

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD  
TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2017 AT 10:00AM**

**HERTFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL  
REPORT 2016-2017**

*Report of Director of Children's Services*

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**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the state of safeguarding children in Hertfordshire and of the work undertaken by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) during the period of April 2016 to March 2017.

**2. Summary**

2.1 The HSCB Annual report, as attached at Appendix A to this report, provides a Chair's summary of safeguarding issues for children in Hertfordshire. It also contains a summary of the work carried out by the Safeguarding Children Board and subgroups during 2016-17. The report also includes information on the progress made against the HSCB Business Plan 2015-16 and identifies the board priorities going forward.

**3. Recommendation**

3.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board discuss and note the HSCB Annual Report, and take it into account in future discussions on improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children in Hertfordshire.

#### 4. Background

- 4.1 The functions of Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board are set out in primary legislations (section 14 and 14(a) of the Children Act 2004) and statutory regulations (Local Safeguarding Children Regulations 2006).
- 4.2 Along with Hertfordshire, all local authorities are legally obliged to have a children's safeguarding board which has two statutory objectives and functions:  
(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.  
(Section 14 of the Children Act 2004)
- 4.3 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 requires the Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an annual report which reviews the 'effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area'. The guidance also states that the report is to be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board. The report should be considered in the future development of services for children and the Local Safeguarding Children Board should be involved in developing future plans for children in Hertfordshire.
- 4.4 In addition to the provision of this report to Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board, safeguarding input to planning is achieved through the chair of HSCB being an active participant in the Children and Young Persons Integrated Commissioning Executive. It is also achieved through the membership of the Director of Children's Services, and directors and senior representatives from all statutory partners and others concerned with safeguarding children and the Lead Member for Children's Services being a 'participating observer'.

<b>Report signed off by</b>	HSCB Strategic Board
<b>Sponsoring HWB Member/s</b>	Teresa Heritage and Jenny Coles
<b>Hertfordshire HWB Strategy priorities supported by this report</b>	All priorities relating to services to children
<b>Needs assessment</b> (activity taken) Not Applicable	
<b>Consultation/public involvement</b> (activity taken or planned) <b>Not Applicable</b>	
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	

The HSCB ensures that equality and diversity areas are an important part of the work undertaken.

The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010 are: race, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership age, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity.

**Acronyms or terms used. eg: Acronyms are explained when first used in the report.**