

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
20 SEPTEMBER 2010	Public Report

Report of the Independent Chair of Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board

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PETERBOROUGH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (PSCB) 2009/10 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2010/11

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide scrutiny committee with information about the work of the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) and with an opportunity to comment on the annual report and business plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Scrutiny committee members are requested to comment on and note the contents of the PSCB annual report and business plan and to consider what they may wish to scrutinise in the future.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 The LSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do. Safeguarding children is fundamental to the success of the sustainable community strategy.
- 3.2 The PSCB has interest in several National Indicators which are detailed in the annual report.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In March 2010, the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to produce and publish an annual report. The report is required to demonstrate the extent to which the functions of the LSCB are being effectively discharged. It should provide an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, recognising the achievements and progress that has been made in the local authority area as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that still remain.
- 4.2 The LSCB is required to send a copy of the annual report to the Children's Trust Board. The Children's Trust Board in turn is expected to respond to the report through the local Children and Young People's plan.
- 4.3 LSCBs are required to publish their first annual report under the new regulations by 1 April 2011. However, Children's Trust Boards are also required to produce a Children and Young People's Plan by that date. It was necessary therefore to complete the LSCB annual report in time for it to be properly considered and effectively utilised by the Children's Trust Board.
- 4.4 The coalition Government has recently announced that the statutory requirement to produce a Children and Young People's plan is to be revoked. The implications of this announcement are still being considered.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The priorities for 10/11 reflect the LSCB's statutory responsibilities, focussing on improving multi agency performance management, ensuring that multi agency child protection procedures and practice guidance are up to date and reflect legislative changes, delivering high quality multi agency safeguarding training, improving the monitoring of actions arising from serious case reviews and raising public awareness about safeguarding.
- 5.2 In addition to the above, plans are in place to establish closer relationships with Cambridgeshire's LSCB. Both Boards depend on the work of their subcommittees in order to implement their respective business plans. However, capacity issues have been identified by a number of agencies which potentially compromises the LSCBs' ability to carry out their statutory responsibilities. Many of the issues are common to both Boards, for example, producing up to date child protection procedures and interpreting national guidance at a local level. Both LSCBs support this direction of travel.
- 5.3 The annual report and business plan is being presented to the Children's Trust at a joint meeting of the two Boards on September 30. In addition to informing the development of the Children & Young People's plan, this meeting will be used to identify the safeguarding priorities for Peterborough and to develop a Safeguarding Strategy for the City, covering the work of both the Trust and the LSCB.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 PSCB is funded by the City Council, Cambs Constabulary, NHS Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust and Children and Family Court Advisory and Support service. The work of the PSCB is supported by a small team of four. As all partners are required to reduce their expenditure there may be implications for the PSCB in terms of prioritising work which can be undertaken.
- 6.2 The work undertaken by partners is city wide

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The draft annual report and business plan has been discussed at PSCB meetings and all partners have had the opportunity to provide information.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The annual report will be published and the business plan implemented over the coming year.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 Working Together To Safeguard Children March 2010.
PSCB Annual Report and Business Plan (Appendix 1)

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 PSCB Annual Report and Business Plan – Appendix 1