

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 NOVEMBER 2017

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) Annual Report

Report of Paula Mead NSCB Independent Chair

Cabinet Member: Cllr Wayne Daley

Purpose of report

To provide an overview of the work carried out under the multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children in 2016/17

Recommendations

For FACS to scrutinise the NSCB annual report and provide feedback and challenge if necessary to the independent chair of the NSCB.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the Health and Well Being priority in the Corporate Plan.

Key issues

- 1 The attached report describes the work during 2016/17 of the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board (NSAB), and provides information about operational safeguarding activity during the year. The report describes a range of achievements and progress of the NSCB priorities during the year.
- 2 Given the changes set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to the way strategic safeguarding arrangements are coordinated and organised. While we await further detail, it is likely to present both opportunities and challenges. In Northumberland, we have and will continue to maintain a clear focus on the work we need to do during this transition period, while at the same time managing the changes that will come.
- 3 234 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (40 per 10,000 population aged 0-18). (England average March 2016 43.1%) a decrease of 355 in comparison to 2015-2016.
- 4 1558 Early Help Plans completed with a successful outcome with a 57% increase in the families receiving early help, which goes some way to explain the 35 % reduction of Child Protection Plans.

- 5 Three Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) were undertaken during 2016-2017, however due to ongoing criminal or care proceedings were not published in 2016-2017. The learning has been embedded through the prompt delivery on the action plans.

Background

The NSCB has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which analyses and assesses how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people. Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure that they do so effectively.

The attached Annual Report describes the strategic activity undertaken by the NSCB, and the most significant specific issues dealt with during 2016-17.

Implications

Policy	The Annual Report 2016/17 demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the NSCB, as set out in the national statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (March 2015) are being effectively fulfilled.
Finance and value for money	No direct implications
Human Resources	Safeguarding investigations can in some circumstances lead to disciplinary action against staff. Safeguarding training is mandatory for all staff working in Northumberland County Council.
Property	No direct implications
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	This is an information report so does not require an EIA. Referrals statistics suggest that the gender and ethnic balance of safeguarding referrals broadly match those of the care management caseload
Risk Assessment	Management of risks in individual cases is a core element of safeguarding. There are various multi-agency risk assessment groups including Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). The Risk Management Group (RMG)
Crime & Disorder	Northumbria Police are members of the NSCB as are Safer Northumberland Partnership, and there is close joint working to ensure that prompt and appropriate action is taken where it is thought that a crime may have been committed.
Customer Considerations	There is a continuing need to ensure that children and young people are adequately protected from the risk of abuse or exploitation and children and young people in need are offered the services to maintain their health and development
Carbon reduction	No direct implications
Consultation	The lead member and portfolio holder for children's service has been consulted during the development of this report and is an observing member of the NSCB.

Wards	All
Policy	The Annual Report 2016/17 demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the NSCB, as set out in the national statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (March 2015) are being effectively fulfilled.

Background papers:

Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) Annual Report

Report sign off.

Finance Officer	N/A
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Director of Children's Services	Andy Johnson
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wayne Daley

Author and contact details

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