

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES & TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
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Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

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PETERBOROUGH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (PSCB) 2010/11 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2011/12

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

- 3.1 The Local Safeguarding Children Board (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.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In March 2010, the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 introduced a requirement for LSCBs to produce and publish an annual report. LSCBs were then required to send a copy of the annual report to the Children's Trust Board which, in turn, was expected to respond to the report through the local Children and Young People's plan. LSCBs were required to publish their first annual report under the new regulations by 1 April 2011.
- 4.2 Following the change of government in May 2010, the statutory basis of Children's Trusts and the requirement to produce a Children and Young People's plan was rescinded. However, the statutory requirement for every LSCB to produce and publish an annual report remains.
- 4.3 In June 2010, the Secretary of State for Education commissioned a review of child protection from Professor Eileen Munro. The final report was published in May 2011. With regard to LSCB annual reports, Professor Munro has recommended that the legislation is amended to require the annual report be submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, to the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing board.
- 4.4 The Government's response to Munro was published in July 2011. With regard to the recommendations in connection with LSCBs, it has accepted the recommendations described above in paragraph 4.3 and is to identify an appropriate legislative vehicle 'as soon as practicable'.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The report highlights the significant events arising during last year, summarises the work of the subcommittees, presents some statistical information about child protection activity and highlights areas of good practice. It was presented to and agreed by the PSCB on July 21 2011.
- 5.2 The priorities for 2011/12 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.
- 5.3 In addition to the above, plans continue with regard to maintaining close 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 compromise 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.
- 5.4 The Board is also working with Peterborough's Safeguarding Adults Board on one of the priorities identified in the Greater Peterborough Partnership's Single Delivery Plan, namely 'Helping People to Safeguard themselves'. A joint initiative promoting awareness about E-Safety is planned for the Autumn.

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 the resource available to all partners reduces, 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 annual report and business plan has been discussed at PSCB meetings and all partners have had the opportunity to provide information and contribute to the priorities identified for the coming year.

8. NEXT STEPS

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

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1
- Working Together To Safeguard Children, March 2010.
 - The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report, May 2011
 - A child-centred system, The Government's response to the Munro review of child protection, July 2011

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 PSCB Annual Report and Business Plan (Appendix 1)