

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**17 JUNE 2014**

### **INTERFACE BETWEEN KEY STRATEGIC BOARDS**

Report from: Barbara Peacock – Director children and adults

Author: Barbara Peacock – Director children and adults

#### **Summary**

Following the Children's Safeguarding Peer Review in April 2014 there is a need to review again the interface between different strategic boards in Medway.

This report is for information and future updates will be presented to the Board on JSNA to include progress with work on the Looked After Children chapter.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Local government Association (LGA) has a well-developed methodology around peer reviews as part of a 'sector led ' approach to service improvement. One particular peer review methodology is specifically designed around safeguarding for children's services.
- 1.2 Medway Council currently has an inadequate rating by Ofsted following a safeguarding children's inspection in 2013. Whilst much progress has been made, as part of the formal Improvement Notice on the Local Authority there is an externally Chaired Improvement Board. There is a clear expectation that there will be external reviews of children's services across Medway and that these will be reported to the External Improvement Board.
- 1.3 There is a clear focus on improvement within the Council and across partners in relation to safeguarding and looked after children. In order to rigorously test out the progress made to date it was agreed to commission a peer review. The full details of the peer review findings have been reported publicly to the Improvement Board, the Medway Safeguarding Children's Board and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as a range of internal and partner meetings.
- 1.4 This item is brought to this board to highlight the specific matters that relate directly to the Health and Well Being Board.

## **2. Detailed Findings**

### **2.1 The children's safeguarding peer review focused around four main themes**

- i. Effectiveness and quality of practice
- ii Performance management
- iii. Effectiveness of Medway Safeguarding Children's Board
- iv. Leadership and Management

There were many positive things said about progress, energy in the system and a clear 'can do' attitude of staff. The detail of the report recognised that there was a clear vision and focused direction of travel. Much was being implemented and had yet to deliver impact – however they were the right things to do and the peer review had confidence that they would deliver impact over time.

### **2.2 There were two key issues of direct relevance for this Board. Firstly the peer review thought that aspects of the JSNA were not updated and as far-reaching as they could be. In particular, the chapter on Looked After Children which they looked at in more detail. These comments have been helpful in ensuring that Public Health and Children's Services re-look at the process for updating and prioritising the JSNA. This will enable a strengthening of local practice. A small peer challenge to review the Looked After Children's chapter once it has been updated will be commissioned to see if there is even further learning. The proposed revised process for maintenance, development and governance of the JSNA is being presented to the Board on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2014. Future updates to the Board on the JSNA will include progress with work on the Looked After Children chapter.**

### **2.3 The second issue raised is in relation to strategic boards within Medway. The peer review feedback said that not all partners and front line staff understood the roles and remit of the key strategic boards, nor how they related to each other. The peer review suggested that a revised document is produced explaining, simply, how each of these boards/ partnerships relate to each other and that this is clearly communicated to front line staff and key partners. Some of the key boards that need to be included in this are the Health and Well Being Board; the Medway Safeguarding Children's Board; the Community Safety Partnership; Corporate Parenting Group and the External Improvement Board. Added to this is the additional interface with over view and scrutiny.**

### **2.4 Work has started to look at best practice in other areas and to look at the statutory guidance that exists around some of the boards, for example, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. There is not a simple answer to getting this right and we would like to spend a little more time to develop this for the next HWBB. Any agreement around the interface between these boards, as it relates to children's safeguarding, would need to be shared and agreed in principle with the External Improvement Board as well as the individual boards/partnerships.**

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the HWBB notes this report and that a draft paper with more detail on a proposal around the interface between key boards is brought for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **Lead officer contact**

Barbara Peacock – Director of children and adult services

Email: [Barbara.peacock@medway.gov.uk](mailto:Barbara.peacock@medway.gov.uk)

Tel. 01634 331012

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