

Shropshire's Safeguarding Children Board, (SSCB), is the key statutory mechanism for co-ordinating local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and ensuring the effectiveness of that work.

SSCB Annual Report April 2012-March 2013:

Assesses the safeguarding performance and effectiveness of partner agencies

Includes lessons from inspections, audits and reviews undertaken

Sets out priorities for the coming year

www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk



SSCB Priorities 2012/2015

- Missing Children, to include child sexual exploitation and trafficking
- Compromised Parenting, to include domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, and parental mental ill health
- Communication and raising awareness.

Progress against priorities:

- Development of the Child Sexual Exploitation Panel
- Worked closely with private care providers to improve notifications of a looked after child moving into the area.
- Development and implementation of a Joint Working Protocol between Substance Misuse Services and Children and Family Services
- Development and launch of Shropshire's Early Help Offer
- Development of SSCB Communications Strategy and Toolkit.
- Launch of new SSCB website.



Challenges for Shropshire

- Size and rurality, with pockets of deprivation
- The numbers of vulnerable children placed within the County by other local authorities
- Increasing numbers of children looked after or on child protection plans
- Some poorly performing services.

Challenges for all partners

- Capacity of front-line services to respond to demand and complexity of child protection work
- The impact on frontline practice of continued organisational change and reform across partnership
- The impact of the Family Justice Review in terms of capacity to adhere to timescales and additional requirements with family court proceedings
- The impact of cuts within public sector and to voluntary sector services on the provision of early intervention and some areas of more specialist assessment
- Delivering on early help and 'MASH.'

Challenges for the LSCB

Moving from 'adequate' to 'good', which means:

- Robust challenge and holding partners to account
- Strengthening quality assurance arrangements
- Ensuring the effectiveness of multi-agency 'front door' arrangements and early help
- Working with the Children's Trust to sharpen and embed performance management
- Developing and responding to the voices of children.

Challenges for the County Council

- Moving from 'adequate' to 'good'
- Improving the 'first point of contact'
- Delivering on early help in the context of widespread service reductions and increasing need; aligning the Family Solutions work
- Managing significant budget reductions and the pace of change safely.

SSCB Priorities 2013-2015

- Current SSCB priorities will remain, but will be further focused in the light of learning and progress.
- Priorities and LSCB effectiveness to be reviewed at Development Day in January 2014 and will include increased attention to children with disabilities, and to diversity issues.
- Firmer focus on developing the voice of children and young people in influencing the work of the Board.

