

## **Scrutiny and Performance Panel**

**December 2018**

**Agenda  
Item No.**

**6.**

### **Title of the Report: Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr T Wilson - Portfolio Holder for Children's Services Social Care

#### **Executive Summary:**

This report provides an annual overview of the partnership performance in relation to safeguarding children and young people and of their delivery of the statutory Safeguarding Children Board arrangements.

#### **Reason for scrutiny:**

For the committee to have the opportunity to review the partnership deliver of safeguarding services.

#### **Recommendations:**

##### **That:**

- Scrutiny notes and supports the contents of the report and the current activity to protect Walsall children and young people from the risk of abuse and neglect.
- Scrutiny challenges the partnership on the outcomes for children and young people in Walsall in relation to preventing and protecting against abuse and neglect.

#### **Background papers:**

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015 and 2018), DfE

#### **Resource and legal considerations:**

Responding to children at risk of significant harm is a statutory duty placed on local authority Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, LSCB Chairs and senior managers within organisations who commission and provide services for children and families, including social workers and professionals from health services, adult

services, the police, Academy Trusts, education and the voluntary and community sector who have contact with children and families.

The resources required to respond to this statutory requirement come from within the existing resources across the partnership of organisations working in Walsall to protect vulnerable children and those at risk of harm.

The Safeguarding Board Business Unit which supports the delivery of the Board's statutory functions is funded by the partnership and hosted by the LA.

The publication of the statutory guidance Working Together 2018 outlines the requirements for local area's to develop Safeguarding Arrangements, removing the need for Safeguarding Boards. The partners are holding regular meetings and workshops to agree the new arrangements for 2019.

**Citizen impact:**

The effective delivery of high quality services to protect children and young people from the risk of abuse or neglect has a direct impact on the welfare and well-being of children and young people in Walsall.

It directly links to the corporate priority to Improve Health and Wellbeing and the Children's Services objective that all children in Walsall are safe and supported.

**Environmental impact:**

There is no environmental impact

**Performance management:**

The performance of the partnership in successfully delivering services which protect and support children and young people affected by abuse and neglect is monitored by the Walsall Safeguarding Children Board at quarterly Board meetings, through multi agency audits and at the Quality Assurance and Performance Subgroup.

**Equality Implications:**


The co-ordinated provision of services designed to address the protection of children provides specific support for those children and young people who are at risk of significant harm. This includes those protected characteristics of gender, disability, race and religion

**Consultation:**

The annual report has been prepared collaboratively by Safeguarding Board members.

**Contact Officer:**

Sarah Barker, Safeguarding Board Business Manager

 01922 658409  
[sarah.barker@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.barker@walsall.gov.uk)