



Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Business Plan: 2017 - 2018





Vision

Strengthening multi-agency and community efforts to safeguard children and young people lies at the heart of the work of Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board

Role of the Business Plan

The Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Business Plan sets the strategic direction for the LSCB. The Business Plan also reinforces the specific role of SSCB to lead, challenge and support learning and improvement. The plan identifies specific priorities for action and is clear about roles and accountability.

Methodology

Our Business Plan is focused on the specific role and remit of the LSCB in ensuring that the welfare of children is safeguarded and protected, as set out in Working Together (2015) and the Children Act 2004. We will emphasise the role of the LSCB in leading the safeguarding agenda, in challenging the work of partner organisations, and in committing to an approach which learns lessons, embeds good practice and which is continually influenced by the views of children and young people.

Our objectives and way of working emphasises the collective role of the LSCB membership, rather than the individual roles of each organisation.

Business Plan Priorities

In identifying the priorities Sandwell LSCB will take forward in 2017/18, the Board has considered the range of learning and information presented during

the previous year. We have looked in detail at the experience of individual children through Serious Case Reviews, local learning reviews, audits of multiagency work and listening to staff.

We have also taken into consideration the outcomes from a development day undertaken with board members that also identified key areas of development. This has enabled us to conclude that we must retain our existing **strategic priorities**:

1. SSCB **communicates effectively** to ensure that the work of the Board is well publicised, that learning is disseminated and that the voice of children, young people, practitioners and the wider community (including minority groups and faith groups) are able to influence the Board's work.
2. SSCB is assured that **effective arrangements are in place** for responding to key safeguarding risks including early help, child sexual exploitation (abuse), neglect, domestic abuse, mental health of children and young people and that there is consistently good practice across safeguarding services.
3. SSCB has a **clear understanding of the effectiveness of the safeguarding system** in Sandwell and can evidence how this is used to influence the Boards priorities.



Approach

Whilst a detailed plan has been developed to drive forward the actions underneath the strategic priorities, detailed below is a 10-point plan to drive forward the immediate areas of development. This will be supplemented by the individual work plans of the SSCBs various subgroups. Monitoring of the plan will be undertaken by the Chairs' Group with updates being routinely provided to the Board.

Ref.	Action	SSCB Priority	Completion Date
1	Deliver a community engagement event to work more closely with Sandwell's diverse communities	Priority 1	December 2017
2	Develop a Safeguarding Board Communications Strategy	Priority 1	March 2018
3	Board members to undertake a <i>'Walk the Floor'</i> exercise to raise the visibility and influence of SSCB	Priority 1	March 2018
4	Be assured of the effectiveness of Sandwell's refreshed Early Help strategy	Priority 2	March 2018
5	Establish a time-limited neglect working group to improve how the partnership work with families who experience neglect	Priority 2	March 2018
6	Refresh the Safeguarding Board's threshold document	Priority 2	December 2017
7	Robustly scrutinise performance information relating to Initial Child Protection Conferences and Core Group meetings (following a recent SCR)	Priority 3	March 2018
8	Undertake a comprehensive Section 11 audit with returns being rigorously analysed and challenged	Priority 3	December 2017
9	Develop a plan to establish new safeguarding arrangements in preparation for the replacement of LSCBs	Priority 3	March 2017
10	Undertake purposeful consultation with children and young people in order to directly hear their voice (this will include a <i>'takeover session'</i> of the Board; working with the SHAPE Forum to understand the experiences of children who use services; eliciting the child's experience through the Board's audit work).	Priority 1 & 3	March 2018

