

## Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 13 November 2015

Electoral Division affected: All
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### Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board

#### Update regarding LSCB key activity

(Appendix 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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#### Executive Summary

Lancashire County Council is a key member agency of Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). This report presents the Annual Report of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board for 2014-5. The production of this report fulfils a statutory requirement and its contents are, to a large extent, determined by the legal framework and this results in a document of some size. A group of young people are currently working on an alternative version with a target audience of children and young people themselves.

The report records a number of positive indications that some areas of risk have reduced and identifies a number of strengths in respect of the Board itself. There remain, however, a number of key areas for further consideration. The above are summarised on page 4 of the report.

The report makes no reference to the recent Ofsted inspection as this did not take place within 2015/16 financial year. The 2015/16 business plan will be revised once the inspection report has been published to include relevant activities and priorities in response to the inspection. Progress with these be reflected extensively in next year's annual report.

The LSCB also has a statutory requirement to commission and publish Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) when a child has died in abusive or neglectful circumstances. Appended to the report is a summary of the key learning points from 2 recent SCRs, one of which is awaiting publication upon conclusion of legal matters.

#### Recommendation

Committee members are asked to consider each of the reports provided.

Committee members may wish to assure themselves that services provided by Lancashire County Council and its partners are effective and sufficient in light of the specific reports about those issues.

## **Background and Advice**

The LSCB has a statutory responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of work undertaken by agencies to safeguard children in Lancashire. This Annual Report reflects on the work undertaken in this regard in Lancashire for the 2014-15 financial year. The report is attached at Appendix 1 for information. The Board is required to have an Independent Chair and has the responsibility to promote and protect the welfare and interest of children, young people and their families. The Chair of the Board is accountable to the Council's Chief executive who is, in turn, responsible for ensuring its effectiveness.

Protocols are in place which establish the relationship between the LSCB, the Children and Young People's Trust Board and the Health and Well-being Board and to strengthen this link the Independent Chair of the LSCB has recently joined the Health and Well-being Board.

The Director of Children's Services is a statutory member of the LSCB along with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools who is a 'participating observer' on the Board Cabinet will see that a great deal of effective work to safeguard children has taken place during the last twelve months. However, there are several areas that the LSCB remains concerned about:

- Ensuring equality of services given the complexity and diversity of the administrative area especially in relation to deprivation rates
- Poor health outcomes, especially child obesity, tooth decay and hospital attendance
- Increasing self-harm in young people
- Increasing numbers of CLA from other local authorities (approaching 1000)
- Significant reduction in CPP to below the national average
- Number of CLA above national average
- Increasing number of CSE referrals but no increase in recorded crime
- Continuing development of effective early intervention and preventative
- Disproportionate levels of child deaths from Asian Pakistani heritage
- Achieving successful engagement by the LSCB with schools and early years settings.

The level of concern regarding services for children experiencing emotional and mental health issues resulted in the LSCB reporting its concerns to the Health and

Well Being Board who responded by requiring a comprehensive review with the intention re-commissioning services from April 2016..

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.

Priorities identified in the current Business Plan are:

Priority Area 1: Improve the effectiveness of agencies and the community in preventing child sexual exploitation

Priority Area 2: Improve the effectiveness of agencies in meeting the needs of Children Missing for Home, Care and Education

Priority Area 3: Improve the effectiveness of safeguarding activity for children in specific circumstances:

- Children placed in Lancashire from other areas, and in other areas from Lancashire
- Children whose parents are in prison
- Children in need of support for emotional and mental health issues
- Children who are Privately Fostered

Cabinet will also note that it proposed to align the business functions of both the adult and children safeguarding boards to achieve greater efficiency and improved synergy with shared functions and responsibility.

## **Consultations**

The LSCB has consulted with all partner organisations in the preparation for the Annual Report and with young people in the development of an alternative version.

## **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 LCC and partner agencies for LSCB purposes;

## **Risk management**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

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

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contact/Directorate/Tel</b>
Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15	November 2015	Paul Hegarty 01772 538352

Summary of recent Lancashire LSCB's recent SCRs

**Appendices are provided within the agenda pack**

Appendix 'A' - Summary of Learning 2015/16, Serious Case Reviews

Appendix 'B' – Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15