

**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>13 June 2014</b>
Subject:	<b>Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Scrutiny Review - Draft Final Report</b>

**Summary:**

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider the draft final report arising from the scrutiny review into Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding. Subject to the approval of the Committee, the report will be submitted to the Executive for its consideration and response. This response will be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

**Actions Required:**

- (1) To approve, or to approve with amendment, the attached final draft report into Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding.
- (2) To agree that the final report should be submitted to the Executive for its consideration and response.

## **1. Background**

A Task and Finish Group comprising six non-executive County Councillors and one Parent Governor Representative has undertaken a review into Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding. Councillor John Hough was appointed the chairman of the Task and Finish Group.

The review was undertaken between November 2013 and May 2014. As part of the review, the Task and Finish Group has met 11 times during which it reviewed local safeguarding practices, procedures and policies, benchmarking Lincolnshire against other local authorities, and performance information relating to safeguarding. The Task and Finish Group also spoke to a range of frontline workers, such as Social Workers, Family Support Workers and Targeted Youth Workers, and also to Team Managers from the different localities. The Task and Finish Group visited the Customer Service Centre to observe the handling of queries and referrals as they came in.

Individually, the Members of the Task and Finish Group also attended meetings of child protection conferences and support panel meetings, and some were given the opportunity to shadow a Social Worker as they conducted home visits. The Task

and Finish Group has also spoken to the University of Lincoln regarding the Social Care degrees that are offered and also to the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to discuss what the LSCB's priorities are around safeguarding.

Some Members of the Task and Finish Group also met with Judge Swindells, the Family Court Judge in Lincolnshire, to find out her views on whether safeguarding was robust enough in Lincolnshire. A number of the Members also attended some training on Signs of Safety.

The Task and Finish Group has produced a final report containing seventeen recommendations and this is attached as Appendix A to this report.

## **2. Conclusion**

The Committee is asked to consider the attached draft final report and decide whether to adopt the draft as its final report, with or without amendment.

## **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	Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Draft Final Report

## **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).