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| Title of meeting: | Cabinet |
| Date of meeting: | 16 March 2018 |
| Subject: | Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report |
| Report by: | Lucy Rylatt, PSCB Safeguarding Partnerships Manager |
| Wards affected: | All |
| Key decision | No |

1. Purpose of report

1.1. To introduce the seventh Annual Report of the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Portsmouth

2. Recommendations

2.1. Members are invited to receive the PSCB 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 PSCB 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 2016-17; as well as indicating the key areas for development across the partnership in this period. Against the Board's four identified priority areas these were:

Neglect -

- In September 2016 the Deputy Director Children's Services, Children & Family Services submitted a report to the Board reviewing the effectiveness of work undertaken to address neglect since April 2014. This report referred to the development of the Neglect Identification and Measurement Tool (NIMT) and accompanying practice guidance in 2014-15. The report noted that the number

of children on a Child Protection Plan under the category of neglect had remained unchanged and that this raised questions about the impact of the guidance, particularly in terms of early help support communication and planning; there was little evidence that these had produced a positive impact on outcomes for children.

- In response to this report the Board commissioned the Monitoring, Evaluation & Scrutiny Committee (MESC) to undertake a re-run of the audit undertaken in 2014 and a survey of front-line practitioners to understand what, if any, impact the work completed thus far has had. The findings of this audit were that there was some level of awareness of the NIMT across the workforce as it had been used in half of the cases audited; in 5 of the 6 cases there was clear evidence of good communication and multi-agency working, which assisted in completing assessments and plans for the families
- During 2017-18 the Board committed to keeping this priority and that it would be the focus for Portsmouth's Safeguarding Week. A multi-agency task and finish group of service and team leaders will be established to review and revise both the tool and the neglect practice guidance, and consider the development of a Neglect Strategy to agree the multi-agency approach to this issue

Communication & Participation

- The website has been the main focus for communication with the workforce and community in Portsmouth. There are regular updates and improvements made to the layout to make it easier to navigate. This has resulted in over a 100% increase in the number of people accessing the site. PSCB worked with colleagues in Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight LSCBs to review and revise all of the procedures and safeguarding practice guidance. They have all been updated to ensure they are fully compliant with Working Together 2015 and that they better reflect current practice across the four areas. Tri-x has re-configured the platform to make it easier for practitioners accessing it to navigate. This includes the landing page asking the user to click on the relevant LSCB area according to the home address of the child and family they are working with. Where there are local differences in practice and services provided this is indicated in the new 'local information' section of each page.

Tackling exploitation and abuse of young people

- Work has been undertaken to embed the PSCB Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) Strategy and a scorecard developed to capture data from agencies that will help identify the impact this work is having on vulnerable young people.
- The PSCB worked with its partners in Hampshire Constabulary, Children & Families Service and Barnardo's to deliver Operation Make Safe. 250 taxi drivers, hoteliers, street pastors and others requiring licences attended these events. The campaign included a series of briefings about signs to look out for and what to do to keep children safe. During this week and again for a 4 week period between February and March 2017, key awareness messages about CSE were shown on the big screen in Portsmouth Guildhall Square to raise awareness with the public.

Tackling Bullying in Schools

- The Board's Online Safety Officer worked with Barnardo's CSE Worker who has the lead for e-safety in their organisation to deliver 3 sessions to school staff to help them develop the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver online safety messages to pupils. These included having discussions about cyber-bullying, the impact of this and how to address its occurrence. These were followed up by a further session specifically for PSHE teachers to help them develop clear and consistent messages about online safety and cyber-bullying in their school's Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum
- The Board engaged with Beat the Bullies, a local anti-bullying charity to design and deliver a briefing session for schools across Portsmouth in March 2017. This briefing linked to Portsmouth's Strategy for Improving Well Being and Resilience in Education 2017-19 and to Portsmouth's Anti-Bullying Strategy, with the aim of helping schools in developing a restorative approach to bullying to help repair the harm and prevent future incident.

4.2. The Board agreed the following 3 priority areas that they considered are potentially causing children the most harm and having the biggest impact on their well-being:

- Children experiencing neglect
- Children at risk of exploitation, going missing (including children missing education) &/or being trafficked
- Children affected by domestic abuse

4.3. Additionally it was agreed that it is important that the work of the Board is effectively communicated across our target audiences so that they feel informed about work we do to improve safeguarding in Portsmouth. So this fourth priority area was agreed as Participation and Engagement.

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:

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Appendices: Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17

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 |