1. Meeting: Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board

2. Date: 5th March 2015

3. Title: Quality Assurance Sub Group Update Report

4. Agency/Directorate/Organisation presenting report: Jane Parfrement, Chair of the Sub Group

5. Purpose:

This report presents the work of the Quality Assurance Sub Group towards the delivery of the key functions and objectives of Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board.

6. Recommendations:

1. That members of the RLSCB note the activities of the Quality Assurance Sub Group.

7. Progress, Achievements and Impact:

The sub-group met on 17th February 2015, it was half term and there were a number of apologies but it remained a well-attended meeting.

The following issues were discussed by the subgroup:

1) Rotherham CPC Advocacy, Contract Monitoring Report- Barnardo’s are commissioned to provide an independent advocacy service for children and young people who are subject to child protection plans. The group reviewed the monitoring report which outlines information about the rate of take up of their services among young people, along with some of the barriers that may have affected engagement. The group recommended that it be ensured that CPC advocacy is an opt-out service in line with guidance for LSCB Chairs. The group further recommended that future monitoring reports include further information about the children and young people involved, including their age, gender and ethnicity.

2) Practice Review Group and Multi-Agency Review Group (MARG)- the group clarified and confirmed the roles of both groups. It was confirmed that Practice Review Group is in place to consider cases in which there have been disagreements amongst the professionals involved. The Multi-Agency Review Group (MARG), is a group which can be tasked to produce time-limited pieces of work around specific case or themes. Both the Multi-Agency Review and Practice
Review groups can respond to cases as they arrive, even scheduling emergency meetings if necessary. It was proposed that the Multi-Agency Review Group should look at cases in which children have been kept on child protection plans for two years or more.

3) Audits- summary feedback was provided in relation to recent audit activity conducted by the LSCB audit officer. It was further agreed that each agency would share their audit schedules/programmes and that summary reports following audits would be submitted to the group to enable identification of any issues that affect a range of agencies.

4) Future work programme- The group agreed the need to develop a work programme. The four RLSC priorities: domestic abuse, neglect, child sexual exploitation and Early Help, will all be themes and there will also be capacity to conduct other audits the group agreed that the themes should be issues that cut across a range of agencies. The programme will be worked up in full for the next meeting.

8. Objectives not Achieved and Risks:

9. Resources:
None identified

10. Contact Name:
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