

Report to:	RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	David Sanders, Independent Chairman of Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor John Jones
Date of Meeting	5 November 2015

BLACKPOOL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To allow effective scrutiny of Children’s Safeguarding through receipt of the Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, which provides evidence of the activity of the Board during 2014/2015, details services provided to safeguard children in the locality and recommendations for the future work of the Board and its partners.

2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 The Committee receives and notes the contents of the report.
- 2.2 That the information contained therein is used to inform future discussions and to hold relevant parties to account.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

- 3.1 The statutory objective of Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board is to ensure a co-ordinated and effective approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Blackpool. By ensuring that other relevant bodies are aware of its work this need is promoted.
- 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

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- Tackle child poverty, raise aspirations and improve educational achievement
- Safeguard and protect the most vulnerable
- Improve health and well-being especially for the most disadvantaged
- Create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board was established in 2006 and is a partnership body in which all the agencies that work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Blackpool are represented.

5.2 The period covered by the attached annual report encompasses the Ofsted inspection of July 2014 in which the Board itself received a grade of Requires Improvement. In the subsequent months a new Independent Chairman, David Sanders, was appointed and following the conclusion of the reporting period progress was deemed such that the ensuing Improvement Notice was lifted.

5.3 Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board has therefore resumed its full statutory responsibilities and is currently working toward a two year business plan addressing the major safeguarding themes of Child Sexual Exploitation, Neglect, Early Help and the 'Toxic Trio' (parental mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse)

5.4 The Board's current activity is also characterised by a larger than typical number of serious case reviews, together with a sustained effort to better engage with our colleagues in schools.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None