

Subject:	Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) Annual Report for 2011-12		
Date of Meeting:	12 November 2012		
Report of:	Alan Bedford, LSCB Independent Chair		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Sharon Healy, LSCB Business Manager	Tel: 29-0728
	Email:	Sharon.healy@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 (the statutory guidance) says "It should recognise achievements and progress as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that still remain." Current guidance requires it to go to the Children's Trust and this committee has subsumed its functions. Draft revised statutory guidance, if implemented, will require reports "to 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". The LSCB plans to send it to all chief officers of agencies concerned with children.
- 1.2 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there is an effective LSCB, but also is a provider of safeguarding services and a member of the LSCB. This item therefore looks at the report from a range of perspectives.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee receives the Report, and recommends other Council committees where this might go in addition to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.2 That the committee identifies any issues arising from the Report for further clarification or action.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 This is the third LSCB annual report submitted since it became a statutory duty. It covers the objectives, accountability, and organisation of the Board; progress against the 11-12 business plan; key areas covered by the Board especially those where a difference has been made; learning from case reviews;

performance information; and summaries from reports from member agencies including the council's children's social care. The Chair identifies key issues in the year and 2012-3 onwards.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A final draft of the 2011-12 report was sent to lead members of the LSCB's member agencies on 26 Oct 12 and agreed. The DCS was also consulted. It will be publically available including on the LSCB web site <http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/>

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report. The financial information presented in the LSCB Annual report is accurate and a true reflection of the LSCB financial position within Brighton & Hove City Council's accounts.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Date: 01/11/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). There is a requirement under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) that at least once in every 12 month period, a LSCB must prepare and publish a report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its local area, and submit a copy of the report to the local Children's Trust Board. Under the council's changed governance arrangements the report will be submitted both to the Children and Young People's Committee, and the shadow Brighton and Hove Health and Wellbeing Board, and all member agencies. Section 14(1) of the Act defines the objective of an LSCB as (a) to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established, and (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes. Whilst the LSCB has a role in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of local individuals' and organisations' work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, it is not accountable for their operational work. Each Board partner retains its own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services. The Committee will be assisted by the report in understanding the operational effectiveness of each agency.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 05/11/12

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The LSCB annual report is very important to the implementation of Brighton & Hove Council's Equalities Policy and to the achievement of the priorities set out in its annual business plan. The board champions our most vulnerable young

people and as such the board needs to ensure that every child irrespective of their age, disability, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation is safeguarded in the city. One of the key objectives of the LSCB is to improve outcomes for children and young people from diverse communities and groups, and for those who live in deprived geographical communities.

An EIA is not applicable as the LSCB Annual report is not implementing a new policy or strategy.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 This report does not directly address sustainability issues but it is linked to the priorities in the CYPP which supports the council's sustainability strategy

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The LSCB aims to support young people to engage in law abiding and socially acceptable activity and behaviour. There are no specific implications in the report in relation to crime and disorder but as the board is concerned with children who are at most at risk in Brighton and Hove they may be at increased risk of becoming known to the criminal justice system.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The LSCB will assist the partners in understanding safeguarding and child protection in Brighton and Hove and assist in meeting their duties to children in need of protection.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 One of the key objectives of the LSCB is to improve outcomes and health and wellbeing for children and young people from diverse communities and groups, and for those who live in deprived geographical communities. The LSCB has a formal position on the Health and Wellbeing Board and is committed to working in partnership with public health colleagues as necessary.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The LSCB annual report describes the collective responsibilities that members and officers of Brighton & Hove City Council and its partner organisations have towards safeguarding children and young people.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As set out in section 1.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011-12

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None