

Date: 29th February 2016

**To the Chair and Members of the
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB): Summative Review of Business Plan 2014-16

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Nuala Fennelly lead Member for Children's Services	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. At its meeting on 17th September 2015 the Panel considered the draft Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) Annual Report 2015. The draft report included an interim progress report on the Board's Business Plan 2014-2016 as one of its appendices. The Panel noted that the progress report as presented in the appendix was recording a number of actions that were incomplete or off track and therefore requested an updated Business Plan report to be presented at the February meeting of the Panel. Good progress has been made in almost all aspects of the Plan. A summative report on the DSCB Business Plan is presented at [Appendix 1](#). A more detailed commentary on each of the sub-priorities in the Plan is provided at [Appendix 2](#).
2. OFSTED reviewed the work of the DSCB in October 2015. The Board had previously been assessed as 'inadequate' and not meeting its statutory duties in an inspection by OFSTED in October 2012. The DSCB Business Plan 2014-16 was focused on tackling the weaknesses identified in the 2012 inspection. OFSTED's report in 2015 assessed the DSCB as 'requires improvement', acknowledging the very significant progress over the past two years in tackling the previous serious failures in the Board's work. A progress report on the Board's response to OFSTED's review is also included in this report at [Appendix 3](#).
3. The report includes an overview of the Board's Strategic Priorities for 2016-17. These priorities reflect the current safeguarding challenges in Doncaster and incorporate the Board's response to the recommendations from the OFSTED review. The DSCB 2016-17 'Plan on a Page' is included at Appendix 4.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 4 Not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5 The Panel is asked to consider and comment on:
 - a) the Summative Report on the DSCB Business Plan 2014-2016;
 - b) the DSCB progress report on the response to the recommendations in OFSTED's review of the Board published in November 2015;
 - c) the DSCB Strategic Priorities for 2016-17.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

- 6 The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy. This is achieved through making robust recommendations, monitoring performance of Council and external partners and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.

BACKGROUND

- 7 The DSCB Business Plan 2014-16 was published in April 2014 following a strategic review of the work of the Board led by the new Independent Chair in January 2014. At that point the Board's performance was inadequate and it was not meeting its statutory duties. The focus of the Business Plan was to ensure that the Board could tackle key weaknesses in its effectiveness, meet statutory duties, and contribute to the wider improvement of safeguarding in Doncaster. Good progress has been made in delivering the Plan. This is reflected in OFSTED's report on the work of the Board that was published in November 2015: ***'Serious failures were identified in the functioning of the DSCB at the time of the last inspection of Children's Services in 2012. Agency cooperation and joint planning continued to deteriorate following the inspection; recommendations made were not responded to in full, nor in the timescale, set by OFSTED. At the time of this inspection, most of those recommendations are now implemented.'***
- 8 The Board's Business Plan for 2016-17 focuses on the next stage of the Board's development, with a greater emphasis on effective challenge, evidence of impact and raising the profile of the Board across all communities. Action on the recommendations made by OFSTED in the November 2015 report (all of which had been identified by the Board in its self-assessment) are incorporated into the 2016-17 Business Plan.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides an opportunity for the Panel to discuss the Safeguarding Children Board Summative Report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

10. There are no specific options to consider in relation to this report.

IMPACT ON COUNCIL’S KEY OBJECTIVES

	Priority	Implications
1	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster’s vital services</i> 	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the council’s key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of council and external partners services and reviewing issues outside the remit of the council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.</p> <p>The work of the DSCB has a direct impact on helping children live safe, healthily and active in a safe environment,</p>
2	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
3	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
4	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting</i> 	

	<i>Doncaster's vital services</i>	
5	Council services are modern and value for money.	
6	Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.	

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no specific human resource implications arising from this report

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no specific technology implications arising from this report

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

15. Section 149 Equality Act 2010 contains the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This obliges public authorities, when exercising their functions, to have ‘due regard’ to the need to:
- a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct which the Act prohibits;
 - b. Advance equality of opportunity;
 - c. Foster good relations between people who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not.
16. The relevant protected characteristics under the Equality Act are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The duty also covers marriage and civil partnerships, but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination. The relevant characteristics in to the issues in this report are sex, age and race.
17. The DSCB Business Plan includes action to improve the engagement with faith and minority ethnic communities on key safeguarding issues.

18. **CONSULTATION**

No specific consultations have been undertaken in respect of this report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

OFSTED Review of the Effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board – November 2015

http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/doncaster/054_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf

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