

**Report of the Head of Internal
Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance**

Audit and Governance Committee – 27th July 2022

STRATEGIC CONCERNS / RISK REGISTER

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 It was agreed at the Audit and Governance Committee meeting in March 2021 that the Committee will have a regular opportunity for a “deep dive review” of some of the strategic risks with the appropriate Executive Director / Service Director in attendance to update and assure the Committee on the management of their risks
- 1.2 Two strategic risks will be considered at this meeting:
- Potential Death of a Child/Safeguarding Failure in Children’s Services – Executive Director Children’s Services
 - SEND – Executive Director Children’s Services

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the update.**

3. Current Position

- 3.1 The Strategic Risk Register currently contains 15 risks. Using the system of risk assessment, SMT have determined that 6 risks be classified as **high** (red response rating*) 9 risks be classified as **medium** (amber rating) and no risks are classified as **low** (green rating) in relation to the level of response and intervention required.

* The response rating reflects the degree of urgency and importance of the interventions and management oversight rather than the inherent risk.

- 3.2 The actions associated with the 2 risks to be considered in the meeting are included in the attached summary in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The risk register system will be shown in the meeting.

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Date: 18th July 2022

Strategic Risks to be reviewed in the meeting – July 2022

Risk Title	Risk Description	Impact	Status	Response Rating	SMT Owner
<p>Potential death of a child / safeguarding failure in children's services</p>	<p>Risk Description:</p> <p>A need to continually appraise the controls to minimise the potential for death of a child or safeguarding failure in children's services - need to be able to identify any changes which may weaken current levels of assurance. Factors which may impact should be assessed include: the impact of Covid 19 upon both families and workforce capacity, increasing poverty which have increased need and demands for services, increasing caseloads, which presents a risk. Future financial settlements which could impact on service provision, awareness of system pressures e.g., workload. If systems break down there is potential for huge reputational damage - seen across a number of UK authorities - including removal of Director of Children's Services, and government imposition of Commissioners to run services until improvements are made.</p> <p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Need to continually appraise the controls to minimise the potential for the death of a child or a safeguarding failure.</p> <p>Action 1 Assurance that the suite of policies and procedures are in place, that they are routinely updated twice yearly and immediately where required. Robust review is undertaken by the BSCP Policy and Procedure Subgroup under the governance of the BSCP. RAG rating – Green</p> <p>Action 2 Suite of metrics, indicators and data exists to be able to identify changes in society and the economy that could impact on the risks to safeguarding. RAG rating – Green</p> <p>Action 3 Staff workloads are adequately monitored to ensure consistency and the adherence to good practice with strong, proactive recruitment and retention initiatives to avoid vacancies and reduced caseloads. RAG rating – Red</p>	Potential	Potential	High	ED Children's Services

Risk Title	Risk Description	Impact	Status	Response Rating	SMT Owner
	<p>Action 4 Changes in working arrangements (due to Covid 19) are fully assessed to ensure the continuity of services and that they remain effective. RAG rating – Complete</p> <p>Action 5 Multi agency arrangements are robust, adequately governed and effective. The Safeguarding Partnership arrangements that oversee these are fit for purpose and regularly reviewed. RAG rating – Green</p> <p>Action 6 A JTAI inspection was held in May 2022 and the outcome will be published in July 2022. The inspection found no priority actions for the Partnership and an ILACS inspection was not triggered. The fundings will be implemented in full and overseen by the Barnsley Safeguarding Children’s Partnership. RAG rating – Green</p>				
SEND	<p>Risk Description:</p> <p>The Joint Area SEND Inspection (2021) sets out progress made and areas for improvement. The SEND Improvement Programme is addressing the Written Statement of Action (WSAO) which was submitted to Ofsted by the deadline of the 28/2/2022 and approved. The strategic, multi-agency SEND Oversight Board provides governance, oversight and improvement capacity to ensure all actions are completed in a timely way. Quarterly performance and finance reports are provided to Council SMT and Cabinet. The WSOA ensures a clear focus on the two key areas of weakness identified during the inspection: improving parent engagement and influence on strategic decision making and the early identification, support and improved outcomes of children receiving SEN support in local provision, avoiding escalation of need and out of borough placements.</p> <p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Ensure accelerated progress against the WSOA and implementation of the Improvement Programme which addresses areas for improvement identified in the SEND Inspection.</p>	Potential	Potential	Medium	ED Children’s Services

Risk Title	Risk Description	Impact	Status	Response Rating	SMT Owner
	<p>Action 1 Assurance that the SEND Improvement Programme adheres to statutory guidance and requirements, including the SEND Code of Practice and Children and Families Act. RAG rating – Green</p> <p>Action 2 Multiagency arrangements are robust and adequately governed and effective, and the Oversight Board arrangements are fit for purpose and regularly reviewed. RAG rating – Green</p> <p>Action 3 Strengthen and build consistent and effective co-production, engagement, and participation, strengthening the strategic engagement and influence of parent carers. RAG rating – Amber</p> <p>Action 4 Robust and timely financial monitoring and reporting is in place. RAG rating – Green</p> <p>Action 5 Increase the number of children receiving SEN support in local provision supported by early identification of need, leading to long term positive outcomes. RAG rating – Red</p>				