

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**9 JANUARY 2020**

### **MEDWAY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (MSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**

Report from: John Drew, MSCB Independent Chair

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#### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to present the Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) Annual Report 2018-19 to the Committee. The MSCB Independent Chair publishes an annual report describing how agencies in Medway have worked together through the year and how effective the arrangements are in Medway to keep children and young people safe from harm, abuse or neglect.

The report summarises the work undertaken in 2018-19 and the replacement of the MSCB with the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) which transitioned from September 2019.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

1.1 The Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) is set up under the Children Act 2004 and has the following main objectives:

- To coordinate what is done by each agency represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Medway; and
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by those agencies for that purpose.

1.2 The MSCB has a pooled budget made up from financial contributions from its constituent statutory partners:

- Medway Council
- Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Health partners
- Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
- National Probation Service
- Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
- HM Young Offenders Institution Cookham Wood

- Medway Secure Training Centre
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- Children And Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The MSCB Independent Chair is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Medway. The report is presented annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Community Safety Partnership and is appended to this report at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Annual Report brings together in one place reports on all the principle work carried out in Medway during 2018-19 that have been designed to keep children safe from harm, abuse or neglect.
- 2.3 The Annual Report 2018-19 includes:
- The Independent Chair's assessment of the effectiveness of the arrangements in Medway for keeping children safe from harm, abuse or neglect;
  - An overview of the Board's governance and accountability arrangements including the statutory role of the Board, its structure and key relationships with other strategic boards;
  - The plans that were in place for the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) to replace the MSCB on 2 September 2019;
  - An analysis of the key activity of the MSCB for the year against the six priorities;
  - An overview of the quality assurance and learning and improvement activities during the year; and
  - A summary of the MSCB accounts;

## **3. Risk management**

- 3.1 Whilst there are no specific risks identified, the MSCB annual report 2018-19 presents an analysis of safeguarding in Medway and work to challenge and support the Council and its other partners to address and reduce risks to children.

## **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1 MSCB is a statutory body funded through financial and "in kind" contributions from local agencies. There are no financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

## **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 The production of an annual report for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory requirement as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), HM Government.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the annual report and the effectiveness of local services in keeping children safe.

### **Lead officer contact**

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### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) Annual Report 2018-19.

### **Background papers**

None