

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 June 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Council Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2016/2017 and Business Plan 2017/2018
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the South Lanarkshire Council Child Protection Committee's Annual Report 2016/2017 and Business Plan 2017/2018.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the South Lanarkshire Council Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2016/2017 and Business Plan 2017/2018, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Chief Officers' Public Protection Group and the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee (SLCPC) are the driving force for ensuring that agencies individually and collectively work to protect children and young people as effectively as possible.

3.2. The report outlines the key achievements of the Child Protection Committee in relation to the protection of children in the previous year (2016/2017) and identifies how key priorities and planned developments are taken forward to ensure that the needs of children at risk of harm are met and that our services promote better outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in South Lanarkshire.

3.3. The Business Plan sets out how these priorities are delivered and our collective role in improving outcomes, supporting and protecting children and young people in South Lanarkshire.

3.4. To align with changes in statistical reporting, this annual report extends from April 2016 to July 2017. From 2017/2018, reporting periods will be from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018.

4. Functions of the Child Protection Committee

4.1. The functions of the Child Protection Committee are as described in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014), namely, continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication.

4.2. Child Protection Committees have a key role to play in the continuous improvement of child protection policy and practice. The SLCPC self-evaluation strategy and activity

programme details the multi-agency quality assurance activity that takes place based on issues of local and national concern and implements findings, actions and outcome measures as a result of audit and evaluation activity.

- 4.3. Child Protection Committees are the key local partnerships in terms of the planning of child protection policy and practice. This is achieved in conjunction with other planning mechanisms and priorities, in particular those for children's services planning, community planning and other public protection groups. The contribution of Child Protection Committees to strategic planning falls into the categories of 'communication, collaboration and co-operation' and 'making and maintaining links with other planning forums'.
- 4.4. The SLCPC designs, develops, publishes, distributes, implements and regularly reviews and evaluates multi-agency child protection policies, procedures, protocols and guidance. Recent publications include:-
- SLCPC – SMART Outcomes in Child Protection (2017)
 - SLCPC – Child Protection and Domestic Abuse Guidance (2017)
 - SLCPC – Child Protection Information for Families (2017)

All publications are available through the South Lanarkshire Council Child Protection website.

- 4.5. The SLCPC determines the level of public awareness, understanding and knowledge of, and confidence in child protection systems within the South Lanarkshire area and works to address any issues as required. The views of children, young people and families are clearly evidenced in the work of the SLCPC. Children and young people have been involved in the design, development and implementation of SLCPC communication strategies, to ensure that information is accessible and that children's experiences and perspectives are properly reflected.

5. Examples of Key Activities (2016/2017)

- 5.1 There were less than 5 Significant Case Reviews carried out and the SLCPC examined and considered recommendations from key national enquiries and identified national and local good practice. Practice or policy improvements were made in South Lanarkshire in light of reviews carried out and good practice identified. Local practitioner forums were held to ensure practitioners and managers across the workforce were kept up to date.
- 5.2 In Spring 2017, South Lanarkshire Council hosted a major national Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) event in Hamilton attended by almost 100 practitioners from across the multi-agency workforce. Following the event, a new suite of public information materials have been distributed across South Lanarkshire that target children, young people, parents, taxi drivers, local hotels and night time economy outlets. Children and young people were consulted in the development of these materials.
- 5.3 An Initial Referral Discussion (IRD) is a discussion between two or more services/agencies where it is suspected that a child/young person has suffered, is suffering, or may be at risk of, harm or abuse. The IRD is the first stage in the process of joint child protection assessment following a referral to Social Work, Health or Police. The SLCPC has contributed to the development of a strengthened IRD system supported by new practitioner guidance in 2017. Quality assurance of this system will take place in 2018.

- 5.4 In order to ensure a competent and confident workforce, practitioners and managers require access to high quality learning and development opportunities. The SLPCPC multiagency training programme continues to be developed creatively to reflect local and national issues and is made widely available to partner agencies. The programme has been refreshed to reflect current trends and is available on the SLPCPC website.

6 Business Plan (2017/2018)

- 6.1 The 2017/2018 Business Plan has been developed with reference to the national Quality Framework, 'How well are we improving the lives of our children and young people?'. It aims to support successful implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child and integrated approaches to improving the lives of the most vulnerable children and young people.

- 6.2 Within the context of identified Quality Indicators, the SLPCPC key objectives for 2017/2018 are:-

Children, Young People, Families and Communities (QI 1,2 and 4)

- To continue to work creatively to engage children, young people and families
- To enhance use of social media in promoting child protection information
- To encourage participation to empower and increase resilience in communities

Policy, Service and Development Planning (QI 5 and 6)

- To support the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- To develop new policies, procedures and protocols to reflect the changing child protection landscape
- To review and revise readily available SLPCPC procedures as required

Self-evaluation, performance management and quality assurance (QI 6, 8 and 9)

- Develop and implement 2017 to 2019 Joint Self Evaluation Strategy
- Support partners in self-evaluation and quality assurance processes
- Develop baseline information and improvement targets through routine scrutiny

Staff learning, training, development and support (QI 3 and 7)

- Ensure opportunities for staff to develop ways to enhance practice
- Effectively support staff to ensure they have the knowledge and skills they need
- Create opportunities for staff to feel supported in their child protection practice

7 Monitoring and Review

- 7.1 Progress in relation to each of the objectives detailed in section 6 of this report will be reported in the next SLPCPC Annual Report and Business Plan which will cover the period August 2017 to July 2018 and will be published in late 2018.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report and costs are met from within existing budgets.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.

- 7.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. The views of young people and a range of stakeholders, including the Trades Unions have been taken into account during the preparation of the annual report and business plan.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

25 May 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

Previous References

- None

List of Background Papers

- Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2016-17 and Business Plan 2017/2018

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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