

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PEOPLE) TO CABINET ON 5th SEPTEMBER 2018

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BARNSELY LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (2017/18)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the work undertaken by the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) during 2017/18 and the publication of the Board's Annual Report.

2. 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. 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 (2017/18)
- 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 2017/18, including the development of several key strategy documents.
 - Achieving a 100% return rate for the third year running of the Section 175 self-assessments on safeguarding in schools.
 - The continued monitoring and updated of the much more user friendly Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Web Site.
 - Continued actions being taken to minimise and prevent the risk of all forms of harm, including child sexual exploitation and improving children and young people's safety, whilst online.
 - The role of the Board towards continuing its improvement journey through the Continuous Service Improvement Plan.
 - 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.

- The Borough's second Safeguarding Awareness Week took place in Barnsley between the 3 and 9th July 2017, building on the success of the first event held in 2016 including;
 - Activities across the Borough on all five days around the theme "Safeguarding is Barnsley's Business"
 - A highly effective communication and media strategy
 - A highly successful launch event, with positive contributions from a range of speakers, including three young people from Darton College
 - A wide range of topics covered over the course of the week, including keeping safe for both children and parents, safe sleeping, awareness of parental mental health and on line safety
 - The Toxic Trio Conference was oversubscribed and evaluated very positively
 - Active involvement with the public at various locations across the Borough

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

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

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

5.1 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 2017/18.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/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. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The cost of undertaking the activities of the Barnsley LSCB in 2017/18 amounts to £124k, 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 and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. A detailed breakdown of costs and partner contributions is outlined on Page 15 of the attached LSCB annual report.

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

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

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 No Legal Implications arise in consideration of this report.

10. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Annual Report is available on the Safeguarding Children Board website. There are no other Customer or Digital Implications.

11. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 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, are those aimed at keeping children and young people safe from grooming and exploitation whilst online.
- 11.2 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.

12. CONSULTATIONS

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

13. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 13.1 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.

14. PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 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.

15. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

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

16. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

16.1 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.

16.2 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.

17. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

17.1 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.

18. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

18.1 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.

19. HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES

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

20. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

20.1 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.

21. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

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

22. GLOSSARY

None, applicable.

23. LIST OF APPENDICES

- 23.1 Appendix 1: Annual Report of the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Board (2017/18)

24. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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