

Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board – Wednesday 5th December 2018

Report of the Strategic Director People

Dudley Safeguarding Childrens Board Annual Report 2017 - 2018

<u>Purpose</u>	
1.	To present the Annual Report of the Dudley Safeguarding Childrens Board (DSCB) 2017/18 for consideration and comment by the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board.
<u>Recommendations</u>	
2.	It is recommended that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee receive the DSCB Report and comment accordingly and Members acknowledge the work undertaken by the DSCB during the year.
<u>Background</u>	
3.	DSCB is a partnership that is required by regulation. The main purpose of the Board is to ensure, effective, co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements for the safeguarding of children and young people.
4.	It is a statutory requirement as set out in Working Together 2015 that the DSCB publishes an annual report. Working Together 2015 states that: <p><i>‘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 well-being board’</i></p>
5.	In Dudley we have, in addition to the above, always presented the annual report to the scrutiny Committee given our shared roles in scrutinising and challenging local provision.
6.	Working Together states that the annual report should ‘provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the cause of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action. The report should include lessons learned from reviews undertaken with the reporting

	<p>period. Clearly it is important for the Scrutiny Committee to test whether the report meets these requirements when it considers the DSCB Annual Report.</p>
	<p>THE ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18</p>
7.	<p>The report being presented covers the period 1st April 2017 through to 31st March 2018, and concentrates on key aspects of the Board’s work; notably progress made in complying to the statutory functions, the improvement plan introduced following the outcome of the 2016 Ofsted inadequate judgement, and the strategic priorities outlined in the business plan. This year’s report is deliberately shorter than reports of previous years, so needs to be seen as an evaluation of the work in progress rather than a comprehensive report.</p>
8.	<p>Given the above, this report covers the extent to which the functions of the DSCB as set out in “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015“ have been effectively discharged, and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A foreword by the Independent Chair; • A brief overview of the local area safeguarding context with some key context data; • An overview of the Board’s governance and accountability arrangements; • Analysis of performance against each of the three overarching themed strategic priorities as outlined in the 2017/18 business plan, these are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Priority One: Children and young people are safe from harm in the home, outside the home and online. • Strategic Priority Two: Children and Young People have access to the right service in the right place at the right time. • Strategic Priority Three - Effective partnership working and accountability to improve safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and their families.
9.	<p>The report draws on the key activities from each of the seven Sub and two task & finish groups, all are mandated by the Board to deliver many of the functions; these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance and Quality Assurance • Workforce Development • Serious Case Review • Child Death Overview Panel • On-Line Safety • Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing • Policy and Procedures • Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
10.	<p>Note: along with FGM, the activities focusing on Neglect is delivered via task and finish groups, and are being aligned to other strategic groups to add to their portfolio from 1st April 2018. Going forward these will be monitored through agreed annual updates to the Board.</p>
11.	<p>The final section of the report provides additional evidence to demonstrate further monitoring duties undertaken on an annual basis, these include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) • Safeguarding Lead for Education • Private Fostering Arrangements • Elective Home Education (EHE) • Prevent Duties
12.	The report summarises by reflecting on the achievements of the DSCB during the reporting period and concludes on the basis that, whilst there is evidence in some areas of business where developments are in train, progressing these will only further strengthen the existing safeguarding processes.
13.	In considering the full report, overall there is evidence of significant progress to justify that Dudley Safeguarding Children Board are complying to the statutory functions as outlined in the statutory guidance 'Working Together' 2015, have made remarkable progress in delivering the improvement plan introduced following the outcome of the 2016 Ofsted inadequate judgement, and has met most of the objectives as defined in the strategic business plan 2017/18, all of which qualifies as an effective Board.
	<u>Policy / Procurement Implications</u>
14.	The DSCB promote the inclusion of safeguarding requirements in the commissioning of services for children, young people with an expectation that contract performance arrangements will test providers performance in meeting expected safeguarding standards such as those tested through our Section 11 audit process.
	<u>Finance</u>
15.	There are no financial implications from this report. There is a financial contribution to the DSCB's budget from the core statutory partners being the local authority, the police and the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (DCCG).
	<u>Law</u>
16.	DSCB is a statutory partnership body. Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires 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. As explained in 2.2 above the Annual Report must 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. It has always been considered best practice in Dudley to include the relevant Scrutiny Committee in the presentation of the DSCB's Annual Report particularly since we share a scrutiny and challenge role in relation to safeguarding.
	<u>Equality Impact</u>
17.	An Equality Impact Assessment (of LSCB Annual Reports) is not required. It is important to emphasise that the focus of the work of the DSCB includes those groups that are deemed most vulnerable from a safeguarding perspective.

	All safeguarding performance data is collected in such a way as to identify gender, ethnicity and disability and other protected characteristics so that impact on specific groups can be monitored.
18.	The proposals in this report do not have any direct Human Resources /Transformation implications.

Martin Samuels

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Martin Samuels
Strategic Director People

Contact Officer: Liz Murphy
Independent Safeguarding Chair

Howard Woolfenden
Head of Children's and Young People Safeguarding & Review
Telephone: 01384 816088
Email: howard.woolfenden@dudley.gov.uk

Appendices

Annual Report
DSCB Strategic Business Plan