

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	24 October 2014
Subject:	Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding: A Review by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Summary:

This report provides the Executive response and action plan arising from the recommendations of the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Task and Finish Group.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to

1. receive and comment on the Executive response and action plan
2. receive a six monthly monitoring update on the action plan in April 2015

1. Background

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed at its meeting on 18th October 2013 that there was a need for scrutiny to review and investigate the safeguarding arrangements in frontline social work teams. This review was approved by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 24th October 2013. The key purpose of the review was to:

- Examine the robustness of safeguarding practice
- To ensure sufficient support is provided to frontline social workers

A Task and Finish Group was established in November 2013 consisting of seven Members of the Committee. The Task and Finish Group identified a number of key lines of enquiry specific to the review and these included:

- An examination of the key performance indicators in relation to safeguarding.
- A consideration of key documents including the Safeguarding annual report, Self-assessments, Peer reviews, Cafcass plus evaluation and signs of safety.
- Facilitate a focus group to speak to practitioners, parents, schools and other professionals, team managers.

- Observe the work undertaken at the Customer Service Centre; observe duty work in the social care teams, a core group meeting and child protection conference and a support panel.
- To meet young people and council officers as appropriate.
- Evaluate relationships with other agencies.
- Explore decision making and support for staff.

The Task and Finish Group completed the review and presented the final report to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 13th June 2014 and to the Executive on 1st July 2014. The report contained seventeen recommendations and these have been developed into an action plan to address the issues raised in the review. The action plan is attached as Appendix A.

2. Conclusion

Overall the Task and Finish Group was satisfied that Lincolnshire has robust measures in place to ensure safeguarding is robust and the staff have the necessary support in place to fulfil their duties effectively. The recommendations of the Task and Finish Group have been actioned with 3 recommendations partially completed and under way. A number of the recommendations are ongoing and will need to be reviewed regularly to ensure the partially completed actions are concluded to an acceptable standard.

It is recommended that

1. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor the actions arising from the recommendations of the Safeguarding Review.
2. Consideration is given to revisiting this area in future task and finish groups or working groups by Members of the Committee.

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	Executive Response to Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding – Action Plan Arising from Recommendations

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 Samantha Clayton, who can be contacted on 01522 553730 or Samantha.Clayton@lincolnshire.gov.uk.