

SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

29 May 2015

CHILDRENS SAFEGUARDING PEER REVIEW & FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION

Joint Report of the Executive Director of People Service and Independent Chair of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board and Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To highlight to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the findings of the November 2014 Peer Review into Childrens Safeguarding and to introduce a new framework of cooperation for review and adoption.

2.0 Background

A team of LGA peers came to Sunderland in November 2014 as the second stage in a review of Childrens Safeguarding following a Core Assets review to examine the nature of the Council's safeguarding service and identify areas in need of improvement which was completed in early 2014.

3.0 Focus of the Review

The safeguarding peer review focused on five key themes:

- Effective practice, service delivery and the voice of the child
- Outcomes, impact and performance management
- Working together (including Health and Wellbeing Board)
- Capacity and managing resources
- Vision, strategy and leadership

Within these overall areas, the team were also asked to explore the following issues to assist in the delivery of the on-going partnership improvement plan:

- Early Intervention, Help, Support
- Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board
- Children's Services improvement activity
- The quality and effectiveness of MASH

The full recommendations from the peer team are included as Appendix 1.

3.1 Framework of Cooperation

A voluntary Improvement Board, with an Independent Chair, has been established to oversee the improvement journey. The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) has been given fresh impetus via a new Independent Chair, with challenge, refreshed governance and accountability strengthened on the Board and within partners' own organisations.

The peer review recommended that the relationship between the various strategic fora across safeguarding should be reviewed and reconfigured, with the aim of strengthening governance and oversight.

In order to progress this recommendation, a proposed framework of cooperation between the Health and Wellbeing Board, Sunderland Safeguarding Childrens Board and Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board has been developed and is included as Appendix 2 to this report.

4.0 Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- Note the findings of the Safeguarding Children Peer Review
- Review the Framework of cooperation and agree to its adoption
- Recommend to the Sunderland Safeguarding Childrens Board and Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board to adopt the framework of cooperation