

 Overview & Scrutiny Committee 7th March 2017		Agenda Item No. 7
Title	Member Children's Champions: End of Year Report	
For further information about this report please contact	Andrew.jones@warwickdc.gov.uk (01926) 456830	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	8 th April 2015, Overview & Scrutiny Committee (O&S)	
Background Papers	Report to O&S 8 th April 2015 Report to Executive 3 rd September 2014	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Programme of work?	Yes
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	9 th February 2017	Andrew Jones
CMT	22 nd February 2017	Chris Elliott Bill Hunt Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	22 nd February 2017	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	9 th February 2017	Andrew Jones
Member Children's Champions	20 th February 2017	Councillor Mrs Grainger and Parkins
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Discussion with Member Children's Champions.		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the current position in respect of its Safeguarding Children arrangements in effect bringing an end-of-term report.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Overview & Scrutiny Committee (O&S) notes that Councillors Mrs Grainger and Parkins have been appointed as Member Children's Champions by the Group Leaders, and understands their role.
- 2.2 That O&S notes the current position of the *Children's Safeguarding: Improvement Action Plan* (Appendix A) making any comments or suggestions it considers appropriate.
- 2.3 That O&S notes the areas of work the Children's Champions would like to explore making any comments or suggestions it considers appropriate.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Executive has agreed that Member Children's Champions should be a member of the Executive appointed by the Leader of the Council and a non-Executive Member agreed and appointed by the Group Leaders. Following consultation with the Group Leaders those respective appointments are Councillors Mrs Grainger and Councillor Parkins.
- 3.2 The purpose of appointing Member Children's Champions is to undertake the following role:
- Assure themselves that the Council has sound arrangements to protect children and promote their welfare are in place within the district council and that the Council is promoting and engaging in effective interagency cooperation and collaboration in these fields;
 - Undertake reasonable investigations so as to be able to form a view of the quality of the Council's child safeguarding activities and work with the officer Children's Champion to assist the Council to improve the quality and/or effectiveness of those activities whenever appropriate;
 - Act as a 'critical friend' to constructively challenge officers and elected members on child safeguarding and welfare issues as appropriate;
 - Promote awareness of child safeguarding and welfare issues and the activities and processes undertaken by this Council amongst elected members.
- 3.3 Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) has met with the Children's Champions and a discussion took place around the areas of work that could be looked at over the coming months. This work will build on the work contained in the *Children's Safeguarding: Improvement Action Plan* an update of which is provided at Appendix A to this report. Members of O&S may have comments or suggestions which they wish to feedback to the Children's Champions and DCEX (AJ).
- 3.4 The discussion with the Children's Champions concluded with an agreement to consider the Council's Safeguarding responsibilities in the following areas:

- The provision of leisure centre activities following the awarding of the contract;
- The Council's relationship with local charities (such as Safeline) in promoting Safeguarding issues;
- The Safeguarding arrangements that are in place for bodies and organisations that hire our facilities;
- The Safeguarding arrangements that are in place for the Voluntary and Community Sector contracts the Council lets.

3.5 The Children's Champions considered that it would be helpful to bring to the Committee's attention the work that been undertaken in the Regulatory Section in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation training for taxi drivers.

3.5.1 As part of the wider scheme to safeguard children all hackney carriage, private hire drivers and private hire operators and call handling staff have been required to undertake mandatory child sexual exploitation training. The training covers what child sexual exploitation is, how to spot it, legislation and trafficking, what to do and who to report it too if they suspect it is happening. At the end of 2016 98% of drivers had attended a CSE course. The six drivers that who did not attend were required to stand before the Licensing & Regulatory Committee and have either had their licence revoked, suspended or are required to attend the next course on the 6th February 2017. Warwick District Council is the first Warwickshire Council to make CSE training a mandatory requirement for taxi drivers; our neighbouring authorities are now following our lead.

3.6 Similarly the Children's Champions wanted assurance as to the Safeguarding arrangements in place in the Cultural Services Area and details of this can be seen at Appendix B. This Service Area is highlighted because of the extent of contact it has with children.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

4.1 The Council's statutory duties are set out within the Children's Act 2004. However, the principles of child safeguarding and the promotion of children's welfare are relevant to all the Council's activities.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

5.1 There are no budgetary framework implications as a consequence of this report.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

6.1 Whilst there is no specific or statutory requirement for a local authority to have Member Children's Champions there is a risk that, if they don't, elected members will become disconnected from and unaware of the Council's statutory responsibilities and the actions and activities that the Council has in place to fulfil them.