

EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE

NAME OF TOPIC GROUP:

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board: the effectiveness of the board in relation to the sexual abuse of children

CHAIRMAN: Dave Hewitt

DATE REPORT PUBLISHED: 25 October 2017

SCRUTINY OFFICER: Charles Lambert

DATE RESPONSE DUE: 2 January 2017

DATE OF SCRUTINY: 9 October 2017

DATE RESPONSE RETURNED: 22 November 2017

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Teresa Heritage

Recommendations

Executive Response

2.1 Further training is required to ensure that all partner agencies are aware of the Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool and embed its use; in addition the Board needs to be assured that this has been disseminated to all staff including HCC employees and elected members who have contact with schools or are elected governors. (3.14, 3.15, 4.2)

The Safeguarding Children Board have recognised that the Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool supports professionals working with children and young people by helping them to identify and respond appropriately to sexual behaviours. The tool is thought to be particularly useful as it provides clear guidance about an appropriate response by professionals and others when behaviours outside safe and healthy development are observed. The tool will be available on the HSCB website from 01 December 2017.

The Board have agreed to include training about the purpose and use of the free on-line tool and the associated guidance in future multi-agency HSCB training programmes. The Board has delegated to the HSCB Training and Development Sub-Group responsibility for ensuring dissemination of the tool to Council Members who have contact with schools or are elected governors, and to employees in the partner agencies and

	<p>organisations. The Board will expect progress in this dissemination to be included in the reports it receives from the Sub-Group.</p> <p>The County Council's Child Protection School Liaison Officers support schools to effectively safeguard children from harm, abuse and neglect. They have responsibility for the provision of child protection advice and consultation to schools and the provision of training to schools. They are well placed to promote the use of the tool in schools and will present this tool to the Designated Safeguarding leads meetings early next year .</p>
<p>2.2 That the review of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board's effectiveness is shared with members of the topic group in January and the lessons learned, risks/impacts and mitigations will be reported to ISSC. (3.8, 3.12, 3.13, 3.16, 3.17, 3.18, 3.21, 4.1)</p>	<p>The report of the review was completed by Democratic Services and together with this Executive Member Response it will be logged in a public register and published on the County Council's website. It will be shared with members of the topic group (Councillors Bob Deering, Dave Hewitt (Chairman), Lynn Chesterman and Nigel Quinton in January.</p> <p>The information on lessons learned, risk/impacts and mitigations will be reported to the ISSC due to be held 25 April.</p>
<p>2.3 That the review being undertaken considers joint working by both Hertfordshire safeguarding boards and how inter-board working can benefit in identifying and supporting victims and preventing and educating perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse. (3.7, 3.9, 3.10, 3.18, 3.19, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 3.30, 4.1, 4.3)</p>	<p>Sir Alan Wood's review of the role and functions of local safeguarding children boards (2016) set out recommendations for making local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) more effective. His findings were reflected in the Children and Social Work Act 2017. In October 2017 the Government issued draft revised statutory guidance "Working Together (2018)". This sets out arrangements by which the HSCB will be replaced by new local safeguarding arrangements, the associated transition from serious case reviews to national and local reviews, changes in the arrangements for child death review, and the transitional</p>

	<p>arrangements associated with each of those changes.</p> <p>The Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board will review what the most effective local safeguarding arrangements would be in the future. That review will also consider how the future relationship between the Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board can promote the prevention of sexual abuse and the education of perpetrators while identifying and supporting child victims and those adults who were victims in childhood.</p> <p>The proposed future local safeguarding arrangements will be reported to Members as part of Cabinet in February.</p> <p>Taken as a whole these will represent very significant changes to the arrangements for the formal review of the most concerning individual cases in which children die or are seriously harmed as the result of known or suspected abuse, and the arrangements for the review of child deaths. The arrangements for the multi-agency assessment and the County Council's responsibilities in relation to children whose development may be avoidably neglected or impaired, and those who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm are for the most part unchanged.</p>
<p>2.4 That the lessons learned and actions implemented resulting from the Serious Case Review are reported to the ISSC. (3.7, 3.26, 3.30, 4.3)</p>	<p>The report of the Serious Case Review most recently completed by the HSCB was published on 11 December 2017. The Board response was published on the same date and this identifies the lessons learned. The Board has asked the Training and Development Sub-Group to report on the training and development which is required in response to the report. The Board has produced and is actively monitoring the implementation of an action plan which sets out the recommendations from the review and the actions agreed by Board to achieve them. Each action has an identified lead</p>

	<p>agency and a lead senior manager to drive forward the actions. The Board will receive periodic reports on the progress that has been made in implementing the plan.</p> <p>The lessons learned and actions to be implemented will be reported to the ISSC due to be held 25 April.</p>
<p>Any other comments on the report or this scrutiny?</p> <p>The introduction of the new local safeguarding arrangements proposed by the Government in the Autumn of 2017 in response to the Alan Wood report present both challenges and opportunities. Members of the Council may wish to make use of the annual scrutiny of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board to evaluate the success of the three statutory safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups who have a duty to make arrangements to work together and with any relevant agencies for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area), and of the HSCB and its successor body in implementing those arrangements and in effecting the transition to them.</p>	