

Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	David Sanders, Independent Chairman of Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board
Date of Meeting	19 October 2017

BLACKPOOL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

1.1 To receive and consider the annual report of the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1
- To note the contents of the report and to ensure that current work continues to meet statutory obligations and that work to prepare for external inspections continues.
 - To identify any further information and actions required.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To fully consider the content of the annual report and raise and discuss key information.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

Other alternative options considered: None

3.3 Services are subject to national and statutory frameworks.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.'

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 All Local Safeguarding Children Boards have a statutory responsibility to publish an annual report that “provide[s] a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services... [to] identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them”.
- 5.2 The annual report therefore assesses the effectiveness of Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board as a multi-agency partnership with a responsibility to ensure that the children of Blackpool are safeguarded and their welfare promoted. It concludes that the partnership meets its own statutory requirements and that partner agencies are, by and large, compliant with their statutory safeguarding duties. In terms of practice, evidence is provided of an ongoing strong partnership response to Child Sexual Exploitation and more recent work in respect of domestic abuse. Work to provide practitioners with the means to consistently assess neglect is highlighted, with the roll out of a standard suite of assessment to all agencies. The report covers the year to 31 March 2017, although it is noted that significant progress has been made in terms of the revision of the Board’s thresholds document in subsequent months.
- 5.3 Areas of concern noted are the continuing high numbers of children at all stages of the safeguarding system (although more recent work in this respect should be noted), the need to develop datasets in respect of early help provision and child sexual exploitation and the findings of some recent audits that indicate poorer outcomes for children than would be expected. Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board seeks to understand the views of children and those outlined in the annual report provide a stark reminder that the experiences and views of children do not always coincide with that which we might expect.
- 5.4 As already noted, the annual report covers a period that ended six months ago and the work of the Board has progressed in the intervening period and will continue to do so in forthcoming months. This will perhaps be most evident in the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, with its provisions for the introduction of successor arrangements to Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

6.0 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 7(a): BSCB Annual Report 2016-2017

8.0 Legal considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Human Resources considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Equalities considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Financial considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Ethical considerations:

13.1 None

14.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

14.1 None

15.0 Background papers:

15.1 None