

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, the Director responsible for Democratic Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>19 October 2015</b>
Subject:	<b>Centre for Public Scrutiny's Guide to Scrutinising Children's Safeguarding Arrangements</b>

**Summary:**

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider the Centre for Public Scrutiny's guide for overview and scrutiny councillors on scrutinising children's safeguarding arrangements.

**Actions Required:**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to

1. consider and comment on the CfPS guide for councillors on safeguarding children;
2. consider the questions relating to the Local Authority when the Committee receives the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Scrutiny Review - Second Monitoring Update report at its next meeting on 27 November 2015;
3. recommend that the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group considers the questions relating to the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board at its future meetings.

## **1. Background**

In May 2015, the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) published "Safeguarding Children – A Practical Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Councillors". The CfPS guide, which is attached at Appendix A, is designed to support councillors on scrutiny committees when considering children's safeguarding arrangements and sets out key aspects of local safeguarding arrangements, statutory duties and the role of overview and scrutiny.

Scrutiny of children's safeguarding arrangements in Lincolnshire is undertaken by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group.

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group scrutinises the work of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) on a quarterly basis. The 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. The Independent Chair of the LSCB and the LSCB Board Manager attend every meeting of the Scrutiny Sub Group to provide updates on the work of the LSCB. The Scrutiny Sub Group also receives the reports from any serious case reviews undertaken by the LSCB. The minutes from the Scrutiny Sub Group are brought to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee after each meeting for information and any action if required.

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising the Local Authority's role in children's safeguarding arrangements. In 2013/14 the Committee undertook a scrutiny review into Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding, and the Committee has since been monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from this review on a six monthly basis.

**2. Conclusion**

The CfPS guide suggests 21 key scrutiny questions for councillors to consider when scrutinising children's safeguarding. Some of these questions relate to Local Authority safeguarding arrangements while others are relevant to the LSCB.

It is proposed that the Committee takes into account the questions related to Local Authority children's safeguarding arrangements when it considers the six monthly updates on the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding scrutiny review. It is also recommended that the Scrutiny Sub Group should consider the questions regarding the LSCB at its future meetings when considering the updates on the LSCB's work.

**3. Consultation**

**a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

No policy proofing is required for this report.

**4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	CfPS Guide - "Safeguarding Children – A Practical Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Councillors"

**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 Tracy Johnson, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or [Tracy.Johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Tracy.Johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk).