

By: Jenny Whittle, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services
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Maggie Blyth, Independent Chair of Kent Safeguarding Children Board

To: Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 19 January 2012

Subject: **KENT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD - OVERVIEW PROGRESS REPORT (DECEMBER 2011) AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010/11**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Provides Members with an overview of the work undertaken by the Board since the October 2010, Ofsted inspection. It highlights the remaining challenges and risks for effective scrutiny of partnership safeguarding activity across Kent.

Introduction

1. (1) In previous years the Kent Safeguarding Children Board's (KSCB) Annual Report was reported to the autumn cycle of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (POSC) and then to County Council. Due to the need to draw upon data from the national statistical release (published on 30 September 2011), the annual report has been prepared for submission to the POSC in January 2012.

(2) It was agreed by the independent chair of the KSCB that the annual report should be accompanied by an updated report, reflecting progress since the Ofsted inspection in 2010 as this would more meaningfully reflect the current position regarding Safeguarding arrangements in Kent. This is attached as Appendix 1.

(3) The full annual report is attached as Appendix 2 for information.

Background

2. (1) Statutory Government Guidance around Local Safeguarding Children Boards (Working Together to Safeguard Children, HM Government 2010, Chapter 3) identifies that the role of Local Authority Elected Members..."through their membership of governance bodies such as a Cabinet of the Local Authority or a scrutiny committee or a governance board, is to hold their organisation and its officers to account for their contribution to the effective functioning of the Local Safeguarding Children Board".

Recommendations

3. (1) The Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (a) COMMENT on the progress that has been made since the inspection and the challenges that remain in relation to performance management, project management and business planning (as outlined in the progress report in Appendix 1)
- (b) NOTE the 2010-11 Annual Report (attached as Appendix 2)

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Background documents:

Appendix 1: KSCB Overview Progress Report (2011)

Appendix 2: Kent Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010-11