

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	11 February 2014
Title:	Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) – Annual Report 2012/13
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Report From:	Safeguarding Children’s Board Manager

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1. Summary

- 1.1. This 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 2012/13, and outlines the challenges ahead over the next year.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. This report presents the 2012/13 Annual Report produced by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) in November 2013 and endorsed by members of that Board in October 2013. Current Government guidance captured in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) sets out the requirement introduced through The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) to produce and publish an annual report. This report is intended to provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the effectiveness of local child protection arrangements.
- 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 2012/13 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.

- 2.4. In Working Together 2013, (recently issued by the Department for Education), it is recommended that once the report is published it should be submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). The new framework for inspection of child protection arrangements by Ofsted and the review of LSCB activity states clearly that there should be a memorandum of understanding between the HSCB, HWB and any Children's Trust arrangements.
- 2.5. It is vital that the HSCB is forceful in carrying out its scrutiny role in overseeing child protection arrangements across Hampshire and findings from its multi agency audits, Section 11 audits and all SCRs will be found on the HSCB website. Transparency and public accountability through the work of the HSCB in overseeing children protection services is essential.

3. The 2012/13 Annual Report

- 3.1. The report details the steps made by agencies to ensure that children across the County remain safe. Progress by the HSCB in the reporting year remained steady under the independent chairmanship of the previous independent chair, Clare Chamberlain and the Annual Report states clearly that HSCB met all its strategic priorities. Maggie Blyth was appointed as independent chair of HSCB in April 2013 and will report on progress made during 2013/14 to a forthcoming HWB no later than September 2014.
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. As the report indicates this places pressure on front line services. The development of Hampshire's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is an important feature of integrated front line working to ensure swift decision making in relation to referrals into the system.
- 3.4. Hampshire agencies have invested in a new early intervention strategy during 2013 which aims to provide swift support to children before a referral to Specialist Children's Services is required. During the year HSCB has noted the somewhat limited use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), which was clearly highlighted in this Annual Report but accepts that this is not reflective of the effectiveness of the early offer in Hampshire.
- 3.5. There has been some progress in the reporting period in how Hampshire is responding to children at risk of going missing and sexual exploitation. The Children's Commissioner Inquiry published in November 2013 has reinforced the importance of LSCB prioritisation of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). HSCB has developed training for front line staff and held a county wide conference. All children aged 10 and over referred to children's services are now assessed for risk of CSE. A new sub group of the 4 LSCB Missing Exploited and Trafficked (MET) group has been established reporting directly to HSCB.

- 3.6. To ensure that the spotlight is retained on those young people at risk of going missing and sexual exploitation this remains a priority for HSCB during 2013/14. During 2012/13 it is estimated that 17 children were identified as being at risk of CSE. HSCB is requiring statutory agencies to understand more clearly the trends relating to children missing on the Island to ensure that the most vulnerable young people are supported at the right time.
- 3.7. Specific challenges are highlighted 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.
- 3.8. HSCB is now committed to publishing the findings from all Single Central Records (SCR). The overview reports from one SCR commissioned during 2012/13 was placed into the public domain in October 2013.
- 3.9. 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 developed for roll out in 2013/14. HSCB is actively obtaining independent assurance from all Hampshire agencies that actions following SCRs are properly monitored and progress evidenced.
- 3.10. 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, Hampshire will monitor this to ensure all agencies are discharging their safeguarding duties.
- 3.11. The work of supporting Hampshire's Children in Care (CIC) continues to place pressures on public agencies responsible for supporting vulnerable children, including children's social services, schools, police, and health services. HSCB will continue to seek evidence that agencies are adequately able to protect all children placed in care and supports rigorous risk assessments for children placed out of area. The numbers of CIC remained constant during 2012/13.
- 3.12. The numbers of child deaths considered by the Child Death Overview Panel in Hampshire for the year was 61. 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.
- 3.13. Engagement with Education in relation to safeguarding requires some improvement and it is vital that HSCB seeks assurance through its statutory powers during 2014 to assess the extent to which schools, both maintained and independent, are able to satisfactorily safeguarding children. HSCB is also working with its Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England

partners to review health representation on HSCB and its sub groups to ensure appropriate engagement from commissioners and providers across the health economy.

- 3.14. It is anticipated that the Independent Chair of HSCB will present its Annual Report to the HWB annually and require the HWB to report back to the HSCB on any action it has taken during the year in relation to improving the multi agency child protection system in Hampshire.

4. Protocol between HSCB and HWB

- 4.1. A protocol between HSCB and HWB is being developed and a draft copy is available as appendix 1 of this report. More work will be carried out over the coming months. This will include a workshop between the Safeguarding Board and the HWB. It will explore the distinct roles and responsibilities of each of the Boards, the interrelationship between them in terms of safeguarding and wellbeing and the means by which effective coordination and coherence is secured.
- 4.2. It is anticipated that HSCB will agree the protocol at its April 2014 meeting with a view that it be presented at the HWB meeting in May 2014.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. Hampshire agencies are working hard to ensure that the child protection system is working. This Annual Report outlines the achievements of HSCB 2012/13. However, challenges remain to ensure that there is a common understanding of thresholds across the County; that the most vulnerable children at risk of exploitation, trafficking or going missing are identified and that HSCB improves its quality assurances procedures to effectively scrutinise performance of all parts of the child protection system.

6. Recommendations

6.1. Members of the HWB are asked to:

- Consider what joint commissioning opportunities there are to improve services for children at risk of sexual exploitation, trafficking or going missing
- Note the development of a joint protocol between the HWB and HSCB and forthcoming workshop
- Agree that the final protocol be presented to the May 2014 Board meeting for sign off

7. Background Documents

7.1. HSCB Annual Report

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support healthy choices for all, reducing the difference between those with the best and worst health and wellbeing outcomes 	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

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. Equalities Impact Assessment:

No impact assessment has been carried out for this report.

Impact on Crime and Disorder:

Not applicable

Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Not applicable

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION
**PROTOCOL IN SUPPORT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
HAMPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD and THE HAMPSHIRE
LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (HSCB)**

The Hampshire Health and Well-Being Board and the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board have agreed that a protocol should be drafted setting out the proposed relationships that should exist between them.

This protocol sets out the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Boards, the inter-relationships between them in terms of safeguarding and well-being and the means by which we will secure effective co-ordination and coherence.

The Purpose of Health and Well-Being Boards

Health and Well-Being Boards were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They are intended to be a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.

Each top tier and unitary authority must have its own health and wellbeing board. Board members are expected to collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined up way. As a result, patients and the public should experience more joined-up services from the NHS and local councils in the future.

What they do?

- Health and wellbeing boards have strategic influence over commissioning decisions across health, public health and social care through the development of a Health and Well-Being strategy.
- Boards are intended to strengthen democratic legitimacy by involving democratically elected representatives and patient representatives in commissioning decisions alongside commissioners across health and social care. The boards also provide a forum for challenge, discussion, and the involvement of local people.
- Boards will bring together clinical commissioning groups and councils to develop a shared understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of the community. They will undertake the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and develop a joint strategy for how these needs can be best addressed. This will include recommendations for joint commissioning and integrating services across health and care.
- Through undertaking the JSNA, the board will drive local commissioning of health care, social care and public health and create a more effective and responsive local health and care system. Other services that impact on health and wellbeing such as housing and education provision will also be addressed.

The Purpose of Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB)

The key objectives of the HSCB as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' are:

- To co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the well-being of children;
- To ensure the effectiveness of that work

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

A key objective in undertaking these roles is to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

The role of an LSCB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The LSCB is not operationally responsible for managers and staff in constituent agencies.

The need for effective communication and engagement between the Boards.

Safeguarding is everyone's business. As such, all key strategic plans whether they be formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery as well as emerging plans for change and improvement include effective safeguarding arrangements that ensure that all people of Hampshire are safe and their well-being is protected. The two safeguarding boards have a responsibility to scrutinise and challenge these arrangements.

The Health and Well-Being Strategy will become a key commissioning strategy for the delivery of services to children and adults across Hampshire and so it is critical that in drawing up, delivering and evaluating the strategy there is effective interchange between the Hampshire Health and Well-Being Board and the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board through the following:

- The needs analyses that drive the formulation of the annual Health and Well-Being Strategy and the LSCB Business Plans. This needs to be reciprocal in nature ensuring both that safeguarding boards' needs

analyses are fed into the JSNA and that the outcomes of the JSNA are fed back into safeguarding boards' planning;

- Ensuring each Board is regularly updated on progress made in the implementation of the Health and Well Being Strategy and the individual Board Business Plans in a context of mutual scrutiny and challenge;
- Annually reporting evaluations of performance on Plans again to provide the
- opportunity for reciprocal scrutiny and challenge and to enable Boards to feed any improvement and development needs into the planning process for future years' strategies and plans.

Whilst 'Working Together 2013' did not formalise the relationship between the Health and Well-Being Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board as had been anticipated there is an expectation that the LSCB's annual report should be submitted to the Chair of the Health and Well-Being Board and of cross-Board engagement in relation to the JSNA.

The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the Hampshire HWB and the HSCB can, therefore be summarised as follows:

- Securing an integrated approach to the JSNA, ensuring comprehensive safeguarding data analysis in the JSNA, in line with Working Together guidance
- Aligning the work of the LSCB business plan with the HWB Strategy and related priority setting.
- Ensuring safeguarding is "everyone's business", reflected in the public health agenda and related determinant of health policies and strategies.
- Evaluating the impact of the HWB Strategy on safeguarding outcomes, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health outcomes
- Identifying coordinated approach to performance management, transformational change and commissioning
- Cross Board scrutiny and challenge and "holding to account": the HWB for embedding safeguarding, and the LSCB for overall performance and contribution to the HWB Strategy.

Arrangements to secure co-ordination between the Boards.

In order to secure the opportunities identified above it is proposed that the following arrangements would be put in place to ensure effective co-ordination and coherence in the work of the two Boards.

1. Between September and November each year the Independent Chair of the LSCB would present to the Hampshire Health and Well-Being Board the Annual Report outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. This would be supplemented by a position statement on the Boards' performance in the current financial year. This would provide the opportunity for the Health and Well-Being Board to scrutinise and challenge the performance of the

LSCB, to draw across data to be included in the JSNA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Hampshire Health and Well-Being Strategy.

2. Between October and February the Hampshire Health and Well-Being Board to present to the LSCB the review of the Health and Well-Being Strategy, the refreshed JSNA and the proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed Health and Well-Being Strategy to enable the LSCB to scrutinise and challenge performance of the Hampshire Health and Well-Being Board and to ensure that their refreshed Business Plans appropriately reflect relevant priorities set in the refreshed Health and Well-Being Commissioning Strategy.
3. In April/May the Boards will share their refreshed Plans for the coming financial year to ensure co-ordination and coherence.

Relationships between the LSCB and other partnership forums reporting to the Health and Well-Being Board.

The Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory committee of Hampshire County Council, it has a substructure to lead on delivering the key strategic work strands to ensure we meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population

At present there is a formal protocol between the HSCB and the Children's Trust Board. There is no requirement for such a relationship in the proposed revised version of 'Working Together' since Children's Trusts are no longer a statutory requirement.

In the context of our aim to ensure that 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business' however, it is intended that there should be effective co-ordination and coherence in relation to safeguarding and well-being between the LSCB and the key strategic partnership forums leading. It is critical that there are processes in place to ensure effective cross-working, scrutiny and challenge between the safeguarding boards and other partnership forums. This could be achieved in two ways:

- Formally sharing annual plans during the formulation stages to enable co-ordination and coherence where there are business overlaps – for example domestic violence will feature in the LSCB. The purpose of this sharing will be to secure clarity of roles, responsibilities and purpose, to avoid duplication and to prevent gaps.
- Where appropriate to ensure that there is cross-Board representation to secure on-going communication. This already exists for some groups – for example, there are members of the Hampshire Children's Trust Board on the LSCB – but this needs to be formalised across all relevant groups.

Conclusion

The role of the HSCB in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board would be one of equal partner underpinned by this protocol.

The diagram below is intended to summarise the relationships set out in this protocol.