

REPORT TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY BOARD

07 January 2019

Subject:	Presentation of 2017-18 Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report
Cabinet Portfolio:	Councillor Simon Hackett - Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Director:	Executive Director of Children's Services – Lesley Hagger
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
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DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board:

1. considers the 2017-18 Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report and makes any recommendations as necessary

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present to full Council the Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report
- 1.2 Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015 (the statutory guidance to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of

children), requires the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding in the area served by the Board. The attached report details the Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board's (SSCB/ Board) activities but, more importantly, it provides an overview of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Sandwell.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION

- 2.1 The work of SSCB, and the annual report itself, provides a transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. This enables a holistic view in respect of the Council's Vision 2030 and in particular:

Ambition 4: Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high-quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.

Ambition 5: Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.

Ambition 10: Sandwell has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's live and communities.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The SSCB annual report for 2017/18 is a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare across Sandwell.
- 3.2 Chapter 1 (page 4) introduces the annual report by way of a foreword from the Independent Chair.
- 3.3 Chapter 2 (page 5 - 6) provides background information about the annual report, including the priorities we have worked on for 2017 – 18.
- 3.4 Chapter 3 (page 7) jargon buster providing a glossary of terms.
- 3.5 Chapter 4 (pages 8 - 9) sets the context for safeguarding in Sandwell including statistical information.

- 3.6 Chapter 5 (pages 10 – 11) summarises broad information about SSCB with information on finances and partner attendance at board and the board structure.
- 3.7 Chapter 6 (page 12) 2017 – 18 events at a glance.
- 3.8 Chapter 7 (page 13) children’s services improvement journey with information regarding the outcome of the last Ofsted inspection.
- 3.9 Chapter 8 (page 14 – 20) summarises performance against the three 2017 - 18 strategic priorities) with a particular focus in respect of the Board’s key safeguarding areas of CSE, Domestic Abuse; Early Help.
- 3.10 Chapter 9 (page 21 - 27) scrutinises the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Sandwell by discussing work undertaken by the Quality of Practice and Performance Subgroup in respect of s175 and s11 audits; as well as multiagency and single agency audits. The chapter also draws on the work of the L&D Subgroup; SCR Subcommittee; CDOP and the regional policies and procedures.
- 3.11 Chapter 10 (page 28) safeguarding statistics at a glance.
- 3.12 Chapter 11 (page 29) Local Authority Designated Officer key activity during the year, areas that worked well and key focus for 2018 – 19.
- 3.13 Chapter 12 (page 30) looking ahead to 2018 – 19 including the board’s new priorities.
- 3.14 Chapter 13 (page 30 – 31) conclusion
- 3.15 Appendix 1 (pages 32 – 55) details the safeguarding assurances provided by partners including their impact statements.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The priorities set out below were agreed by SSCB in February 2018 following the Ofsted inspection of children’s services in late 2017. It was clear that SSCB needed to focus on fewer priorities and target activity to improve and strengthen the work of the partnership. Particular attention is required on sexual exploitation given Ofsted recommendations in this area and the need to improve support for children who go missing.
- 4.2 In addition, the Board has considered the range of learning and information presented during the year and summarised in the annual report. We have looked in detail at the experience of individual children

through Serious Case Reviews, local learning reviews, audits of multiagency work and listening to staff working every day with vulnerable children. This has improved our understanding of the need to focus on specific areas of work and conclude that we will have three Board priorities:

4.2.1 Improving the performance of SSCB

4.2.2 Improving services for Sandwell's children

4.2.3 Improving the response to exploitation

4.3 We must however ensure a clearer focus on specific key areas of work including neglect (a theme reflected in our Serious Case Reviews and Significant Incidents); ensuring the partnership delivers high quality "core business"; supporting the transition to a Children's Trust.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 The partnership has been widely consulted on the annual report which was ratified at the Board meeting on 18 September 2018.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1. There are no alternative options.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 The formulation of the annual report was met from existing resources.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 In accordance with Working Together 2015, a copy of the report has been sent to the Chief Executive of Sandwell MBC, Leader of the Council, Chair of the Health & Well-being Board and Police and Crime Commissioner.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 The SSCB annual report is the responsibility of the SSCB and is a summary and assessment of the work of all partners in meeting the safeguarding agenda. This report is for information only and the actions

contained within the boards plan will have their own Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) as required.

- 9.2 The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision/project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 There are no data protection issues arising from this report, the 2017-18 Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report or the attached presentation/summary.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
- 11.2 The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision/project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 SSCB are working to their annual Business Plan to March 2018.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 13.1 The annual report has been sent to the Health and Wellbeing Board Chair.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

- 14.1 There are no implications on any Council managed property or land.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 That members note the content of the 2017-18 SSCB Annual report

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.

17 APPENDICE:

17.1 2017-18 SSCB annual report

Lesley Hagger
Executive Director of Children's Services