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Board**

PAPER NO: AP13/52

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL – 31
OCTOBER 2013**

**SUBJECT:
Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report**

SUMMARY:

Section 14a of the Children Act 2004 and the Apprenticeships, Children Skills and Learners Act 2009; require the LSCB to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements locally.

The report provides information and challenge to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, information to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Executive for Suffolk County Council and will be available on the LSCB website.

The 2013 Department for Education publication 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' outlines that this report should be submitted to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Local Authority, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. These reports should 'provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services'.

A copy of the Annual Report is being made available to those attending the meeting and will also appear with this paper on the PCC's website.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Panel note the recommendations made by the LSCB and consider the implications of those recommendations for their organisations.

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

The LSCB 2012-13 Annual Report makes the following recommendations:

Working Together 2013 reinforces the key principles in every local area should be that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and it sets out expectations that all children and their families should have access to early help services and that for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.

Therefore, the LSCB makes no apologies for repeating the recommendation it has made to the Children's Trust for the last two years – that being:

To continue to support the development of a multi agency family focussed approach so that interventions across all services recognise and take account of the needs of the child

In addition, the LSCB would recommend the following:

1. **Multi agency engagement in the development of the Early Help offer and revised Assessment Framework (as outlined in Working Together 2013).**
2. **Full engagement and participation by partners in development and resourcing of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub;**
3. **The LSCB acknowledges austerity measures have led to a reduction of resources across all agencies but is concerned at the rising level of vacancies of front line and supervising practitioners. It urges that all agencies and management teams:**
 - (a) when considering any revision to structures and/or resources give specific regard of the potential impact such revision may have on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; and*
 - (b) ensure systems are in place to regularly monitor, assess and manage any risks that vacancies may potentially have on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.*
4. **To support the children's workforce to be confident and competent in all aspects of multi agency practice. A year by year reduction in resources and workforce capacity requires a true multi agency approach. It is imperative that practitioners operate effectively to keep children safe and therefore, essential that front line practitioners, supervisors and managers have a consistent skill base in the identification, assessment and mitigation of risk.**

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS: N/A

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