

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Deputy Chief Executive People

to

Cabinet

on

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Annual Report on Safeguarding Children and Adults 2016-17

People Scrutiny Committee

Executive Councillor: Cllr Courtenay and Cllr Salter
A Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

To provide an annual assurance assessment for the Chief Executive and elected members in respect of their responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults in Southend. This report contributes to the requirements of statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and the Care Act 2014.

2. Recommendations

That the report is noted and the actions detailed in Section 6 of the Annual Safeguarding Reports at Appendices 1 and 3 are approved

3. Background

3.1 For the period 2016-17 the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), Southend Borough Council Children's Services and Southend Borough Council Adult Social Care Services have coordinated their annual reporting cycles in order to provide the chief executive and elected members an overview of the activity and effectiveness of safeguarding children and adults service in Southend.

3.2 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. (*Working Together 2015*).

3.3 The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory partnership responsible for co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding children arrangements in all agencies. The LSCB works alongside the Success for All Children Group, which is responsible for leading and coordinating improvements in services for all outcomes for children, including their safety. Both the LSCB and the Success For All Children Group work with the Health and Wellbeing Board which provides strategic leadership across all services.

3.4 Effective safeguarding children systems are those where:

- the child's needs are paramount, and the needs and wishes of each child, be they a baby or infant, or an older child, should be put first, so that every child receives the support they need before a problem escalates;
- all professionals who come into contact with children and families are alert to their needs and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children;
- all professionals share appropriate information in a timely way and can discuss any concerns about an individual child with colleagues and local authority children's social care;
- high quality professionals are able to use their expert judgement to put the child's needs at the heart of the safeguarding system so that the right solution can be found for each individual child;
- all professionals contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote a child's welfare and take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific plans and outcomes;
- LSCBs coordinate the work to safeguard children locally and monitor and challenge the effectiveness of local arrangements;
- when things go wrong Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) are published and transparent about any mistakes which were made so that lessons can be learnt; and
- local areas innovate and changes are informed by evidence and examination of the data.

3.5 The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a statutory partnership, responsible for co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding adults arrangements in all agencies. The SAB works in Partnership with the LSCB and Health and Wellbeing Board to provide strategic leadership across all services. Safeguarding Adults Boards should:

- identify the role, responsibility, authority and accountability with regard to the action each agency and professional group should take to ensure the protection of adults;
- establish ways of analysing and interrogating data on safeguarding notifications that increase the SAB's understanding of prevalence of abuse and neglect locally that builds up a picture over time;
- establish how it will hold partners to account and gain assurance of the effectiveness of its arrangements;
- determine its arrangements for peer review and self-audit;
- establish mechanisms for developing policies and strategies for protecting adults which should be formulated, not only in collaboration and consultation with all relevant agencies but also take account of the views of

adults who have needs for care and support, their families, advocates and carer representatives;

- develop preventative strategies that aim to reduce instances of abuse and neglect in its area;
- identify types of circumstances giving grounds for concern and when they should be considered as a referral to the local authority as an enquiry;
- formulate guidance about the arrangements for managing adult safeguarding, and dealing with complaints, grievances and professional and administrative malpractice in relation to safeguarding adults;
- develop strategies to deal with the impact of issues of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and gender orientation, sexual orientation, age, disadvantage and disability on abuse and neglect;
- identify mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the implementation and impact of policy and training;
- carry out safeguarding adult reviews;
- produce a Strategic/Business Plan and an Annual Report;
- evidence how SAB members have challenged one another and held other boards to account;
- promote multi-agency training and consider any specialist training that may be required;
- consider any scope to jointly commission some training with other partnerships, such as the Community Safety Partnership.

a. This report provides an annual assurance statement of the LSCB, SAB, and Council's effectiveness in the discharge of their safeguarding responsibilities. The report contains four elements:

- The annual report from the independent chair of the LSCB covering the effectiveness of safeguarding of children, and identifying key priorities locally to improve that effectiveness. (Appendix 1).
- A report from the Head of Children's Services covering the quality and effectiveness of the Council's children's social care delivery (Appendix 2).
- The annual report from the independent chair of the SAB covering the effectiveness of safeguarding adults and identifying key priorities locally to improve that effectiveness. (Appendix 3).
- A report from the Head of Adult Services covering the quality and effectiveness of the Council's adult social care delivery (Appendix 4).

3.7 Working Together 2015 states that the LSCB Chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.

The Care Act Guidance 2014 states that the SAB must publish an annual report that must clearly identify what both the SAB and its members have done to carry out and deliver the objectives and other content of its strategic/business plan.

- 3.8 Ofsted inspected Children's Services over a 4 week period from 26th April to 19th May 2016. The subsequent report set out the key judgements on Southend Children's Services as: "Overall, Children's Services in Southend-on-Sea require improvement to be good"..

Improvement Plans have been prepared by Children's Services and the LSCB to address the issues identified by the Inspection and Review and to meet the Council's and LSCB's aspiration of being a good/outstanding.

The LSCB's Improvement Plan was developed and agreed by the Board in September 2016 and its implementation is monitored by the LSCB

The Children's Services Improvement Plan consists of an overarching plan detailing key actions and the priorities for completion of the actions, supported by a detailed plan containing the actions which will need to be completed to achieve the outcomes of the plan. The Improvement Plan is overseen by an Improvement Board consisting of senior Members, Officers, an experienced senior manager independent of the Council, the chair of the LSCB and key partners to ensure robust delivery. A Scrutiny Panel reporting to the People Scrutiny Committee will also provide challenge and oversee the progress of the plan.

Serious Case Reviews are undertaken by LSCBs where a child dies or is seriously injured, and abuse or neglect are know or suspected to be a factor in the death. The LSCB commenced one Serious Case Review during the 12-month period covered by the Annual Report, and this was the continuation of a review that originally commenced in 2015/16 and was then paused pending court proceedings. The review recommenced in March 2017 and is ongoing and due to be concluded early in 2108.

- 3.9 As Deputy Chief Executive, I have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children, young people and adults with additional care and support needs in Southend, and to ensure that all appropriate local authority services engage effectively with the LSCB and SAB. The lead members and I have met with the Chief Executive and the Council Leader with this report in order that they can satisfy themselves that I am fulfilling my responsibilities.

4. Other Options

None

5. Reasons for Recommendations

To keep the Council informed of the position in respect of safeguarding children and adults in Southend.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

The work of partners and the Council in safeguarding children and adults directly contributes to the Council's priority to look after and safeguard our children and vulnerable adults.

6.2 Financial Implications

Spending on Safeguarding Children Services
Spending on Safeguarding Adults Services

6.3 Legal Implications

This report supports the Council, The Leader, the Chief Executive Director and Lead Member to discharge their statutory duties under the Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014.

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

The LSCB and SAB are inclusive organisations which involve statutory and voluntary agencies. The LSCB community lay member and the youth lay members represent the interests of the community on the Board and its sub groups, in line with statutory guidance. Consultation with children and families, which influences the way in which services are delivered, is a key strategic priority for the LSCB.

The SAB lay members, service user organisation member, and Healthwatch member represent the interests of the community on the SAB in line with statutory guidance.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

The Council, the LSCB and the SAB have the responsibility to ensure that all children and adults with additional care and support needs have their safety and welfare needs addressed. The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Procedures for both Child Protection and Safeguarding Adults addresses the "recognition of additional vulnerability" and covers the considerations which must be taken into account when meeting the needs of particular groups. All the LSCB and SAB sub groups address equality matters, with a standing item on all agendas.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Risk logs are maintained for the LSCB and SAB and within the Department for People. There is a standing item on the LSCB and SAB Executive agendas identifying risks to the efficacy of safeguarding services identified by partners, and agreeing mitigating actions to address these.

6.9 Value for Money

Fulfilling our responsibility to safeguard children and adults and promote their welfare is a statutory requirement. The Council works in partnership with other organisations and local authorities to ensure we fulfil those responsibilities in the most cost effective way. LSCB and SAB members ensure that all functions are undertaken on value for money principles. Since July 2013 the business management resource of the LSCB has been shared with the SAB, with some additional administration resource and a Performance and Quality Assurance Officer shared between both Boards.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

LSCB & SAB arrangements support the safety for our most vulnerable members of society across the localities and partnerships. The LSCB and SAB oversee work on road safety, e safety, violence against women and girls, modern slavery, sexual exploitation, bullying and hate crime as it relates to children and adults, and monitors the effectiveness of the implementation of the domestic abuse strategy

7. Background Papers

Many are core documents and are the same as identified in previous reports

- The Children Act 2004 Every Child Matters: Change for Children
- Children Act 1989
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)
- Special educational needs and disability code of practice (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016)
- Mental Capacity Act (2005)
- The Care Act (2014)
- Care Act Guidance (2014)

8. Appendices

Appendix 1- Southend LSCB Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Children in Southend 2016/17

Appendix 2- SBC Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Children 2016/17

Appendix 3- Southend SAB Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Adults in Southend 2016/17

Appendix 4- SBC Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Adults 2016/17