

TITLE	Local Safeguarding Children’s Board
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 November 2017
WARD	None Specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Judith Ramsden, Strategic Director of People Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The WSCB annual report is a statutory requirement under the statutory requirement of the Children Act (2004). In order to fulfil its statutory functions under Regulation 5 an LSCB should use data and, as a minimum, should:

- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations set out in this guidance;
- quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

The attached report sets our key priorities, achievement and areas for development in Wokingham and is a public document.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report is noted.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The WSCB partnerships role is to oversee, co-ordinate, challenge and scrutinise multi agencies to assess the effectiveness of work by professionals and organisations to keep children in Wokingham safe. Business planning meetings identified the following three priorities: **PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:** We will help professionals who work with children to understand the circumstances in which sexual exploitation might arise and to recognise the signs of children suffering from this kind of abuse. We also want to work with professionals to build effective multi-professional arrangements to respond to needs identified by children at risk of or suffering from sexual abuse/sexual exploitation

2. ENHANCE EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH: Children and young people are supported to develop resilience and are able to access good quality mental health services at an early stage to both support their emotional wellbeing and prevent mental health difficulties, enabling them to fulfil their potential. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of bullying on children and young people.

3. KEEP CHILDREN SAFE WHILE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES CHANGE:

Monitor safeguarding practices and procedures whilst service redesign takes place, for example monitoring the impact of the new social care front door and how it is embedded.

What has been achieved:

- A refreshed Multi-Agency Information Sharing Protocol across Berkshire.
- Multi-agency practice learning case review subgroup.
- Members agreed and signed up to the WSCB Member Compact with an understanding of the Wokingham LSCB member's collective roles and individual responsibility to promote the effectiveness of the WSCB to meet its duties, which are prescribed in statute and national guidance, and agreed locally as set out in the WSCB Terms of Reference
- Adopted the learning and improvement framework to embed a culture of continuous improvement
- WSCB 2016/17 'Keeping Children Safe' Business Plan
- Domestic Violence and Abuse endorsed strategy
- endorsed a Neglect Strategy
- Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy refresh
- Communication and Engagement Strategy
- Refreshed WSCB Business Plan 2017/18
- Berkshire West Training & Development Strategy 2015/20

What we need to improve on:

- Clearer focus on communication between subgroups.
- Develop an efficient Learning pathway from audits.
- Reporting to evidence the impact for children
- Develop the WSCB website

Background

LSCB's have been required to provide an annual report on the effectiveness of interagency arrangements to safeguard children. This has to include arrangements for monitoring agencies effectiveness and provide an honest appraisal of the capacity to provide strategic inter-agency arrangements that ensure children and their families are supported and safeguarded. It is authored by the independent chair of the LSCB to provide independent scrutiny of these arrangements including the financial contributions agencies make towards the running costs of the Board. These are included in the budget statement of the WSCB.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not applicable		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications

n/a

List of Background Papers

None

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Service Children’s Services

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