

LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Open Report on behalf of The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board

Report to	Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	25 March 2014
Subject:	The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board

Summary:

This report is intended to provide the Health and Wellbeing board with an update on the work currently being undertaken by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and its Sub-Groups.

Actions Required:

The Health and Wellbeing Board to note the contents of the report and direct any queries to the officer in attendance or the author of the report.

1. Background

Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area. The Act specifies the organisations and individuals that should be involved and Section 14 describes the key statutory objectives of the LSCB. These are:

- a) To co-ordinate 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.

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Child Boards Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of the LSCB in relation to the objectives under Section 14 of the Children Act

2004. These include developing safeguarding Policy and Procedure; agreeing with partners the actions to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety; training those who work with children; recruitment and supervision of staff; investigation of allegations against people working with children; ensuring the safety and welfare of privately fostered children; monitoring the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners; undertaking reviews of serious cases ensuring that the lessons learned are widely understood and reviewing the deaths of all children in the local authority area.

Lincolnshire's LSCB comprises a Strategic Management Group that meets quarterly and an Operational Delivery group that meets every eight weeks. In addition the LSCB has a number of Sub-Groups that drive the work of the Board. This report is intended to provide an overview of current issues and the work being undertaken by the respective groups to help enable the Safeguarding and health and Wellbeing board link to each other's roles, responsibilities and work.

Since December 2013 a number of LSCB documents have been completed and refreshed (attached), and the LSCB is satisfied that its Business plan and Performance Framework are in a strong position moving into 2014.

As part of the reviewing process, a decision was made to reduce the number of Sub Groups under the LSCB in order to refocus the efforts of the LSCB and its partners. The sub groups will be reduced to the following 4:

Child Sexual Exploitation
Child Death Overview
Serious Incident review
Policy, Procedure, Training and Development

The Board is seeking to ensure that there is adequate time and focus given to each of these groups to ensure that business is conducted both efficiently and effectively. It is envisaged that this distillation of the groups will provide the opportunity to ensure business is being completed and agencies or better engaged and held to account for these crucial functions.

The issue of adequate Audit oversight of Serious Incidents, and Audit of practice in general, is a focus for the LSCB and all agencies involved. In response to the need to better manage audit and oversight of actions from Serious Incident reviews, the LSCB has advertised to employ a policy and Audit officer by mid-2014. In addition to the appointment of an Audit officer, the Quality Assurance department has revised its basic scoping template to ensure that in all audits that included any element of multi-agency working, where there is a requirement to contacts, liaise and work together, this will be included a standalone inspection aspect of any QA process.

The LSCB has also 2 lay members who actively challenge agencies and seek to hold them to account through the lay perspective.

The LSCB is about to start a full S11 audit of all partners, and by August 2014 will be able to produce a moderated assurance that all agencies engaged in safeguarding work are robust and accountable. The LSCB has made the decision to increase the how regularly the audits are conducted, this is likely to be increased to every 18 months.

The Child Death Overview Panel continues to review the deaths of all children in Lincolnshire. The Panel Chair has commissioned work on co-sleeping; a well-recognised risk factor for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and the LSCB has committed money to ensure this is delivered. In addition to this, CDOP has commissioned a review of all the recent child suicide in Lincolnshire. This piece of work is being dovetailed with work being undertaken by public health s they work towards a suicide prevention strategy.

Multi-agency training through the LSCB has increased significantly over the last couple of years. The two day courses are run most weeks and are very well attended. E-Safety training in schools is also very popular and is directly engaging with young people. The Training Sub-Group has now developed clearer training pathways to identify the training delivered within each agency to ensure that the LSCB multi-agency training is building on that 'in-house' training and adding to the learning of participants. Serious Case Review findings are incorporated into the training delivered by the LSCB. Any Identified deficits in the take up of training are being address through Communication from the Independent Chair to the senior management of the relevant agencies in order to hold them to account for their training commitments.

As always the Significant Incident Review Group is reviewing those incidents that agencies refer to the LSCB when there are safeguarding concerns about the way in which a child has been dealt with or responded to. In particular it considers incidents where inter-agency working has fallen short of required standards. In the future the group will also be focussing on cases where there are examples of good inter-agency working. The learning from 'good' case work is a valuable tool for practitioners. Once again the distillation of the sub groups should support the more appropriate focus and delivery of critical areas of LSCB business.

2. Conclusion

The LSCB continues to carry out its statutory functions set out in the LSCB Regulations 2006 and statutory guidance Working Together 2013. There are a number of challenges facing the LSCB, including Ofsted's impending inspection. The daily mechanics of the LSCB and its responsibility is outlined in this report, and all the activity will all go towards providing evidence as to the effectiveness of the LSCB.

The LSCB hopes that the work of both these boards can be closely aligned to benefit all the people of Lincolnshire.

It is hoped that closer ties between the boards can be forged as all bodies have responsibilities to ensure the vulnerable are properly safeguarded, and as such safeguarding is not the sole responsibility of any single agency or partnership. All key strategic plans whether they be formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery as well as emerging plans for change and improvement include effective safeguarding arrangements that ensure that all people in Lincolnshire are safe and their well-being is protected.

3. Consultation

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Annual Business Plan

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 Andrew Morris, who can be contacted on 01522 553916, or email Andrew.morris@lincolnshire.gov.uk.