

### Minutes from Health and Wellbeing Board

#### Discussion

The Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance introduced the third annual report which detailed the work undertaken by the Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership over the last year.

The multiagency training offer which influenced the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Medway for professionals and volunteers working with children continued to receive high uptake. In the last year, virtual training sessions took place which was attended by over 550 delegates and over 360 delegates attended conferences and learning events. The E-learning platform continued to be accessed by an increasing number of delegates.

The Board was informed that two rapid reviews had taken place over the course of the year which were well attended by partner agencies as is the multi-agency audit group that are forums to discuss ways to positively impact quality of practice. Positive feedback was received from the national child safeguarding practice review panel on the quality of Medway's rapid reviews.

Neglect remained a key area of focus and priority for the partnership with the importance of a whole multiagency approach at the forefront of its objective. The Neglect Strategy was published last year, and a conference was held.

In response to comments regarding the Council's ability to adequately respond to issues and failings as highlighted by the tragedy that had recently occurred in Rochdale, the independent scrutineer said that whilst it was a difficult question to answer, the incident highlighted the fundamental importance of partnership working. More work needed to be done to ensure effective information sharing amongst agencies.

The partnership in Medway was strong, with the leadership committed to making improvements to information sharing.

There were areas of weakness identified which included the need for increased third sector engagement and the impact being made by the partnership and ways to develop in these areas were being explored.

Members then made the following further comments:

- It was important that any issues with organisational turnover of senior or middle management continued to be managed effectively to ensure minimal impact as a result of gaps in service and staff replaced with experienced knowledgeable officers.
- The role of the missing parents was highlighted as an area of continued learning that needed good progress to be made on and it was asked what positive impacts of the partnership in this area had been made. The

independent scrutineer said that the role of men was important and needed more engagement. Medway was doing some good work in this difficult area such the ICON project which looked at ways of proactive engagement with men. Increased provision of awareness training was being provided across medway. It was difficult to measure the impact of the work done to date due to lack of data to evidence impact. This was an area that could be explored as well as promotion of culture change and taking further proactive steps to address issues through early identification of risks as well as strengths.

**Decision:**

The Health and Wellbeing Board noted the report.