

# Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16

Health & Wellbeing Board

Date: 14 December 2016

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Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

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## 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To present the Annual Report for Swindon Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) 2015/16. The Annual Report is a statutory requirement and details progress towards the annual Business Plan for the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

## 2. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Scrutinise and note the Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16 attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

## 3. Detail

- 3.1 The Local Authority is responsible for establishing a Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the LSCB in consultation with LSCB statutory partners and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services. The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements. They co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body.
- 3.2 Statutory Guidance requires the Annual Report to 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. In this instance the Lead Member for Children's Services has advised that it be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for its scrutiny, information and awareness. The Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The Annual Report details the progress that has been made towards the four priority areas identified in the Board's Business Plan for 2015/16. A summary of the priority areas and headline achievements follows:

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## Priority Area 1 - Effective responses to specific safeguarding concerns

- 3.4 The LSCB has appropriate strategies and comprehensive approaches to specific safeguarding issues that keep children and young people safe and promote effective intervention with those who are at risk from:

3.4.1 Domestic Abuse: The LSCB continues to work with the Community Safety Partnership to ensure a joined up approach towards domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.

3.4.2 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): The LSCB has a clear understanding of CSE in Swindon and work to identify children at risk is informed by partnership profiling, data on missing and absent children and the work of the Multi Agency Risk Panel (MARP).

## Priority Area 2 - Effective early intervention and safeguarding

- 3.5 The LSCB can demonstrate that children and young people in Swindon receive effective early intervention that meets a range of needs in different communities.
- 3.6 Work on this priority has focused on reviewing the use of Early Help Records and Plans and the development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

## Priority Area 3: Communication and engagement

- 3.7 The LSCB and partner agencies communicate effectively with children and young people; their families; the community (including different sections of the Community); and staff at all levels from partner agencies.
- 3.8 The LSCB continues to look for opportunities to engage with all stakeholders. During 2015/16 the LSCB received presentations and reports from a number of groups working to promote the voice of children and young people including Young Carers, the Children in Care Council, Youth MPs and the Swindon Advocacy Movement.
- 3.9 Over 300 delegates from across all partner agencies attended the LSCB's Annual Conference which included presentations on 'Working with young people affected by CSE' and 'Trauma and Violence in the context of CSE and Radicalisation'.

## Priority Area 4: Performance management

- 3.10 The LSCB has an effective performance management framework which promotes different ways of knowing and learning about the effectiveness of early intervention, safeguarding and protection of children and young people in Swindon.

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- 3.11 The LSCB continues to develop its performance and quality assurance functions and is working towards a theme-based approach to reporting which will inform more in depth work by both the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub-groups.
- 3.12 Quality Assurance work has led to the development of specific guidance to practitioners on working with adolescent neglect.
- 3.13 The LSCB had concluded a Serious Case Review (SCR) and one Local Case Review (LCR) during 2015/16. The learning from the reviews was and continues to be disseminated through training courses and published guidance. During 2015/16 the LSCB commissioned a further 2 SCRs and 2 LCRs.
- 3.14 The Annual Report also includes contributions from the Board's partners which provide information on particular safeguarding activity within their organisations and their contribution through the LSCB towards to multi-agency working.
- 3.15 The LSCB recognises the progress made by partners throughout the 2015/16 year. Through its business planning and review processes the Board identified the following 4 new priorities for inclusion in its Business Plan for 2016/17:
  - 3.15.1 Priority Area 1: Early Help: Evaluate the effectiveness of the Thresholds document to ensure that it is fit for purpose, well understood and used appropriately by professionals in partner agencies and identify any barriers to delivery of early help.
  - 3.15.2 Priority Area 2: Child exploitation: To undertake a partnership profile in order to better understand the nature and extent of CSE and related issues across Swindon and to evaluate the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to CSE and other forms of child exploitation.
  - 3.15.3 Priority Area 3: Strengthening the Voice of the Child and their families and practitioners: To develop the ways in which the LSCB can 'hear' the voice of the child and their families and also front line professionals when evaluating the effectiveness of services that support them and their families.
  - 3.15.4 Priority Area 4: Supporting the effectiveness of adults and children's services to work together to safeguard children: To identify and promote better outcomes for children through closer working between services that support children and the adults that care for them.

## 4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 requires the LSCB Chair to publish an Annual Report. 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.

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## 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 All legal and human rights implications were taken into account in preparing this report. It is believed that the report's recommendations are compatible with Convention Rights.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 None.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report; however, Diversity Impact Assessments are completed by individual partner agencies where relevant to support strategic planning and development.

### Risk Management

- 5.5 The LSCB holds a risk register, which is reviewed through the LSCB Performance Sub Group and monitored quarterly through the LSCB Board.

## 6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

## 8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015/16.