

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18 and Business Plan 2018-19

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) Annual Report for endorsement by Health & Wellbeing Board, in line with statutory requirements.

Background

2. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board continues to provide leadership, accountability and vision for safeguarding in Gateshead. The LSCB has a strong commitment from partners to working together, holding each other to account and seeking to learn and improve together.

Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2017/18

3. The LSCB Annual Report 2017-2018 details developments for both the LSCB itself and its partner agencies, of which Gateshead Council is one, in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the borough. Key areas include work to understand high levels of Permanent Exclusions, work to improve links with our schools and ongoing work to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation and other forms of abuse. The report also contains an analysis of data. (Numbers of children on child protection plans have decreased slightly., numbers of children in care have increased slightly. The timeliness of assessments and conferences remains high).

Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children's Board Business Plan 2018-19

4. The LSCB Business Plan 2018-2019 sets the strategic direction for the LSCB and reinforces the specific role of the LSCB to lead, challenge and support learning and focuses on the specific role and remit of the Board. The action plan for 2018-2019 supports those three key priorities of leadership, challenge and learning and also focuses on the five key thematic priority areas Voice of the child, Communication & engagement with the frontline (including schools), Early Help & Early Intervention, Mental health & Emotional Wellbeing, Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing. The LSCB will also be continuing to prepare for the implementation of new legislation and guidance around statutory strategic arrangements for safeguarding (including the removal of the requirement for local authorities to ensure that there is a LSCB and a

new requirement for a new strategic partnership between the local authority, police and CCG).

Proposal

5. Members of HWBB are asked to endorse the Annual Report and 2018/19 Plans for the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that
 - (i) the Annual Report and Strategic Plan be endorsed to ensure that statutory duties of the Gateshead Local Safeguarding Children's Board are met

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