

Cabinet - 4 December 2014

Report of the Interim Executive Director for Children and Young People

Electoral Division affected: All

Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013/14

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

This report sets out, at Appendix 'A' the Annual Report of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board for 2013/14. Lancashire County Council is a significant member agency of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Consider the content of the Annual Report, set out at Appendix 'A', and identify any areas it may wish to comment on;
- (ii) Consider the successes of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board and also the areas for future work that have been identified (pages 4 and 5 of Appendix 'A' refer). Additionally, Cabinet may wish to explore particular key issues that are currently of national concern; such as child sexual exploitation and emotional wellbeing.

Background and Advice

The Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has a statutory responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of work undertaken by agencies to safeguard children in Lancashire. This Annual Report sets out the work undertaken in this regard in Lancashire for the 2013/14 financial year. The report is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The report sets out key successes and also areas for development for all LSCB member agencies during the coming twelve months. The Interim Executive Director for Children and Young People (as the Director of Children's Services (DCS)) is a statutory member of the LSCB and, along with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools who is a 'participating observer' on the Board, has a responsibility to promote and protect the welfare and interest of children, young

people and their families and for ensuring effective working relationships between the Health and Well Being Board and the LSCB.

A great deal of effective work to safeguard children has taken place during the last twelve months. However, there are several areas for development and the LSCB remains particularly concerned about services for children experiencing emotional and mental health issues and also those at risk of sexual exploitation. Both of these issues have recently been considered by the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board and ongoing development work has been agreed. The LSCB will continue to work with partner agencies to address all areas for development identified in the Annual Report and Lancashire County Council is a key organisation in all this work.

Accountability for the effectiveness of the LSCB rests with the Chief Executive who meets with the independent chair of the LSCB, Jane Booth, regularly and also observes a board meeting annually. Additionally, the DCS is required on a quarterly basis to meet with the Chief Executive, Leader and Deputy Leader of the County Council and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools as part of the authority's safeguarding assurance framework.

Consultations

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

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

There are no additional direct implications for finance or human resource management further to those already provided by the County Council for LSCB purposes;

Risk management

All partner agencies need to be fully engaged with services and support to safeguard children and young people in order that children in Lancashire grow up happy, healthy and safe from harm.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A