

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY - PEOPLE COMMITTEE**

5 July 2017

SAFEGUARDING SUB GROUP

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider the continuation of the Improvement and Scrutiny - People Committee's safeguarding sub-group

2. Information

The Improvement and Scrutiny - People Committee agreed in 2013 to have a sub-group on safeguarding and for this to be a standing item. This reflects the importance Members place on safeguarding and the desire to provide effect challenge and support to Cabinet, officers and partners.

The sub-group scrutinises the work of the Authority against the priorities as laid out in the Council Plan and work of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards.

Since 2013, the safeguarding sub-group have met over twenty times. Additionally, safeguarding has been the topic of numerous full People Improvement and Scrutiny Committee's since 2013.

The sub-group's body of work has included full scrutiny reviews which have been presented and accepted by Cabinet, an interim review of safeguarding which was accepted by the full Committee and regular monitoring of performance and other issues through discussions with officers and partners. In addition, the sub-group has contributed to external inspections, for example Ofsted's assessment of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Childrens Board, highlighting the importance of scrutiny and challenge in this important service area.

The feedback from Cabinet Members, Senior Officers and partners has been very positive, including the Child Sexual Exploitation Review, which was highly commended by the Independent Chair of the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board.

Given the scope of some of the reviews, some had a wider remit than purely safeguarding. However, some of the key findings in the area of safeguarding from the scrutiny reviews included:

- Strong partnership working between the Council, Police, Health and other public and community organisations.

- A desire by the safeguarding boards and other steering groups to fully sign to recommendations of Scrutiny Reviews and put into their action plans.
- Impactful ways to increase the awareness and knowledge of safeguarding.
- Established skills in the Authority and through partners to provide advice and training on safeguarding issues.

As well producing Scrutiny Reviews as above, the standing safeguarding working group has undertaken a role of monitoring safeguarding performance and service delivery. Such activity has instigated Scrutiny Reviews, particularly the reviews on CSE, Radicalisation in Schools and Starting Point. As well as this, the full I&S People Committee have had presentations by the safeguarding board on their annual reports.

3. Considerations (to be specified individually where appropriate)

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, human relations, legal and human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Officer's Recommendations

For the Committee to;

- approve the continuation of the safeguarding sub group as a standing item,
- appoint Members to the safeguarding sub group to undertake the scrutiny of safeguarding for children and adults.

Councillor Judith Twigg

Chairman – Improvement and Scrutiny Committee

