

From: Gill Rigg, Independent Chair of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB)

To: Kent Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)

Subject: KSCB Update on Ofsted Recommendations from the Review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), March 2017

This paper is submitted for the information of the HWB

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary.

In March 2017, Ofsted undertook a review of Kent Safeguarding Children Board, as part of its Inspection of Kent's Services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. Following this review, Ofsted made some recommendations as to areas where they felt that the Board needed to improve its working.

These recommendations, which were areas already being worked on, have been incorporated in to the Board's Business Plan (2017-20). The Board's sub groups undertake actions from the Board's Business Plan and the Ofsted recommendations and report updates to the Board's Business Group. (The LSCB structure is appended.) These are then reported in to the Board where they are reviewed and signed off.

This paper relates to the current status of the LSCB's response to the Ofsted recommendations that was presented to the LSCB on the 15th February 2018.

Recommendation(s):

For information only

Body of the report:

Following the Ofsted review, the following recommendations were made to the LSCB:

1. Ensure that a comprehensive multi-agency dataset is in place to enable the Board to scrutinise local safeguarding performance.

2. Ensure that the Board has systems in place to monitor risks that have the potential to have an impact on the ability of agencies to safeguard and protect children.
3. Further develop a comprehensive programme of single and multi-agency audits to improve the scrutiny of safeguarding practice across partner agencies.
4. Develop the annual report to ensure that it provides rigorous and transparent assessment and scrutiny of frontline practice, the effectiveness of safeguarding services and the work of the independent reviewing service, as well as learning from serious case reviews and child deaths.
5. In partnership with the local authority, launch the multi-agency neglect strategy and ensure that local professionals working with families, at all levels of need, are equipped to identify, assess and address neglect within families.
6. Put in place a system for the Board to receive assurance regarding safeguarding practice within early years settings, schools and colleges.

As can be seen by the attached Action Plan, significant progress has been made by the Board, its Sub Group and partners in addressing each of the recommendations.

However, there is one area where progress has been challenging. This is the recommendation 6. Ofsted were looking at the Board receiving safeguarding re-assurance from every school and early year settings in Kent. It was felt by KCC Education Senior Managers, and thus then by the Board at the time of the review and is still now, that this is not a realistic aim. It is recognised that this piece of work needs to be evidenced, so it is proposed that the first stage in this re-assurance programme is to focus on the 8% of schools and 3% of early years settings that have currently been rated as below Good by Ofsted.

This piece of work is being undertaken by the Board's Education and Early Help and Quality and Effectiveness Sub Groups, with support from the Education People's Education Safeguarding Unit. Subsequent activity will be driven and overseen by the Board.

The Board's Business Group, made up of the Chairs of the Board's Sub Groups, provides oversight and challenge to the progress of the activities against both the Ofsted recommendations and the Board's Business Plan. These are standing agenda items at their meetings and they then report to the full Board. This approach to providing the Board with the re-assurance it needs, will continue.

This paper is submitted for the information of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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