

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 January 2017
Subject:	Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the Multi-Agency Response to Abuse and Neglect in Lincolnshire

Summary:

This report sets out the findings from the joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire. The inspection included an in depth focus on the response to children living with domestic abuse.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the findings from the joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire and seek assurance on the issues raised.

1. Background

Between 17 and 21 October 2016, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary and HMI undertook a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Lincolnshire. This inspection included a 'deep dive' focus on the response to children living with domestic abuse.

Attached at Appendix A is a letter to all the service leaders in the area which outlines the findings from the inspection about the effectiveness of partnership working and of the work of individual agencies in Lincolnshire.

The letter highlights that strategic arrangements for the management and oversight of domestic abuse in Lincolnshire are well developed and are having an impact across services to improve responses to children who have experienced domestic abuse. There is good awareness and ownership of the domestic abuse joint protocol by front line staff across agencies.

A number of areas for improvement have been identified in the letter to support more effective and timely information sharing. Agencies do not always share the full range of information known to them so that a full consideration of risks to children living with domestic abuse can be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. Systems within the police are not effective in ensuring that when there are

incidents of domestic abuse where children are present or in the household, information is shared in a timely way with professionals working with the family.

2. Conclusion

The local authority will now need to prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in the letter. This should be a multi-agency response and should set out the actions for the partnership and, where appropriate, individual agencies. The local authority will need to send the written statement of action by 7 March 2017.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the Multi-Agency Response to Abuse and Neglect in Lincolnshire – Letter of Findings

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Debbie Barnes, who can be contacted on 01522 553200 or debbie.barnes@lincolnshire.gov.uk.