

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 27TH FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT OF REPORT: NORTH SOMERSET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD, ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OR PARISH:

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: TONY OLIVER

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

Panel to note the report contents and provide comment for the Safeguarding Children Board Chairperson.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

The annual report of the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board will introduce members to the role and function of the Board.

2. POLICY

Linked to the Corporate Plan: Building safer and stronger communities – strengthen safeguarding for children.

3. DETAILS

The North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (NSSCB), is a statutory body that is required in each local authority (Children Act 2004), the role and function of a Safeguarding Board is outlined in the statutory multi agency guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. The Board membership consists of senior representatives from all of the partner organisations in North Somerset who have safeguarding responsibilities toward children.

The Board meets 4 times a year and has the primary objective to coordinate what is done by each body that is represented on the board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each body for that purpose.

The attached report is produced on an October to October annual cycle and contains the following sections: the role and function of the Board, the Board structure with main

achievements, local performance data (in respect of child protection and safeguarding) and planned actions for the year ahead.

The annual report is for the 2013-14 period and the business plan 2014-17.

Following the recent publication of updated guidance (*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013*), the report is also submitted to the Council Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the 'Health and Wellbeing Board'.

4. CONSULTATION

The report is produced by the key partners of the Board including: Police Service, Health Trust and Commissioning Services, Probation Service, Cafcass, Learning Partnership West, local voluntary sector, Children's Services, Education and Youth Offending Service.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Board partners contribute to the funding of the Board and to the operation of the sub committee groups. Following publication of the new guidance the financial arrangements for the Board are under review.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board supports multi agency arrangements to safeguarding children across the area and monitors the effectiveness of such arrangements in order to reduce the risk to children from abuse.

The Board contributes to the performance of the local authority in respect of the inspection of joint agency safeguarding arrangements.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Effective functioning of the Board supports equality of access to safeguarding services for children across North Somerset.

8. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None

9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children Act 2004, *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013*.