



### Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015

Presentation to Council January 12<sup>th</sup> 2016

John Harris – Independent Chair



### **Overview**



The role of SSCB

- Board working arrangements
- Effectiveness of SSCB

Effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements

### Role of SSCB



- Coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
- Ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose
- Scope of LSCBs includes 'early help'
- Focus on learning and improvement
- The inspection framework includes review of LSCBs by OFSTED, with grading



#### Working Together to Safeguard Children

A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

March 2013



Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspections of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

Reviews of Local Safeguarding Children Boards

This document sets out the framework for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.

These inspections are conducted under section 136 of the Education and Inspection Act 2005. They focus on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, the experience and progress of children looked after, including adoption, foresting, the use of residential care, and children for children who are looked after and the experiences and progress of our leavest, The leadership, management and governance judgments addresses the effectiveness of leaders and managers and the impact they have on the lives of children and young people and the quality of professional practice locally.

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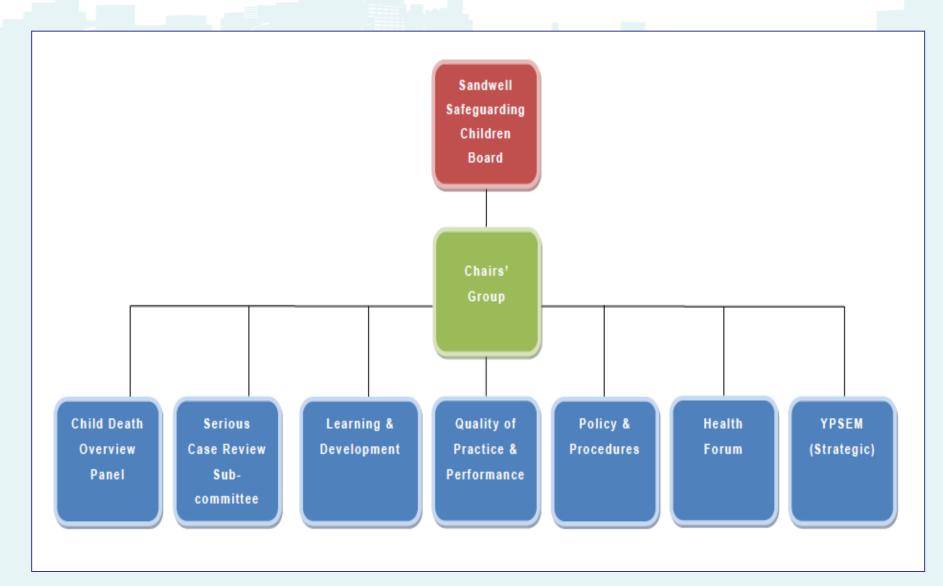
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## **Board Arrangements**







# **Annual Report Requirements**

S Sandwell
S Safeguarding
C Children
B Board

- rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services
- identify areas of weakness, the causes of those
   weaknesses and the action being taken to address them
- •include lessons from serious case reviews, child death reviews and other relevant reviews
- •report on the outcome of assessments undertaken on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to CSE
- •include an analysis of how the LSCB partners have used their data to promote service improvement for vulnerable children and families
- •include data on children missing from care, and how the LSCB is addressing the issue.
- •list the contributions made to SSCB by partner agencies and details of what SSCB has spent





### Route through the report



Board effectiveness

- Local arrangements (local authority and other partners)
- Learning and Improvement

Key Safeguarding Risks





### **Effectiveness of SSCB**



- Chair's Strategic Review in September 2014 found Board not meeting statutory functions
- Ten-point programme to get Board to at least 'requires improvement' in six months
- OFSTED found that Board had not made sufficient progress since last inspection...but commended new direction and programme



### **Effectiveness of Local Arrangements**



- Progress over last twelve months but substantial challenges remain for local authority and partners
- Four key issues:
- 1. Shared understanding and consistent application of thresholds to ensure timely response to need and risk
- 2. Significantly improve the response to CSE
- 3. Ensure all partners contribute to effective and systematic early help arrangements
- 4. Promote a culture of shared learning and improvement from case reviews and audits www.sandwelllscb.org.uk



### Update January 2016



### **Effectiveness of SSCB**

- Good progress since the inspection
- Action on almost areas for improvement now completed or 'on track'
- SSCB now recognised by all partner agencies and externally as making an impact on systemwide improvements as well as meeting its own responsibilities



### **Update January 2016**



### **Progress on Key Issues:**

### Thresholds - responding to changing risk and need

 Too high a proportion of casework continues to be inadequate. Driving improvement in quality of practice is the top issue in next three months.

### Responding to CSE

 Good commitment from partner agencies but improvements required in relation to all ten of SSCB's areas for assurance in relation to CSE

#### <u>Early Help</u>

 Consolidation of Sandwell's early help offer, with greater commitment required from partner agencies, particularly health professionals

#### **Learning and Improvement**

- Coordinated multi-agency audit programme established, but questionable how far it is making an impact on practice improvement.
- Serious Case Review due for publication in January