

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Six monthly report from the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board |
| Committee: | Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel |
| Date: | 11 November 2010 |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor Mrs Watkins |
| CMT Member: | Bronwen Lacey, Director of Services for Children and Young People |
| Author: | Jim Gould, Independent Chair/ Simon White, Safeguarding Business Manager |
| Contact: | (01752) 307144 |
| Ref | PSCB/PCCSC/01 |
| Part: | I |

Corporate Plan 2010-2013 as amended by the four new priorities for the City and Council: The work of the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board is helping to ensure a safe, strong and healthy city for our children and young people. The board will ensure that agencies within the city work together effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, helping to meet the reducing inequalities priority.

None

None

The six monthly report from the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board is noted by members for information.

N/A

None

Sign off: comment must be sought from those whose area of responsibility may be affected by the decision, as follows (insert initials of Finance and Legal reps, and of HR, Corporate Property, IT and Strat. Proc. as appropriate):

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----|---|----|---|--------------|---|----|---|---------------|---|
| Fin | - | Leg | - | HR | - | Corp Prop | - | IT | - | Strat Proc | - |
| Originating SMT Member | | | | | | | | | | | |

PLYMOUTH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

SIX MONTHLY REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

INTRODUCTION:

The aim of this report is to inform Members of national and local developments in safeguarding within the Plymouth area and the remit of the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB). The report, in bullet point format, will help to identify how the PSCB is working with agencies in the local area to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

CONTENT:

National Developments

- The new 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guidance was published in March 2010.
- The Apprenticeships, Skills and Learning Act introduced lay members to the PSCB and the requirement to publish an annual safeguarding report.
- The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) became the Department for Education (DfE).
- The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU), the body previously charged with driving forward the safeguarding agenda has been disbanded.
- The National Contact Point information project has ceased.
- Serious Case Review reports commissioned after 10th June 2010 will now have to be published in full. Previously only the Executive Summary was required to be made public.
- Safeguarding Children Advisors in Government Offices linked to an LSCB and Local Authority area are no longer in place.
- Professor Eileen Monroe is currently undertaking a major review of 'Safeguarding' and will report her findings in early 2011.
- Legislation requires that Direct Provider Services provided by Primary Care Trusts must move out of their control by April 2011. This will apply to key children's services such as health visiting, school nurses and CAMHS.
- Implementation of the full proposed Vetting and Barring Scheme is not being progressed and is currently under review.

Local Developments

- The PSCB Independent Chair (Jim Gould) and Vice Chair (Paul O'Sullivan, Director of Health Services for Children and Families, NHS Plymouth) remain in their roles.
- Representation on the PSCB has been extended to include 3 school representatives (Primary, Secondary and Special Schools), a Voluntary and Community Sector representative and the Plymouth Domestic Abuse Partnership Manager.
- The Ofsted Inspection of the Local Authority Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services in May 2010 identified provision as 'good'.
- The first PSCB Annual Report was provided to the Children's Trust at the beginning of October 2010 and will inform the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.

- The PSCB Business Plan for 2010/11 was reviewed and updated with amended priorities and objectives.
- An Annual Section 11 Audit has been completed.
- A reorganisation of the Police Public Protection Unit (PPU) has been completed and is now co-ordinated centrally from Police Headquarters at Middlemoor.
- The first annual report of the PSCB Child Death Overview Panel has been received and considered by the Full Board. Suggested actions from the report will be included within the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- The PSCB Hidden Harm Sub Group has been disbanded and the ongoing work of the group will be managed by the Children's Trust.
- A new PSCB Equalities and Diversity Sub Group has been established.
- The Safer Employment Quality Standard developed by the PSCB Safer Employment Sub Group has been piloted in Plymouth City Council.
- Two Serious Case Reviews have been completed this year.
- The Executive Summary of the Serious Case Review Overview Report into the critical incident at the Little Ted's Nursery is to be published on 4th November 2010.
- There has been a rise in the number of children subject to child protection plans leading to capacity issues within Children's Social Care.
- An innovative recruitment campaign including a 'Safe and Sound' microsite linked to the City Council and PSCB websites has been introduced.
- Over 1,300 practitioners has been trained in the use of the 'Common Assessment Framework'.
- A large child protection training programme has been maintained. In 2009/10, 2,204 individuals were trained, an increase of 85% on the previous year. This included 560 day care professionals, representing 20% of the children's workforce.
- The PSCB E-Safety course has received national recognition.
- 100% of Plymouth Schools have attended Safer Recruitment Training.
- A dedicated PSCB Training Suite/Facility named the 'Beauchamp Centre' was opened at Mount Gould Hospital in January 2010.

CONCLUSION:

The PSCB has continued to ensure that agencies work well together within the city in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The recent positive safeguarding inspection within the Local Authority Safeguarding and 'Looked After Children' services was a prime example of effective partnership working that continues to be maintained within the city.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

Jim Gould

Independent Chair of the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board
1st November 2010