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**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

**Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services**

**The Annual Report of Dudley Safeguarding Children Board 2012-13**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To present to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Children's Board 2012-13.

**Background**

2. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children requires effective co-ordination in every local area. For this reason, the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
3. The Local Safeguarding Children Board is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.
4. The core objectives of the Local Safeguarding Children Board are set out in S 14(1) of the Children Act 2004 as follows:
  - To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority
  - To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose
  - Protecting children from maltreatment
  - Preventing impairment of children's health or development
  - Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
  - Understanding that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully
5. The scope of Local Safeguarding Children Board's role includes safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in three broad areas of activity
  - Activity that affects all children and aims to identify and prevent maltreatment, or impairment of health or development and ensure children are growing up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care
  - Proactive work that aims to target particular vulnerable groups
  - Responsive work to protect children who are suffering or at risk of suffering harm
6. The functions of the Local Safeguarding Children Board are laid out in statutory guidance – *'Working Together to Safeguard Children'* (March 2013).

7. Dudley Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) has an independent chair in accordance with Government and Ofsted guidance. Under the new arrangements for Ofsted inspections of Local Authority arrangements for safeguarding children safeguarding boards will be subject of inspection. The evaluation schedule for the inspection of boards can be found at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/children-and-families-services/for-children-and-families-services-providers/inspecting-children-and-families-services/inspect-12>.
8. The Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report (enclosed) provides an outline of the key achievements and developments during 2012-13 and progress in respect of its key priorities.

### **Finance**

9. Dudley Safeguarding Children Board has annual budget of £222,500 for 2013/14 financial year, receiving core funding from the local authority (52%), Primary Care Trust (26%) and West Midlands Police (6%). The remainder of income is received from contributions from other partner agencies and through training.
10. The local authority funds the Head of Safeguarding & Review post and a number of administrative posts within the Safeguarding & Review Unit which contribute directly to supporting the business of the Board.

### **Law**

11. The key legislation underpinning the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is the Children Act 2004, supported by statutory *Working Together to Safeguard Children* guidance.

### **Equality Impact**

12. The work of the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board supports parents, families, communities and partner agencies in providing safe homes and environments, security and stability for all children and young people in the Borough. The Dudley Safeguarding Children Board responds to the needs of vulnerable groups to minimise the incidence of child abuse and neglect to ensure that all children can maximise the opportunity to achieve positive outcomes.

### **Recommendation**

13. Children's Services Scrutiny committee receive and comment on the report.



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**Pauline Sharratt**  
**Interim Director of Children's Services**

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### **List of Background Papers**

#### **Appendix 1 – DSCB – Executive Summary**

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012-13 -

<http://safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk/what-is-the-safeguarding-children-board/business-plan/>