

## **BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director (People)  
to Cabinet

(24<sup>th</sup> August 2016)

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BARNSELY LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (2015/16)**

#### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the work undertaken by the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) during 2015/16 and the publication of the Board's Annual Report.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet receives the Board's latest Annual Report.**
- 2.2 The progress made by the Board in relation to its statutory role and functions, be noted as part of Cabinet's continued consideration of the Borough's framework for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

##### **3.1 The Statutory Role of Barnsley LSCB**

- 3.2 Currently, Section 13 of the Children Act (2004) requires each local authority to establish an LSCB within their area. Section 14 of the Act outlines the objectives of LSCBs which are as follows:

- (a) To co-ordinate what is done by each organisation represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.
- (b) To ensure the effectiveness of each partner organisation's role in the above purpose.

- 3.3 Barnsley LSCB is an independent body with an independent Chairperson who is able to hold partner organisations to account for their effectiveness in safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing.

- 3.4 As a result, the Chair of the Barnsley LSCB works closely with the Executive Director (People) who, as the Director of Children's Services and Chair of the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group, retains statutory responsibility for the co-ordination of children's services in the Borough and improving the range of

outcomes for children and young people, including local authority children's social care functions.

- 3.5 The Cabinet Spokesperson (People: Safeguarding) as the Borough's statutory Lead Member for Children's Services, attends meetings of the Barnsley LSCB as an observer and receives all its reports.
- 3.6 One of the responsibilities of the Board's Chair is to produce an annual report on the effectiveness of local arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. Guidance states that this report should be presented to the Leader and Chief Executive of the local council; the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. A full copy of the Barnsley LSCB's latest annual report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.7 Summary of the Barnsley LSCB Annual Report (2015/16)
- 3.8 The LSCB's annual report provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the quality and effectiveness of local services for the safeguarding of children and young people in the Borough and the promotion of their welfare.
- 3.9 In particular, Cabinet is requested to note the following information, within the annual report:
- The challenge provided by the Board in holding to account the performance and effectiveness of partner organisations in protecting and safeguarding children.
  - Progress towards achieving key priorities during 2015/16, including the development of the Borough's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the action being taken to minimise and eradicate the risk of all forms of harm, including child sexual exploitation.
  - The role of the Board towards implementing the recommendations contained in the Ofsted review of the LSCB's effectiveness, published in August 2014.
  - Using learning derived from serious case reviews to inform continual improvements in the protection and safeguarding of vulnerable children.
  - Financial contributions made by partner agencies in support of the Board's role and functions.
  - The added value provided through the Board's multi agency training and development programme for front line practitioners.

#### **4.0 Consideration of Alternative Approaches**

- 4.1 In the case of this report, this has not been necessary as its purpose has been to inform Cabinet of the work of the Barnsley LSCB in fulfilling its statutory role, during 2015/16.

## **5.0 Proposal and Justification**

5.1 Please see Paragraphs 3.2, 3.6, 3.8 - 3.9.

## **6.0 Implications for Local People and Service Users**

6.1 The Annual Report provides assurance to our communities, that the protection of every vulnerable child and young person in the Borough, from harm, is an objective that is regarded with overriding importance by the Board and its partners, including the Council, through its mandate.

6.2 The LSCB is also committed to ensuring that any learning which emerges through serious case reviews or allegations of impropriety or misconduct concerning staff working with children in various settings, which are investigated by the Local Authority Designated Officer, are rigorously and consistently applied across the Borough.

## **7.0 Financial Implications**

7.1 The cost of undertaking the activities of the Barnsley LSCB in 2015/16 amounts to £159k, which includes related staffing costs, multi-agency training, independent chair costs, etc. The overall cost is funded from contributions from partner agencies / organisations, and includes the Council, Barnsley CCG, South Yorkshire Police, etc. Detail breakdown of cost and partner contributions are outlined in Annex 3 of the attached LSCB annual report.

## **8.0 Employee Implications**

8.1 There are no employee implications currently emerging through consideration of the Annual Report.

## **9.0 Communications Implications**

9.1 There are no direct implications for the Council arising through the Annual Report. In considering communications, within the context of child protection, Cabinet will note that among the policies and procedures to be continually reviewed and developed by the LSCB, during 2016/17 are those aimed at keeping children and young people safe from grooming and exploitation whilst online.

9.2 Equally, through engaging young people on how best they can report or raise concerns with the Board and its partners, including the Children's Social Care Service, relating to their safety or wellbeing, Cabinet is assured that communication channels are in place to enable them to do this on their terms and in ways which are most familiar to them.

## **10.0 Consultations**

10.1 The Chair of the Barnsley LSCB has consulted partner organisations on the formulation of the Annual Report.

## **11.0 The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework**

11.1 The role and responsibilities of the Board in safeguarding children and young people from harm and to promote their welfare, accords with one of the six Strategic Priorities of the Borough's Children and Young People's Plan and is reflective of the Corporate Plan's outcome statement of ensuring children and adults are kept safe from harm, thereby enabling them to achieve their potential.

## **12.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

12.1 The Board is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty and will ensure that the development of key strategies, policies and procedures are underpinned by a full equality impact assessment.

12.2 As part of the LSCB's multi agency programme, training continues to be offered to practitioners and front line staff, to improve their understanding of cultural and faith issues in order to help them ensure that the specific needs of children and young people from diverse communities are met.

## **13.0 Tackling the Impact of Poverty**

13.1 There are no implications for tackling the impact of poverty, emerging through consideration of the annual report.

## **14.0 Tackling Health Inequalities**

14.1 The Board continues to perform an important role in helping improve the health outcomes of children in care through its oversight of the performance of partners in undertaking timely health assessments and, thereby, closing the gap in health inequality.

14.2 This also includes helping improve waiting times for accessing child and adult mental health services. In addition, the Board ensures compliance with the mandatory reporting of any known cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) affecting young women under the age of 18 in the Borough, as part of helping promote public health.

## **15.0 Reduction of Crime and Disorder**

15.1 In complying with its statutory responsibilities, the LSCB not only ensures that children and young people are safeguarded from harm, it also performs a crucial role in helping identify and bring to account those responsible for harming children through cruelty, neglect, violence or exploitation.

## **16.0 Risk Management Issues**

16.1 As part of its role in overseeing the performance of partner organisations and challenging progress, the governance structure of the Board maintains a risk log. Where any slippage in progress emerges, remedial action is taken to ensure there is no impact on the protection of children and that the needs of children requiring help are met without delay.

**17.0 Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Issues**

17.1 There are no implications for the safety of the public or employees emerging through this report.

**18.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights**

18.1 The progress achieved by the Board, in compliance with its statutory role and functions, accords with the Articles and Protocols of the Convention, particularly the rights of the child to be kept safe from serious harm.

**19.0 Conservation of Biodiversity**

19.1 There are no implications for the conservation of biodiversity or the local environment, emerging through the report.

**20.0 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations**

20.1 None, applicable.

**21.0 List of Appendices**

21.1 Appendix 1: Annual Report of the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Board (2015/16)

**22.0 Details of Background Papers**

22.1 Background papers used in the production of this report are available to view by contacting the People Directorate, Barnsley MBC, PO Box 639, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 9GG

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Financial Implications/ Consultation
..... <i>(to be signed by senior Financial Services Officer where no financial implications</i>