

## Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on 16 October 2014

Electoral Division affected: All
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### Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board update (Appendices 1 and 2 refer)

Contact for further information:

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#### Executive Summary

This report provides an update to the Lancashire Health & Wellbeing Board on the following issues:

- Statutory Guidance stipulates that the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WBB) and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) must work together in the pursuit of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The H&WBB and LSCB recently agreed a protocol to ensure consideration and discussion of respective annual reports. This report presents the 2013-14 LSCB Annual Report and seeks a response from the H&WBB. (See Appendix 1)
- Concerns about equitable access to support for children and young people in respect of emotional health and well-being have been a recurrent subject of discussion at the LSCB. This dates back to the last Ofsted inspection and concerns have also arisen in more recent Serious Case Reviews and other audit processes. As a result the LSCB asked for assurance from the commissioners and providers of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and received reports at its July 2014 meeting. These reports did not provide sufficient assurance and the LSCB has therefore referred this to the H&WBB with a challenge from the LSCB.
- Events in other parts of the country have led to an increased level of national concern about the way services respond to children and young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation. Lancashire has a strong record on CSE with multi-agency teams in place and working to an agreed LSCB Strategy to ensure appropriate responses. This is not a recent development and services have been embedded here for a number of years. The Annual Report details current arrangements and together with information provided to elected members during September 2014 provides assurance that a sufficient and comprehensive service is in place. (See Appendix 2)

## **Recommendation**

The Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- i. consider the LSCB Annual Report and agree any areas that need to be taken forward by the H&WBB itself;
- ii. specifically consider the concerns raised about provision for children and young people with emotional health and well being needs, and agree any action required by the H&WBB; and
- iii. consider information about services to support children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

## **Background and Advice**

The H&WBB has a responsibility to ensure that the safeguarding and welfare of children is a cross-cutting theme in all areas of work; from needs analysis through to commissioning of services and service development.

The LSCB has a responsibility 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 and must ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

## **LSCB Annual Report**

The LSCB has produced an Annual Report setting out the work undertaken to safeguard children in Lancashire for the 2013-14 financial year. The report is attached for information. It sets out key successes and also areas for development for all LSCB member agencies during the coming twelve months. Whilst the H&WBB is asked to consider all areas of the report that are of relevance, the LSCB specifically wishes to draw Board members' attention to two key issues. A copy of the report is at Appendix 1

## **Emotional Health and well-being of children and young people**

The LSCB invites the H&WBB to consider issues relating to services in respect of the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in Lancashire. Since the beginning of the year the LSCB has become increasingly concerned about mental health issues and in particular arrangements for CAMHS involvement with children and young people.

Relevant issues brought to the attention of the LSCB, through reviews and other pieces of work, include concerns about support with police cases where there are clear mental health issues; concerns about the management of young people with mental health needs on general hospital wards; and a recent thematic inspection of services for children displaying sexually harmful behaviours highlighted issues around risk assessment for young people who may pose a risk to themselves.

In addition, child suicides continue to be a concern for our Child Death Overview Panel locally and nationally and local self harm rates are significantly higher than the England average.

These things taken together caused the LSCB to seek assurance about the robustness of local provision, and reports were presented to the July LSCB meeting. Rather than being provided with assurance the LSCB remains concerned about access to support and provision of services for children and young people with emotional or mental health needs.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

A separate brief has been prepared to provide members with key information (attached at Appendix 2).

### **Consultations**

The LSCB has consulted with all partner organisations in the preparation for the Annual Report.

In addition, those organisations providing services for children with emotional and mental health needs were part of the discussions at the LSCB.

LSCB Partner agencies have contributed to the report re CSE.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

- There are no direct implications for finance or human resource management;

### **Risk management**

- The H&WBB and LSCB need to continue to coordinate their work to ensure no duplication of activity or areas of omission
- Robust CAMHS and lower tier services are essential to ensure the emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Lancashire
- Likewise, all partner agencies need to be fully engaged with services and support for children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation

### **Conclusion**

The LSCB will continue to monitor the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements of CSE service provision in Lancashire, to build on the positive work outlined today.

The LSCB continues to seek assurance about the efficacy of provision for children and young people with emotional and mental health needs.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985  
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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