

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	4 February 2015
Title:	Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Board (HSCB) – Annual Report
Reference:	6472
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The attached annual report from the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board provides an independent analysis of the safeguarding services provided to the County's children and young people over 2013/14, and outlines the challenges ahead over the next year.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This report presents the 2013/14 Annual Report endorsed by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) in July 2014.
- 2.2 This report identifies the progress made by the Council's Children's Services Department and partners across the NHS, Hampshire Constabulary, schools, and the voluntary sector during 2013/14 in improving the child protection system. It also identifies areas of vulnerabilities and outlines what action is being taken to address challenges where they remain.
- 2.3 The Annual Report includes lessons from management reviews, serious case reviews and child deaths within the reporting period. It also includes the analysis from Ofsted's inspection of the LSCB which graded the child protection partnership as 'good' in April 2014.
- 2.4 It is important to note that since April 2013, referrals into children's services have continued to increase and the overall activity within the child protection system continues to rise. As the report indicates this places pressure on front line services across all sectors. The development of Hampshire's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is an important feature of integrated front line working and the HSCB will report on its impact in its next annual report.

- 2.5 The Annual Report also outlines the increased identification of children at risk of sexual exploitation and this has remained a priority for the HSCB during 2014. There are currently 39 children considered at high risk of sexual exploitation in Hampshire. This is an increase from last year and reflects greater understanding of the risks facing adolescents and is a direct result of the introduction of the 'Seraf' assessment tool and enhanced multi agency working in this area.
- 2.6 The Independent Chair has responded to the Police and Crime Commissioner's review of historic child sexual abuse instigated September 2014 by ensuring that the HSCB provides a coherent multi agency CSE response, to include NHS partners, the local authority and other partners alongside the Constabulary. This is expected in February 2015.
- 2.7 Specific challenges are highlighted in the Annual Report around action taken to learn lessons from cases when things go wrong and where children are the subject of neglect, harm or abuse from their carers or other adults around them.
- 2.8 HSCB is committed to publishing the findings from all Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and in this reporting period published SCR Child R and S in October 2013. Since then a further SCR was published in September 2014 (Child V). There has been a significant increase in the numbers of SCRs commissioned across Hampshire in line with new government guidance and this will be reported in more detail in the next Annual Report of HSCB.
- 2.9 The lessons from all of these cases have influenced the focus of HSCB's multi-agency training programme and a series of Learning Lessons workshops were implemented in 2013/14, resulting in the training of over 700 front line professionals from the NHS, policing, education and social care. HSCB is actively obtaining independent assurance from all Hampshire agencies that actions following SCRs are properly monitored and progress evidenced.
- 2.10 During the reporting period HSCB completed multi agency audits. A Section 11 audit was undertaken with statutory agencies across Hampshire which asked each partner agency to provide evidence to the Board on how they are meeting the many aspects of their safeguarding responsibilities. Where specific action has been required by certain agencies to improve their contributions, the HSCB monitors this to ensure all agencies are discharging their safeguarding duties.
- 2.11 The numbers of child deaths considered by the Child Death Overview Panel in Hampshire for the year was 64. The HSCB through the Child Death Overview Panel is required to ensure that a proportionate review is undertaken of each death of a child under 18 irrespective of the cause of the death. The purpose is to understand if there are any lessons to be learnt, and whether there are any wider public health or safety concerns to prevent further deaths. If abuse or neglect is suspected then a serious case review

must be undertaken and the findings from this about how agencies how worked together to safeguard children must be published.

- 2.12 Engagement with Education in relation to safeguarding requires some improvement and during 2013/14 the HSCB has engaged with all maintained schools, academies and independent schools requiring completion of an annual s 175/157 safeguarding assessment. Completion of these returns has remained just above 70% and the HSCB, will place into the public domain details of those schools remaining non compliant with this audit in 2015.
- 2.13 During 2014 the HSCB has initiated its first formal health safeguarding sub group to bring together the five CCGs, different health providers within the public and private sector and NHS England to ensure that priority is given at a senior level to safeguarding. The Independent Chair has met with all chief executives of the different NHS Trusts during 2014 and seeks assurance from the HWG that a focus on safeguarding children will remain a priority for all of the health economy.

3 Memorandum of Understanding between HSCB and HWB

- 3.1 A protocol between HSCB and HWB was developed during the reporting year and it is requested that the IC presents her annual assessment at an earlier HWB meeting in 2015, shortly after the publication of the next HSCB Annual Report in July 2015. Any action that the HWB takes following the HSCB Annual Report requires formal feedback to the HSCB. This requires strengthening.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 Hampshire agencies are working hard to ensure that the child protection system is working. This Annual Report outlines the achievements of HSCB 2013/4 and provides assurance that the child protection partnership is effective. However, challenges remain to ensure that there is a multi agency strategic response to the increased activity and complexity of cases within the child protection system; that there is a common understanding of how identify early children at risk of exploitation, trafficking or going missing and that partner agencies are responding swiftly to learning arising from child deaths.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:
- Note that the child protection partnership is working effectively across Hampshire but there are severe pressure points in relation to the increased complexity of cases and activity in the system
 - Consider the implications of the Child Sexual Exploitation problem profiling across Hampshire for their individual agencies
 - Ensure that learning from Serious Case Reviews is embedded in respective agencies and leads to effective information sharing between organisations

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Maximising well-being:	yes
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The report will have no impact on equalities because it is for information not decision.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. There is no impact on crime and disorder as this report is for information not decision.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? No proposal therefore no impact.
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? No proposal therefore no impact.