



Health and Wellbeing Board 20 January 2015

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SHROPSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD 2013/14

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

The annual report for the Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) 2013/14 is attached for your information. It covers the reporting period between April 2013 and March 2014 and evaluates the work and impact of the Board whilst identifying priority areas of work for the period 2014– 2015.

The report sets the local background and context for looking at safeguarding children in Shropshire and outlines the core functions of the SSCB in undertaking its safeguarding responsibilities.

The business plan for 2013-14 falls into two main sections: the priority areas for improvement in services to and outcomes for children; and the development and strengthening of the SSCB, including meeting its statutory responsibilities.

The three priority areas for 2013-14 are:

1. Compromised parenting, to include domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, and parental mental ill health;
2. Missing children, to include child sexual exploitation and trafficking;
3. Communication.

Close examination is given to the performance and effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements in NHS organisations, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), education and schools, West Mercia Police, the Youth Offending Service, West Mercia Probation Trust, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Shropshire Council.

An insight into the learning and improvement that is undertaken across the agencies and the framework for audit that is used in developing a cumulative picture of practice, share good practice and plan for further improvement is provided. It also shows how the multi-agency training that is provided has reached 808 learners and delivered a broad range of programmes from compromised parenting to child sexual exploitation.

The report identifies that the Children's Trust continues to be important in overseeing the development and delivery of a number of services for children living in Shropshire including the Early Help offer. The Health and Wellbeing Board is increasingly influential and needs to show robust leadership in ensuring that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is used

to provide a strong evidence base for wider safeguarding activity and service commissioning. A good start has been made in this area.

CAMH services remain a major area of weakness in Shropshire, with improvement hampered by the complexity of commissioning. Improvements in this service area are long overdue, and are particularly needed in the context of rising levels of self harm amongst young people. This is recognised by the Health and Wellbeing Board, which has included the emotional and mental health of young people in Shropshire as a priority. The current JSNA has information about suicide in all ages; since it was published, more analysis has been done on self-harm and the LSCB has been assured that this will be included in future. Likewise, services for perpetrators of domestic abuse and sexual abuse are also underdeveloped, and this will need addressing in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The report concludes that, overall, agencies in Shropshire prioritise the safety and welfare of children and work constructively together to safeguard children and promote their wellbeing. The children and young people of Shropshire are generally receiving a good service but there remain areas where improvements can and must be made. The SSCB will therefore continue to look for improvements in practice whilst monitoring the effectiveness of policies, procedures and communications. Its plans are set out in the strategic plan for 2014 – 17, which is included as an appendix to the main report.

The annual report for 2014-15 will detail progress towards the vision of the county's Children and Young People's Plan, that

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

2. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to note and comment on the information in the attached Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013/14

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
Local Member
Appendices