

Title of meeting: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 10 July 2014

Subject: Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

Report by: Helen Donelan, PSCB Business Manager

Wards affected: All

Key decision N/A

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To introduce the fourth 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 2013) 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:
- The establishment of robust mechanisms to support the identification of and the multi-agency response to children at risk of child sexual exploitation

- The development of a successful on-line safety awareness raising resources aimed at children and their parents / carers; the Troll campaign
 - The further development of early help and a strong multi-agency commitment to continue this development, for example the implementation of the Joint Action Team and the increasing use of the Common Assessment Framework
- 4.2. The PSCB has made good progress and has significant strengths, however the report highlights the key areas for development across the partnership:
- **Evaluating impact:** establishing and developing a clearer focus on evaluating and understanding the impact of interventions on outcomes for children
 - **Developing scrutiny:** to strengthen the Boards data collection to support analysis and scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements in Portsmouth
 - **Early Help:** to promote and strengthen the engagement of universal services in early help and intervention processes
 - **Allegations management:** to secure enhanced capacity and leadership for dealing with allegations against adults working with children
 - **Reduction in Child Protection Plans:** to support multi-agency work to reduce the number of children who require a child protection plan for the second time
 - **NHS reforms:** to ensure that health partners and commissioning arrangements are adequately focused on the safeguarding children agenda at a time of NHS organisational change
- 4.3. The Annual Report 2012-2013 was presented to the Children's Trust Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board. 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 commission and plan for services to ensure that child sexual exploitation is prevented or dealt with effectively where prevention is not possible
 - 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: **Reg Hooke, Independent Chair, Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board**

Appendices: Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012-2013

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 2013	Gov.uk

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

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Signed by: