

SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Strategic Priorities: Safe City

Corporate Improvement Priorities: CI04: Improving partnership working to delivery 'One City' and CI01: Delivering customer focussed services

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 This report is to advise Children's Services Review Committee of work undertaken to produce a Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2007-2008 and Business Plan 2008-2009, and to request that these reports be presented to Review Committee on 6 November 2008.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (previously known as the Local Safeguarding Children Board) was established as a result of new measures contained within the Children Act (2004), namely that all local authorities should have a LSCB in place by April 2006. The SSCB was established in October 2004.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 In November 2007, the SSCB began a process to review the working arrangements and responsibilities of the Board. Included in this was agreement that, in line with national developments, and to support the independence of the SSCB, an Independent Chair would be recruited. An appointment was made to this position in August 2008, and Jan Van Wagdendonk will take up post in October 2008.

- 2.3 The SSCB has embarked upon a change programme and has reviewed and revised Terms of Reference, structural and reporting arrangements. As well as a Business Planning Group reporting to the SSCB, four sub groups have been established with responsibilities for:

- Communications and Workforce Development
- Quality Assurance
- Case Review, and
- Legal and Procedures

- 2.4 An element of the change programme has focussed on extending agency engagement and to support this, sub group chairs have been appointed from partner agencies.

- 2.5 To fully and appropriately support the work of the SSCB a dedicated Business Unit is to be established with:

- Business Manager
- Development and Training Officer, and
- Admin Support

Interviews for these posts are scheduled to take place in October 2008.

3. **Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2007-2008**

- 3.1 The SSCB is required to produce an Annual Report which outlines the statutory responsibilities of the Safeguarding Board, key areas that have been progressed throughout the year and further activities to be taken forward during 2008-9.
- 3.2 The position of the SSCB in carrying forward the Every Child Matters (ECM) Change for children agenda is set out in the report, together with arrangements for working with the Children's Trust Strategic Partnership and Board.
- 3.3 Key functions of the SSCB are set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006 and the Annual Report reports on progress made towards meeting new national requirements.
- 3.4 Additionally, relationships with key partnerships in terms of safeguarding are reported alongside accountability arrangements and board structure.
- 3.5 A summary of work undertaken during 2007-2008 is contained in the report together with priorities to be taken forward during 2008-9.
- 3.5 Each partner member of the SSCB has provided an end of year summary report outlining key aspects of functioning in respect of safeguarding.
- 3.6 Key safeguarding data provided by Children's Services completes the Annual Report.

4. **Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2008-9.**

- 4.1 The SSCB Business Plan 2008-9 is being finalised in order to reflect all local priorities of the recently established sub groups and Business Planning Group, together with the overarching priorities of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board.
- 4.2 The current draft Business Plan is in the process of undergoing quality assurance by sub group chairs, to ensure tasks and actions are

appropriately located and there is a coherent approach across the work of both the SSCB and its sub groups.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Children's Services Review Committee is asked to agree to receive the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2007-08 and Business Plan 2008-09 at their meeting on 6 November 2008.

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