



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MEETING 17 July 2007

Report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People

Derby Safeguarding Children Board: Annual Review 2004 – 2006 and Business Plan 2007 – 2008

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To consider the annual review of the activity of Derby Safeguarding Children Board's partnership arrangements to safeguard children and young people and the key actions for the coming year.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Derby Safeguarding Children Board has produced an annual review and business plan in order to continue improve the partnership arrangements to support local children and young people to stay safe (appendix 2). This meets the requirements set out in "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2006 (Chapter 3) and associated regulations.
- 2.2 To provide a mechanism for formal scrutiny of the work of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (statutory role of Lead Member for Children's Services).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Derby Safeguarding Children Board is a partnership that aims to support the work and to secure the continual improvement of all those services that safeguard children and promote their welfare. The last two years have been a time of significant change as steps have been taken to implement the Children Act 2004 and establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board for Derby to continue and broaden the work previously carried out by the Area Child Protection Committee.
- 3.2 In making this change, the Derby Safeguarding Children Board has sought to strengthen the resources for safeguarding activity in the city, to prioritise the development of new procedures to guide staff and to begin to answer the critical question of *how well is the partnership working together to safeguard local children and young people?* The Derby Safeguarding Children Board has also looked to develop its work to safeguard and promote children's welfare by providing the forum for contributing to the development of the Children and Young People's Plan in the area of 'stay safe'. The progress made in Derby results from a high level of commitment from the member agencies to the safeguarding agenda.

- 3.3 These developments have taken place alongside the existing work with individual children, young people and families that is undertaken every day by dedicated staff across the partnership. Effectively safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare is a task of the utmost importance. It falls to every individual to make safeguarding their responsibility and to take the necessary steps to improve practice at an individual and organisational level. The Derby Safeguarding Children Board is a partnership that aims to support this work and to secure the continual improvement of all those services that safeguard children and promote their welfare.
- 3.4 The purpose of the Annual Review and Business Plan is to set out:
- The arrangements of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board ("the Board") which has replaced the Derby Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC)
 - A review of the ACPC Business Plan 2004 - 2006
 - The key priorities that the Board has identified for 2007 – 2008 and the action it will take to improve safeguarding arrangements and promote children's welfare
 - The arrangements for monitoring progress and checking the quality of activity to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 3.5 Key achievements during 2004-2006 have been the:
- Review of safeguarding arrangements in Derby
 - Development of the Derby Safeguarding Board and working group structure
 - Formally agreed governance arrangements
 - Revised partnership budget
 - Contribution to the development of the Children and Young People's Plan
 - Development of new safeguarding procedures (launched March 2007)
 - Development of partnership children in need procedures
 - Establishment of a performance monitoring system
 - Completion of an audit of partners compliance with the duty to safeguard and promote welfare
 - Continued co-operation with Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
 - Development and implementation of a training plan
 - Development of an E learning CD ROM
 - Recruitment of a training co-ordinator
- 3.6 Key areas for development during 2007 are:
- Monitor effectiveness of safeguarding procedures
 - Develop multi-agency guidance in relation to domestic violence
 - Implement the Child Death Review process
 - Revise the training strategy following completion of updated needs audit
 - Implement safe recruitment guidance
 - Deliver multi-agency training
 - Develop a website for the Safeguarding Board
 - Provide safeguarding leaflets for the public in a range of languages
 - Cascade an awareness raising package to voluntary sector organisations
 - Embed the performance monitoring system
 - Complete thresholds review
 - Provide written guidance to faith groups

- Provide awareness raising sessions for parents about safeguarding children and ICT
- 3.7 The performance monitoring framework developed by the Board to support continual improvement is attached as Appendix 1 of the Annual Review and Business Plan. This framework was developed by the partnership during 2006/07. The framework for 2007/08 is attached as Appendix 2. The framework will be further developed and populated during 2007/08 and reported to the Derby Safeguarding Children Board on a quarterly basis.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Derby Safeguarding Children Board is required by guidance to develop a business plan and associated performance monitoring framework. The content of the plan reflects both the objectives and functions of Local Safeguarding Boards nationally and the local assessment of performance and areas for development.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 None arising specifically from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 The Derby Safeguarding Board has produced an Annual Review and Business Plan in accordance with regulations issued under the Children Act 2004

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising specifically from this report. The Board plays a critical role in supporting staff from a range of agencies to work effectively together to safeguard children. The Board also has a role in supporting the safe recruitment of staff to work with children and families.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 None arising specifically from this report. The Board has a role in ensuring that children from all communities are safeguarded within its arrangements. Training is provided to support staff to make appropriate assessments of children from all cultural backgrounds in order to develop effective safeguarding plans. This is an area of continuous development for the Board and its partner agencies.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The work of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board supports the corporate priority of raising the quality of social care, improve the health and well-being of communities and respond quickly and effectively to the needs of children, young people and their parents and carers.