

North Tyneside Health & Wellbeing Board Report Date: 14 February 2017

ITEM 6

Title: North Tyneside
Safeguarding Children
Board: Annual Report
2015/16

Report from : North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB)

Report Author: Richard Burrows, Independent Chair, NTSCB

1. Purpose:

Working Together to Safeguard Children, HM Government 2015 stipulates the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The report is submitted to the Chief Executive, Elected Mayor, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This report presents NTSCB's Annual Report 2015-16.

2. Recommendation(s):

The Board is recommended to note the content of the Annual Report for 2015-16 which sets out how all the organisations and their representatives, who make up NTSCB, worked together to ensure that children and young people in North Tyneside were protected and their welfare was promoted.

3. Policy Framework

This item relates to Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Families priority of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-18.

4. Information:

The Local Safeguarding Children Board's key objectives are set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, namely to:

- co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the well-being of children; and
- ensure the effectiveness of that work.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

A key objective in undertaking these roles is to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully. The role of an LSCB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The LSCB is not operationally responsible for managers and staff in constituent agencies.

It has been agreed that between September and November each year the Independent Chair of the LSCB would present to the Board the Annual Report outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. This was intended to provide the opportunity for the Board to scrutinise and challenge the performance of the LSCB, to draw across data to be included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The annual report sets out NTSCB's key achievements and looks ahead to future challenges. It assesses the effectiveness of the Board's joint working arrangements in improving the safety and welfare of children and young people in the borough. NTSCB will reflect on the learning arising from the 2015/16 review and incorporate this within its revised Business Plan. To achieve a coherent approach to safeguarding in North Tyneside the Business Plan will reflect the objectives of the Children and Young People's Plan 2014 –18.

The LSCB Annual Report 2015/16 is attached as an appendix. The Independent Chair of the LSCB, Richard Burrows, has been invited to attend the meeting to present the Annual Report and answer any questions.

The key issues to emerge from the report subject to formal agreement by the LSCB as a part of the revision of current priorities/objectives and business plan commencing April 2017 are;

1. Improved coordination and lead on strategic issues across partnerships to bring further clarity and improve effectiveness/overlap between high level priorities
2. Outputs from LSCB monitoring of the performance and quality of joint working arrangements to protect children and promote their welfare especially early intervention, at a time when statutory partners are embarking on significant changes, so as to be sure HWB is a) assured that children remain safe and b) that changes compliment agreed joint priorities and strategies e.g Children's Social Care transformation, NT Children and Young People mental and emotional health strategy and Northumbria Police proposals re Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs.
3. To be aware of learning from cases reviewed (either SCR or other significant reviews) as these may impact on or inform HWB priorities.
4. To be aware of whole or part systems changes that are intended to improve the effectiveness of joint working arrangements to protect children e.g Signs of Safety, Think Family and ensuring early intervention developments are focused on child protection.
5. To be aware of the major thematic areas of learning and improvement in part informed by external inspections such as Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) re domestic abuse, neglect, children missing from home/care/school and sexual exploitation.

6. To support and respond to a clearer focus on the “voice of the child” and what this tells us including JSNA in confirming existing and future priorities

5. Decision options:

This report is for information only.

6. Reasons for recommended option:

Not applicable

7. Appendices:

Appendix 1, NTSCB Annual Report 2015-16

8. Contact officers:

Richard Burrows, Independent Chair, NTSCB
Sue Burns, NTSCB Business Manager. North Tyneside Council, telephone 6437391.

9. Background information:

The following background documents have been used in the compilation of this report and are available from the author:-

NTSCB minutes of meetings 2015-16

COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

10 Finance and other resources

There are no known financial implications arising from the report.

11 Legal

The North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB) is a statutory body established under Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 which requires all children's services authorities to establish a Local Safeguarding Board for their area.

12 Consultation/community engagement

Not applicable.

13 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

14 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

15 Risk management

A risk assessment has not taken place. There are no known risks arising from this report.

16 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

SIGN OFF

Director of Public Health

Chair/Deputy Chair of the Board

Chief Finance Officer

Head of Law & Governance