



## Report to Children Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

**Report of:** Executive Director Children Young People and Families

**Subject:** Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16

**Author of Report:** Jane Haywood, Independent Chair, SSCB

### Summary:

This Annual Report is intended to be informative about the work of the SSCB and to make the Board and its partners accountable to child protection professionals, to those who fund and support safeguarding services, to service users, to elected members and the public of Sheffield.

### Type of item:

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	

### The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Receive the Annual Report and note its content
- Comment on and / or seek clarification on any issues raised

### Background Papers:

- Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16 – Appendix A
- Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2016-17 – Appendix B

**Category of Report:** OPEN

These reports are provided to enable discussion on:

- § Progress, achievements and challenges in 2015-16
- § Priority areas in 2016-17
- § Priority areas for 2017- 18

This report provides an overview of safeguarding activity in Sheffield. Included are the existing priorities for 16/17 and suggested future priorities. The Annual Report (2015/2016) of the Safeguarding Children Board is included for information and to give context and provide background information to inform discussion. Including the Annual Report underlines the accountability of the Safeguarding Children Board to the people of the City.

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## **SAFEGUARDING IN SHEFFIELD**

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The Annual Report provides information on the safeguarding work undertaken in Sheffield and gives a sense of the positive difference this work makes to children and young people who are most at risk of abuse and neglect.

Reporting to the CYPF Scrutiny Committee is one of the ways in which the Safeguarding Board informs the people of Sheffield about the work that we do and how we are accountable to them. The Safeguarding Board is keen to encourage and further develop links with the people of Sheffield to raise the profile of safeguarding and to listen to what people think about our work and what our priorities should be.

Every child and young person in Sheffield should be able to grow up free from the fear of abuse or neglect. Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board is committed to improving the safety of all children and young people in Sheffield. If children are not safe, they cannot be healthy, happy, achieve or reach their full potential. We recognise and promote the concept that keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility.

The objectives of Local Safeguarding Children Boards are set out in s.13 of the Children Act 2004 as;

- Coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes

This is defined by the core functions of;

- Developing local procedures and policies
- Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging practitioners, agencies and the public to take the required action
- Participating in local planning of services for children in Sheffield
- Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and Board partners on lessons to be learnt
- Undertaking reviews of child deaths to identify any concerns or patterns affecting the welfare and safety of children and ensuring the correct procedures are in place to provide a coordinated multi-agency response
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve
- Assessing whether Board partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations under s.11 of the Children Act 2004
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of training
- Producing and publishing an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area

During 2016-17 the specific initiatives have been;

- Developing and embedding the Neglect Strategy, related resources and training
- Developing alongside Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership and the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership a city wide strategy for tackling and responding to FGM
- Implementing the city wide Sexual Exploitation Strategy to deliver on the 5 key priorities – prevent, protect, pursue, prosecute, participate
- Seeking assurance of the development on the youth suicide prevention pathway and ensuring delivery of awareness raising so we have a well-equipped, trained workforce
- Developing the Hidden Harm strategy so children and young people living in families affected by alcohol and substance misuse receive the right support and help at the earliest opportunity
- Ensuring participation with children and young people is central to all our work and that the voice of young people informs our business planning going forward

We are now developing our business plan for 2017-18 and our priorities will include;

- Ensuring there is ongoing effective safeguarding delivery and scrutiny during the government review and subsequent changes to Local Safeguarding Children Boards that will take place over the next 18 months (Children and Social Work Bill 16-17 )
- Building on the joint transitions programme with Adult Safeguarding to ensure that our most vulnerable young people receive the right help and support as they move into adulthood
- Ensuring key safeguarding messages are communicated to our most hard to reach young people
- Ensuring that children and young people's emotional health and well-being is a priority and meets their needs
- Ensuring the multi-agency Safeguarding Hub is operating successfully and children and young people are being effectively safeguarded
- Develop an effective safeguarding response into Teenage Partner Abuse
- Launch the Joint NSPCC/SSCB campaign 'It's not ok' in May 2017 for professionals, children and young people, parents and carers about sexual abuse and sexual exploitation

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