



Annual Report 2014 – 2015

Sally Halls
Independent Chair



LSCB objectives (Section 14, Children Act 2004)

(a) To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and

(b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.



- § the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Shropshire
- § a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services
- § identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses, the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action
- § include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.



Context

- 66,400 children under 19
- 13% children in income deprived households
- 2,626 referrals to children's social care (2305)
- 249 children subject of child protection plans (251)
- 313 looked after children (271)
- 400+ children in care placed in Shropshire from elsewhere
- 1 serious case review (not Shropshire)
- Rising demands and reducing resources across system



Performance and effectiveness of local arrangements

Evidence suggests that Shropshire agencies are generally effective in keeping children safe across Shropshire, and that more children and families are receiving help at an earlier stage.

There are increasing numbers of children being referred, but this rise has not been as steep as elsewhere. Overall, however, there is an increase in children within the child protection system, and a rise in the numbers of children becoming looked after.

Further development of effective early help services should assist with keeping children safe and improving their wellbeing without recourse to child protection processes.



Performance and effectiveness of the LSCB

LSCB has worked successfully to ensure that agencies work effectively together to keep children safe, with particularly positive impacts in key areas such as early help and CSE.



Conclusion and assessment of effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

§ Evidence suggests that Shropshire agencies are generally effective in keeping children safe and that more children and families are receiving help at an earlier stage.



Priorities for 2015-16

§Neglect

§Domestic Abuse

§Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing

§FGM and the PREVENT agenda



Challenges for Shropshire's multi-agency partnerships

- § Looked after children placed within Shropshire
- § Promoting emotional and mental health and well-being
- § 'Think Family' – tackling hidden harm



***All children and young people will be happy, healthy,
safe and reach their full potential, supported by their
families, friends and the wider community***