

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 28 February 2018.

**PRESENT**

Councillor J Twigg (in the Chair)

Councillors N Barker, Mrs L Chilton, R Flatley, J Frudd, R Iliffe and D Taylor.

Also in attendance: Jane Lakin and Roz Savage.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D Charles, A Fox and J Wharmby.

**01/18** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 November 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**02/18** **DERBYSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD** Jane Lakin presented the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) annual update and impact analysis to the committee.

The Board, in its current format, was being replaced with a different structure; this was a work in progress and would be in place for 2019. It was expected that the same agencies (the local authority, police and health services) would continue to work together.

The new Chair of the DSCB, Steven Atkinson, was due to start in his new post on 1 March 2018.

**Serious Case Review ADS14** – as a result of the outcomes of the review, the DSCB had drawn up an 18-point action plan promoting the re-evaluation of practices around social work and medical processes. The key themes of Derbyshire SCR and SILR were the importance of authoritative practice, to be alert to disguised compliance, the importance of professional curiosity, be alert to the possibility of abuse, all professionals to consider the need for an early help assessment, to hear the voice of the child and understand and record the child's lived experience. These outcomes and themes had been formed into a poster and would be circulated to all child welfare offices and schools to use as an aide memoire.

**Child Protection** – the numbers of children on a child protection plan (and the reasons for them) were shown to the Committee. There were currently 981 plans issued in Derbyshire. The largest proportion of children came under the category of Emotional Abuse, which was principally made up of victims of

domestic abuse. This figure was now coming down however there was evidence that this category was being replaced with children suffering neglect.

**The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** was responsible for dealing with reports of allegations of child safeguarding issues. It was found that the workload of the LADO had increased by 40% in the last year, with the majority of the allegations being for physical abuse and conduct, however over half of these allegations were found to be unsubstantiated.

**03/18      REVIEW OF SCHOOL PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS** The second progress report of the review of school permanent exclusions was presented to the Committee. The working group was made up of Councillors Twigg (Chair), Fox, Flatley, Chilton, Iliffe, Barker, Frudd and Mrs Deborah Turner.

There had been a rise in the rate of school permanent exclusions, both nationally and in Derbyshire in recent years. The aim of the review was to consider what factors might be contributing to the rise and what steps could be taken to reduce the number of permanent exclusions in the future.

The working group had held discussions with a number of senior officers, had visited the Amber Valley and Erewash Support Centre in Cotmanhay and was scheduled to undertake three school visits in February. It had found aspects of the review to be very interesting, in particular the opinions of head teachers.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee note the Review of School Permanent Exclusions was on-going.

**04/18      SAFEGUARDING WORKING GROUP UPDATE** The Group would meet on an ad-hoc basis to consider specific issues as they arose.

**RESOLVED** It was noted that a briefing on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards is to be given at the May 2018 meeting.

**05/18      BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS** were presented to the Committee for information.

**06/18      WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18** The work programme for the period to February 2019 was presented to the Committee.

**RESOLVED** that (1) the work programme for 2018/19 was agreed; and (2) Modern Day Slavery be discussed at the July 2018 meeting.