

Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	8 December 2016
Subject:	Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report
Report by:	Lucy Rylatt, PSCB Business Manager
Wards affected:	All
Key decision	N/A

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To introduce the sixth Annual Report of the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Portsmouth

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are invited to receive the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and to note areas of progress and challenges in the work delivered by services to safeguard children and promote their well-being

3. Background

- 3.1. Since 2009 there has been a requirement in national guidance that the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council should make an assessment of the effectiveness of local governance and partnership arrangements for improving outcomes for children and supporting the best possible standards for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- 3.2. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children & Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. Subsequent statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015) indicated that 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'.
- 3.3. The Annual Report of the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board and the formal report to Cabinet provide the accountability framework to meet these responsibilities.

4. Key points

- 4.1. The report highlights the strengths and improvements delivered in this period, particularly in relation to:
 - A new **Missing, Exploited & Trafficked Strategy** has been developed to launch in April 2016. This builds on the previous PSCB CSE Strategy which has successfully embedded good safeguarding around children at risk of sexual exploitation. It now includes our strategic response to missing children and trafficked
 - In April 2015, the **Neglect Identification and Measurement Tool (NIMT)** was launched with associated guidance. The NIMT and guidance has been available on the PSCB website since June 2015 and has been promoted across the training programme, as well as

parental non-compliance and disguised compliance and importance of supervision

- Portsmouth has successfully implemented a **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub** which allows key agencies the opportunity to share information in the context of safeguarding concerns so as to determine the right services for vulnerable children and families

4.2. The PSCB has made good progress and has significant strengths, however the report highlights the key areas for development across the partnership:

- **Data:** The Board challenged Hampshire Constabulary on the need for more comprehensive data on children especially those victim of sexual exploitation, neglect and domestic abuse. Although this presented a difficult challenge to the police in providing such specific data, Hampshire Police have responded positively and are making significant changes to meet this requirement in 2016/17
- **Missing, Exploited & Trafficked Children:** The challenges faced this year by the MET Committee have been collating the right dataset and understanding what the data is telling us. This is being developed as a priority in 2016/17 to fully understand the impact on children and build on what works.
- **Female Genital Mutilation:** Increased partnership working with statutory agencies (through training and information sharing) to consolidate work on safeguarding women and children. Reaching women and children at high risk of FGM in Portsmouth to raise awareness of FGM and its legal and health complications
- **Describing children's views, wishes and feelings:** an audit of agencies reports to Child Protection Conferences raised concerns that they did not contain sufficient information about children's views. The Board is now developing guidance and good practice for agencies. All agencies will report back to the Board on how they routinely share reports with families prior to conferences

4.3. The Annual Report 2015-2016 was presented to the Children's Trust Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board shortly. The report highlights the important issues to be taken into account by the Boards in the planning and commissioning of services for children in Portsmouth including:

- ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are robust in the context of austerity measures and the resulting changes to organisational structure
- to continue to promote and develop effective multi-agency early help and early intervention services in the local area
- to ensure that the voice of children and young people is taken account of in shaping services and their delivery
- ensuring that the Children's Trust Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board work effectively together to drive improvements in children's safeguarding outcomes

5. The report provides the basis for the PSCB in planning how to effectively undertake their responsibility to coordinate and scrutinise the work of partner agencies in promoting the wellbeing of children and keeping them safe. The planning and commissioning tasks of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Trust Board are vital in supporting effective safeguarding and improved outcomes for children.

6. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

An Equality impact assessment is not required as this report is for information only.

7. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications at this time

8. Finance Comments

There are no financial implications

Signed by:

Appendices: Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children & Learning Act	Legislation.gov.uk
2009 Statutory Guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the lead Member for Children's Services	Gov.uk
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015	Gov.uk

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected

by on

Signed by: