoring a key set of performance data, and in-depth analysis of areas of concern.
- The Quality Standards Group providing evidence of seeking the voice of the parent in an audit of parents accessing parenting support, and evidence that the impact of the Bruising Protocol, (developed following the Serious Case Review) is having in terms of professionals making a referral using the protocol.
- The ongoing successful delivery of safeguarding training which has seen a 26% increase in attendance from the previous year (1,617 attendees).
- The success of the 2012 LSCB Conference on the theme of Safeguarding Vulnerable Children which was attended by 250 members of the children's workforce across statutory, private and voluntary organisations.
- The progress made against the Targeted Priority areas, which have been achieved through a strong commitment across the LSCB, Community Safety Partnership and the Children and Young People's Partnership.
- The additional areas of LSCB activity and challenge which highlights specific examples of the way in which the LSCB has addressed local safeguarding issues and concerns.

5.3 The report notes the Targeted Priorities for the 2013/14 Business Plan, which in addition to the ongoing priorities around Domestic abuse, Substance and alcohol misuse and Neglect, have added Child Sexual Exploitation, and Early Help.

5.4 The report provides a range of key messages which are aimed at those responsible for key partnerships and strategic planning across all organisations working with children, young people and families.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 Not applicable.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 Not applicable.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 The LSCB does not work directly with children, young people and families. Its main function as a Board is to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding of partner agencies. Within these functions the LSCB would address any equalities issues that arose in the course of its activity.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 This report provides an account of the LSCB activity in the past year. Within this account the report provides a list of key messages which are designed to provide partner agencies with some focus on areas of development which may help to reduce the risk of harm to children and young people in the future.

Contact for further information

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