



Social Care Services Board
25 January 2016

Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2014-2015

Purpose of the report: The Annual Report 2014-15 reports on the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection practice by partner agencies in Surrey and is presented to the Surrey Scrutiny Board for information, discussion and comment.

Introduction:

1. The paper demonstrates how SSCB has fulfilled its statutory responsibility to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body represented on the board, for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children within Surrey.

Statutory Responsibilities

2. **As well as fulfilling the objectives of the SSCB as set down in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015' to:**
 - To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area; and,
 - Ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

The SSCB has carried out a wide range of responsibilities across the Surrey area that included:

- Establishing and monitoring thresholds for the provision of services by partner agencies, including early help
- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area
- Commissioning and evaluating single and multi-agency training

- Establishing specific, local protocols to reflect local priorities
- Communicating and raising awareness of how to safeguard and protect children in the area
- Monitoring and evaluating the activities of partners through S11 and auditing activity
- Undertaking reviews of child deaths and conducting serious case reviews to identify lessons to be learned
- Maintaining and implementing a Learning and Improvement Framework.

Targeted priorities

In addition to the delivery of core business the SSCB identified four areas of need on which to focus its attentions and resources during 2014 – 15. These were,

- **Targeted priority 1** To work with partner agencies to reduce incidences of domestic violence and the impact this has on children, young people and families.
- **Targeted priority 2** To ensure sufficient, timely and effective early help for children and families who do not meet the thresholds for children's social care.
- **Targeted priority 3** To ensure professionals and the current child protection processes effectively protects those children identified in need of protection and who are looked after.
- **Targeted priority 4** To work with partnership agencies to develop, agree and implement a multi-agency child sexual exploitation strategy capturing and developing work undertaken CSE/missing children work plan.

Conclusions:

This annual report describes the work undertaken by SSCB and partners during 2014 -15, however it is clear that much remains to be done.

The Independent Chair shares the concerns over recent OfSTED Inspection reports that graded Surrey children's services as **inadequate** and The Local Safeguarding Children Board as **requires improvement**

It is essential that chief executives, directors and members ensure that the protection of children and young people is considered in developing, commissioning and implementing all key plans and strategies.

Recommendations:

Whilst there is a considerable amount of work to be undertaken in Surrey, SSCB recommends prioritising efforts to.

- ensure that efforts are made by all partners (including those working with adults) to secure effective early help for families and those children in need of protection are identified quickly and receive appropriate support.
- ensure staff across all a partner agencies share information at the earliest opportunity and proactively challenge decisions that fail to adequately address the needs of children, young people and/or their parents/carers.
- ensure that the priority given to child sexual exploitation by the SSCB is reflected within strategic planning and in partner agencies support for the ongoing work of the board's sub-groups.

The priority for SSCB is to ensure that the Board meets the OfSTED criteria for 'good', and aims at being outstanding thereby contributing to the improvement journey for Surrey Children.

An outstanding Board,

- provides evidence of being a highly influential strategic arrangement that directly influences and improves performance in the care and protection of children.
- Ensures improvement is sustained and extends across multi-disciplinary practice with children, young people and families.
- Analyses and evaluates performance and helps the local authority and partners to properly understand the impact of services, the quality of practice and the areas for improvement.
- Ensures a comprehensive range of training for managers and practitioners that is directly related to multi-agency improvement priorities.
- creates and fosters an effective learning culture locally that extends to front-line practitioners.

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Sources/background papers: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

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