

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To report on the progress being made on the Safeguarding Children Learning and Improvement Plan; focusing on the Improvement Plan priority to provide coherent and coordinated early help services to children and their families.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Learning and Improvement Plan was developed by the Children's Services Improvement Board in response to the areas of improvement highlighted by the Ofsted Inspection Report.
- 2.2 The Learning and Improvement Plan has been developed around seven key priorities for improvement:-
- Recruiting, retaining and developing a skilled and confident social care workforce
  - Providing coherent and coordinated early help services to children and their families
  - Improving the quality and timeliness of assessment and care planning
  - Ensuring high quality support and services for looked after children and effective permanency planning
  - Putting the voice of the child at the centre of social care practice
  - Supporting young people leaving care to have a positive and successful transition to adulthood and independence
  - Embedding strong quality assurance and governance mechanisms to drive continual improvement of service
- 2.3 The Children's Services Improvement Board monitors the Improvement Plan on a monthly basis. Members of this Committee also receive the agenda for the Sunderland Safeguarding Board.
- 3. Current Position**
- 3.1 At its meeting on 6 October 2016, the Committee agreed that future monthly update reports should focus on one of the seven priorities contained in the Improvement Plan.
- 3.2 Debra Patterson (Director of Social Care) will therefore provide an update on the Improvement Plan priority of improving the quality and timeliness of assessment and care planning

#### **4 Conclusion**

- 4.1 The report will provide members with an overview of the progress being made in implementing the Safeguarding Children Learning and Improvement Plan focusing on the Improvement Plan priority to provide coherent and coordinated early help services to children and their families.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the progress being made.

#### **6. Glossary**

None

#### **7 Background Papers**

Safeguarding Children Learning and Improvement Plan