



To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 13th January 2020

From: Rebekah Eaves, Coventry Safeguarding Partnership and Board Business Manager

Title: Local Safeguarding Children's Annual report 2018-2019

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To brief the Health and Well-being Board on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) annual report in relation to activity of the LSCB April 2018- March 2019.

2 Recommendations

The Health and Well-being Board is asked:

1. To note the contents of the annual report.
2. To note the contents of the Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership Business Plan and for agencies of the Health and Well-being Board to support the completion of this plan.

3 Information/Background

Working Together 2015 states that, *'The 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 well-being board.'*

Working Together 2018 states that, *'In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken, the safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.'*

Safeguarding partners should make sure the report is widely available, and the published safeguarding arrangements should set out where the reports will be published. A copy of all published reports should be sent to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care within seven days of being published.

This report therefore comes to the Health and Well-being Board in-line with the statutory duty under Working Together 2015.

The LSCB had 5 priorities for 2018-2019:

- Children and young people who are looked after have equal opportunities to other children and young people.

- Early help services, including mental health support, are available to children and young people and are resulting in positive outcomes.
- Missing children and young people, and those at risk of child exploitation, are protected by effective multi agency arrangements.
- The profile of understanding of emotional abuse and neglect, including domestic abuse, is raised, that abuse is identified as early as possible, and that appropriate interventions are provided to prevent further abuse and harm.
- To work towards developing the partnership and continue to look forward and improve in light of the Wood Report and Children and Social Work Act 2017.

4 Highlights

- Coventry Safeguarding Children Board has now transitioned to Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership and have made the decision to recruit a Joint Chair to oversee the work of both the Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board to improve joint working and to look at improving the transition between Children's and Adult's services.
- Coventry has moved to an early help model and eight family hubs have opened which are leading to positive results for children and families.
- Signs of Safety training has been rolled out across the Partnership. There has been a strong commitment from agencies to release staff to this training.
- In 2018 the response to missing children in Coventry was improved by the launch of the Vulnerable and Missing Persons Operational Group, which is a multi-agency group that leads, reviews and recommends actions in relation to children that are missing and at risk of exploitation.
- Partners have demonstrated that they are delivering improvements in relation to looked after children and in some areas, such as school attendance, looked after children are achieving better outcomes than their non looked after peers.
- Across the City there is both a political and senior officer commitment to protecting children and young people from exploitation. Partners recognise that there are strong multi-agency outcome focused systems in place for identifying and responding to child sexual exploitation (cse) and they are now beginning to apply these to the complex issue of wider exploitation.
- The LSCB has developed low risk CSE guidance which is a significant step in responding to the fact that children and young people can move very quickly between the levels of risk and that all practitioners working with young people must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to both identify children at risk and intervene at the earliest opportunity to prevent the risks from escalating.
- The Board is assured that across the City there are good policies, procedures and training in place to ensure that Domestic Abuse is identified at the earliest opportunity across agencies. There is also a clear recognition that tackling domestic abuse requires a focus on the behaviour of the perpetrator and there are some examples of agencies working together to respond to this need.

5. Priorities for 2019-2021

The following have been agreed as the priorities for 2019-2021:

- Neglect
- Making the system work
- Contextual safeguarding

Report Author(s):

Name and Job Title: Rebekah Eaves, Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board

Directorate: People Directorate

Telephone and E-mail Contact: Tel: 024 76976827 or e-mail Rebekah.eaves@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Appendices

Coventry Safeguarding Children's Partnership Business Plan on a page.