

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 22 NOVEMBER MEETING****REPORT OF: LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT****LEAD OFFICER: JULIE FISHER, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: SURREY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (SSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) is a statutory, multi agency board, chaired by an independent chair. In the year 2015-2016 the SSCB had 2 chairs; Mrs Alex Walters was the chair from April to August 2015 and Elaine Coleridge Smith from September 2015 – March 2016.

The SSCB is responsible (under section 14 of the Children Act 2004) for coordinating 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 for ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

The Annual Report for 2015-2016 details the progress made against the four SSCB priorities and how partners were held to account to deliver improvements.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, issued by the HM Government covering the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and which provides a clear framework in which to monitor the effectiveness of local services, requires that the Annual Report covers the preceding financial year and should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Cabinet notes the SSCB Annual Report and is conscious of the time period of the report which is 2015 -2016.
2. The Cabinet notes the appointment of a new independent chair, who is a member of the Council's Improvement Board.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Cabinet has a responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Surrey.

The SSCB Annual report provides Cabinet with an opportunity to reflect on what is going well and what areas require improvement in Surrey.

DETAILS:

1. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010, 2013 and 2015 provides the statutory framework for the safeguarding responsibilities of those working with children and young people, including the responsibilities of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
2. The period covered by this report has been one of considerable challenge for partner agencies and the SSCB, in response to statutory inspection outcomes, restructuring of services within organisations to achieve more effective use of resources and the associated impacts of change throughout the partnership. The SSCB has met its statutory duties by responding proportionately and effectively to national and local issues, and acknowledges that there is still significant work to be undertaken to improve safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in Surrey.
3. The SSCB has a broad membership from both statutory and voluntary sectors as required by Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and subsequent amendments.

CONSULTATION:

4. The Annual Report was developed following consultation with the membership of SSCB sub groups. The final report was approved at the September 2016 Board meeting and was sent to Cabinet on 7 November for their meeting on 22 November.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

5. There are no implications for risk management in the recommendation that Cabinet is being asked to accept.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

6. The activities of the Board are funded through a pooled budget which is contributed to by Statutory Partners which includes contributions from Surrey County Council. The pooled budget for the Surrey Safeguarding Board is £357,082.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

7. The Section 151 Officer confirms there are no material financial or business implications in this report.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

8. Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area and specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the local authority) that must be represented on the Board, including those which the Secretary of State prescribes in regulations.
9. Section 14 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:
 - (a) 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 the area of the local authority, and

- (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
10. The Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 made under sections 13 and 14 set out the functions of LSCBs, which include undertaking reviews of the deaths of all children in their areas and undertaking Serious Case Reviews in certain circumstances.
11. It is a statutory requirement under Section 14a of the Children Act 2004 that the Chairman of the SSCB must publish an annual report providing a rigorous and transparent report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area.

Equalities and Diversity

12. The recommendations will have a positive impact upon the residents with different protected characteristics by making the activities of the Board more transparent and improving outcomes for Surrey children.
13. No Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out as this is not necessary in relation to an Annual Report.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

14. This Annual Report supports safeguarding children and young people as it provides information on performance in Surrey.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

The 2015-2016 SSCB Annual report will be:

- Published on the SSCB website
- Sent electronically to all Board members for them to cascade to their own agencies
- Sent Electronically to the Chief Executive; the Leader of the Council; the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Made available in hard copy for those unable to access Electronic formats
- Discussed by Social Care Service Board

The SSCB Annual Report for 2016-2017 will be completed over the period April-July 2017 and will complete the same steps as above including coming to Cabinet.

Actions contained in the report will be reported upon as part of the Business Plan Review and Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2017.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Surrey Safeguarding Children Board, including, Statutory Partners of the Surrey Safeguarding Children Board

Sources/background papers:

- Working Together to safeguard Children; A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; DFE March 2015
www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00213160/working-together-to-secure-children