



## Report to Children Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

**Report of:** Executive Director, People Services

**Subject:** Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-18

**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
- Identify priority areas for next year's business plan

### Background Papers:

- Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-18
- Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2018-19 – Appendix A

**Category of Report:** OPEN

These reports are provided to enable discussion on:

- Progress, achievements and challenges in 2017-18
- Priority areas for 2018- 19

This report provides an overview of safeguarding activity in Sheffield. Included are the priorities for 18/19. The Annual Report (2017/2018) of the Safeguarding Children Board is included for information and to give context and provide background information to inform discussion. 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

Key achievements from 2017-18 are:

- Commenced preparation for the new governance arrangements for the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Launched and delivered the joint SSCB/NSPCC campaign 'It's not ok' for children and young people, parents and carers and professionals about sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- Agreed a joint approach to transitions between the children's and adult's safeguarding boards
- Ensured that children and young people's emotional health and well-being was seen as a priority and challenged services about their ability to meet their needs
- Developed an effective safeguarding response into Teenage Partner Abuse with our partners in the Community Safety Partnership
- Undertook a review of cases where pregnant women disclosed the misuse of alcohol during pregnancy and developed guidance and training on FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder)

During 2018-19 our specific initiatives will be;

- Finalising the new arrangements for Board governance in the light of the change to Local Safeguarding Partnerships from April 2019.
- Continuing 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
- Working with the adult safeguarding board on parental mental health
- Continuing to work with others in the city to ensure that children and young people's emotional health and well-being is a priority
- Ensuring the multi-agency Safeguarding Hub is operating successfully and children and young people are being effectively safeguarded
- Working with young people to strengthen our training, communications and delivery.

We are now developing our business plan for 2019-20 and this will be taken forward with key partners and young people in January. Our priorities are likely to include;

- Delivering the new governance arrangements so that the strengths of Sheffield's partners continue to keep children safe in Sheffield;
- The active engagement of children and young people in our work so that they continue to lead and influence our work
- A continuing focus on transition and those young people who are most vulnerable

**Background Papers:**

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- Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2018-19 – Appendix B

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