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15 October 2014

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) – Councillor Ruane

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Coventry Safeguarding Children Board (Independent Chair – Amy Weir for the year being reviewed)

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:**

*Coventry Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) Annual Report 2013-2014*

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

In line with previous reporting arrangements the Coventry Safeguarding Children Board is presenting its Annual Report which sets out the activity and the performance of the Board over the year from April 2013 to March 2014. This process is part of the accountability of the Board and also enables a wider discussion of its achievements and plans.

The Annual Report is published on the Coventry Safeguarding Board website and has been shared with Board Members. A draft of the report was reviewed at Scrutiny Board 2 in July 2014.

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet Member is asked to

- i) Note the annual report of the Coventry Safeguarding Children Board and the Business Plan

**List of Appendices included:**

**Appendix 1  
Annual Report 2013-14**

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

Coventry Safeguarding Children's Board – 31 July 2014  
Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (SB2) – 21 July 2014  
Health & Well-Being Board – 22 September 2014

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Coventry Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) Annual Report 2013-2014  
Business Plan 2013-2015**

**1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 In line with previous reporting arrangements the CSCB is presenting its Annual Report which sets out the activity and the performance of the Board over the year ended March 2014. This process is part of the accountability of the Board and also enables a wider discussion of its achievements and plans. The CSCB is required to produce an annual report. It provides an opportunity for the CSCB to inform key partners and stakeholders about its work in supporting and testing out the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements.
- 1.2 In the Ofsted inspection report published in March 2014, the CSCB was judged to be inadequate. This Annual Report covers the year during which this judgement was made. An Improvement Plan has been created and progress against this is monitored by the Safeguarding Board and reported to the Children's Services Improvement Board which meets every 6 weeks.
- 1.3 The Annual Report identifies six priorities going forward:

**1. COMPLIANCE WITH WORKING TOGETHER 2013 - CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE**

Ensure that partners, including children's social care, health and police, fulfil the responsibilities for their roles as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (Department for Education, 2013) to deliver effective practice to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Coventry. This will be achieved through LSCB challenge and evaluation of the impact of their activities.

**2. SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS**

Partners deliver improvements on time - Ensure that there is a timely response from partners to actions identified in serious case reviews, and that this results in evidence of improvement in outcomes for children.

**3. EARLY HELP COORDINATION AND EVALUATION**

Ensure - through challenge and evaluation of impact - that all partners are fully engaged in the implementation and delivery of the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy, so that children and their families have timely access to early help support.

**4. IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS of LSCB CHALLENGE AND SCRUTINY**

Ensure the practice and quality assurance sub-group utilises all information available, including audit findings and performance management information, to undertake a robust analysis of the effectiveness of services to help and protect children; demonstrable evidence of the impact of activity will be required from partners.

**5. ENSURE YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS ROUTINELY INFORM SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES.**

Demonstrate that young people's views are heard across all work and services and are being used to inform future developments.

## **6. PROMOTE AWARENESS OF PRIVATE FOSTERING**

Ensure that more privately fostered children and young people are identified and supported.

### **2. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 2.1 The Annual Report has been produced with input from the various agencies engaged in safeguarding children and young people across Coventry. It reflects the CSCB's collective view of progress, priorities and actions.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 The Plans and priorities in the Annual Report will be monitored over the coming year by the CSCB through its sub committees and progress and performance reports to Board. A further Annual Report will be published after the end of March 2015.

### **5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources**

#### **5.1 Financial implications**

The CSCB is funded by contributions from the key agencies which form its membership. Detail of income and expenditure for 2013/14 are included in the Annual Report.

#### **5.2 Legal implications**

The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. It outlines the areas that the report should focus on.

Statutory guidance "Working together to Safeguard Children" 2013 stipulates that the Chair of the Board may publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the Local Area. The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the Health & Well-being Board.

### **6. Other implications**

#### **6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

- Children are supported to live safe from harm with their families and communities

#### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

Not applicable

### 6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

CSCB has a role in ensuring that the work of the Council is addressing the safeguarding children agenda and in reporting the effectiveness of the City's safeguarding arrangements to both the Children and Young People's Commissioning Board, the Health & Well Being Board and the Local Strategic Partnership.

### 6.4 Equalities / EIA

It is an integral part of the CSCB role to ensure that vulnerable children are safeguarded and that we do this with explicit regard to their particular needs including their diversity.

### 6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

### 6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The CSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local authority will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

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#### Name and job title:

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