

**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

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**WILTSHIRE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD  
ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2006-7**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Business Plan 2006/07 (attached at Appendix 1)

**Action Required**

2. The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the Business Plan.
3. The Committee is asked to incorporate into its work programme, annual consideration of the Business Plan.

**Background**

4. Wiltshire was one of the first in the country to develop its Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), following implementation of S13 of the Children Act 2004.
5. Local Authority members, according to government guidance, are required to monitor the work of the LSCB, and hold its officers to account for their contribution to the effective functioning of the LSCB.
6. Within S13 of the Children Act 2004, the function of the LSCB is to:
  - (a) coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in the area of the authority by which it is established; and
  - (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.
7. In terms of Local Authority officer contribution to the LSCB:
  - the Director, Department for Children & Education (DCE) chairs the Board;
  - the Assistant Director (Children & Families), DCE chairs the Executive Board;
  - the Head of Child Protection chairs the LSCB Quality Assurance sub-group;
  - the three Area Service Managers lead the twice yearly LSCB Practice Fora;

- the Head of Area Services, a member of the Board, is the DCE lead for S11 implementation;
- a Child Protection Coordinator chairs the LSCB Procedures sub-group and represents Wiltshire on the regional group to agree new South West Multi-Agency Child Protection procedures.

### **Local Safeguarding Children's Board Business Plan 2006/07**

8. The Business Plan reports that 6 out of 7 of last year's objectives have been completed – 6 completely and 1 partially. The remaining objective of evaluating post-abuse services has been carried over to this current year, and is being led by the NSPCC.
9. Statistical analysis for child protection during the year shows a similar number of registrations to the Child Protection Register as in previous years, and the high achievement of 100% of such cases being reviewed on time. By monitoring welfare factors at conferences, it has been found that domestic violence, parent alcohol abuse and mental health problems were the most common factors for these children coming into risk of significant harm.
10. The Business Plan outlines this year's objectives as follow:
  - (i) implementation of the new '*Working Together to Safeguard Children*' *DfES 2006*, including producing new local Multi Agency Child Protection Procedures in line with the guidance
  - (ii) implementation and monitoring of Section 11, including Child Protection training
  - (iii) active promotion of Wiltshire LSCB to the community
  - (iv) monitoring the effectiveness of the new policy for private fostering in Wiltshire

All of the above are being progressed, including planning single and multi-agency training so that all staff of all agencies are re-trained every three years in child protection (as now required by S11 of the Children Act 2004).

11. Government guidance within 'Working Together' explains the role of members as:
  - 3.56 Local Authority Elected Members and non-executive directors of other board partners should not be members of an LSCB. Their role, through their membership of governance bodies such as the cabinet of the local authority, or a scrutiny committee, or a governance board, is to hold their organisation and its officers to account for their contribution to the effective functioning of the LSCB.
  - 3.57 The Lead Member for Children's Services within the Local Authority will have a particular focus on how the Local Authority is fulfilling its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and will hold the DCE to account for the work of the LSCB.

- 3.90 The effectiveness of the LSCB itself should also form part of the judgement of the Inspectorates, particularly through the Joint Area Review process. This may be done, for example, by examining the quality of the LSCB's planning and determining whether key objectives have been met. It will be for the Local Authority to lead in taking action, if intervention in the LSCB's own processes is necessary.

## **Conclusion**

12. The Committee is asked to consider the Business Plan and to comment as appropriate.

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**BOB WOLFSON**  
**Director, Department for Children & Education**

Contact Officer: Sarah Webb, Head of Child Protection & Safer Care  
Children & Families Branch  
Department for Children & Education