



Date of Meeting:	28 th November 2018
Portfolio:	Councillor Heakin (Children's Services)/Councillor Iftikhar Ahmed (Adult Care Services)
Report Author	Jane Booth – Chair of Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Boards
Public/Private Document	Public

**Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Boards
Annual Report 2017/18**

Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Annual Report covers the period from 1st April 2017 to the 31st March 2018. As indicated in the foreword to the report this is the second year during which the two Safeguarding Boards have published a joint report. This reflects the closer working which has been achieved. Both Boards have been supported by a single Chair and single Business Unit for the last two years.
- 1.2 The report seeks summarise what we know about need in the Borough and the availability, quality and effectiveness of services to respond to that need. It also reports on the work of the two Boards themselves.
- 1.3 The report reflects on the information about agency performance derived from data collection and analysis, audits and case reviews. Again many of the performance measures used score in the range that is seen as reflecting good practice but there is no room for complacency and, while there is much to celebrate, the audits and reviews continue to highlight some areas still requiring practice improvement some of which are proving to be difficult to resolve.
- 1.4 Higher than average levels of deprivation continue have a significant negative impact on our population, with both higher levels of child poverty and poorer health and life expectancy being recorded. Our population is growing faster in the areas of highest deprivation and the population aged over 85 years old is predicted to rise by 28% by 2025.
- 1.5 In previous years, although improving, we have reported concern about access to early help for children. In 2017-18 we have continued to see a year on year rise in Early Help Assessments and an increase in the number of children being supported as Children in Need. We were concerned last year that the number of children supported by a Child Protection Plan was lower than would be expected when compared with similar areas; at the year end the figure had risen to be in line with national averages. Of some concern is the number of children needing the support of a second period of formal child protection planning and this will be monitored by the

Board in the coming year.

- 1.6 In respect of adult services, the ageing population profile is linked to increasing need for care and support. The pressures on providers of care and support continue to be well-documented nationally. Here in Rochdale we continue to be fortunate to have a majority of providers whose services are rated as good and a recorded rate of 90% of service users saying they feel safer as a result of the services they have received.
- 1.7 Priorities for the Boards for 2018-19 are set out in the Business plan appended to the Annual Report.

Recommendation

- 2.1 Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and approve the RBSB Annual Report 2017/18 to enable publication.

Reason for Recommendation

- 3.1 To support and continue effective partnership between RBSB and relevant Boards within the Borough

Key Points for Consideration

- 4.1 We identified a number of challenges in last year's Annual Report and we have sought to identify how well agencies have responded to the challenges set in 2017-18 and to draw out the challenges for 2018-19.
- Early help for children and families:- we have seen a significant increase in the number of Early Help assessment being completed in 2018-19.
 - Recognition of the signs of neglect and evidence of effective responses:- the neglect strategy has been refreshed and new tools to support good practice identified; these are now being rolled out and we will monitor the outcome. It is fair to say that we have not seen the progress we hoped for to date and neglect remains a significant concern.
 - Staff confidence and competence in responding effectively to the ever increasing complexity of safeguarding issues including such things as modern slavery and human trafficking and child criminal exploitation:- we have continued to develop our responses to these complex areas of work, are now taking an all-age approach; it is the case that Rochdale is seen as leading the way across GM in adopting strategic approaches to multi-agency working on these agendas. The Board recently held a well-attended conference showcasing good practice and improving practitioner understanding. Our training courses have been updated.
 - On-line safeguarding risks and financial abuse:- we recognised the potential benefits of technology but this was coupled with an awareness of on-line safeguarding risk and the additional vulnerability of specific groups – we have improved responses to financial abuse and ran a successful local campaign to raise awareness with involvements from the banking sector.
 - Delay in processing Deprivation of Liberty applications:- we recognised that there was insufficient resource to meet the demand – this remains the case and mirrors the position nationally.
- 4.2 The pressures on all agencies in terms of capacity and resources have continued.

Pressures, particularly on budgets, are likely to be an ongoing feature as in previous years, and we remain concerned about adverse impacts on those most in need of support.

- 4.3 The work of both Boards is structured by statutory guidance. The Government issued revised guidance in Working Together 2018 which requires significant change regarding multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children. The new guidance gives an equal and shared leadership role to the Local Authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Police and they are currently working with other Board partners to agree the way forward.

Costs and Budget Summary

- 5.1 N/A

Risk and Policy Implications

- 6.1 None arising from this report

Consultation

- 7.1 N/A
- 7.2 The report has been endorsed by RBSCB and RBSAB members

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
<p>8.  Final RBSCB RBSAB Annual Report 2017-:</p>	

For Further Information Contact:	Alyson Harvey (RBSB Business Manager) alyson.harvey@rochdale.gov.uk 01706 922
---	--