



SSCB QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK 2016 – 2017

- 1.0) Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) was established in April 2006. It provides the statutory mechanism for agreeing how partner agencies cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, ensuring that there are common practices and policies in place across the agencies and that all agencies are effective in their safeguarding responsibilities.
(Children Act 2014, and the subsequent Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015)
- 1.1) In order to fulfil its statutory functions SSCB should use data and, as a minimum, should:
- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including Early Help;
 - assess whether SSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations
 - quality assure practice, including
 - > through joint audits of case files
 - > involving practitioners and;
 - > identifying lessons to be learned
- 1.2) SSCB has delegated responsibility for the strategic oversight & delivery of the Quality Assurance Framework to the SSCB Quality Assurance and Evaluation sub-group, including
- monitoring performance
 - escalating areas of concern:
 - building a good understanding of how safe children are in Surrey and where we need to improve
 - using data effectively to inform our approaches, strategies and plans to improve performance and outcomes for children and their families
 - providing evidence of the quality and impact of our work on the outcomes of children and their families in Surrey
 - Reflecting on practice; listening, learning and leading on improvements.

1.3) Performance data includes qualitative, quantitative, single agency, and SSCB generated multi-agency information

Single agency: the focus is on agencies to,

- Identify which data the Board should have sight of, and provide appropriate analysis

Multi-agency: the focus is on agencies working together to identify and deliver,

- Evidence to sit alongside SSCB strategies and action plans
- Reports against SSCB priorities
- Analysis of findings of audits and audit action plans
- Reports against audit action plan priorities

1.4) The current SSCB Quality Assurance process focuses on:

- Section 11 audit, including challenge, scrutiny and support meetings
- Receipt of single agency audits
- Completion of multi agency audits by Quality Assurance Officer
- Board priority challenge, scrutiny and support meetings
- Single agency performance data
- Multi agency performance data
- Review of annual report
- Link with learning from reviews carried out by Serious Case Review Group

ENHANCING CHALLENGE & SCRUTINY OF KEY STATUTORY PROCESSES and BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES

SECTION 11 AUDIT

2.0) Section 11 audits are completed annually on a rotating two year cycle:

- **Year 1** - Statutory partners – Children’s Services, Health Services and Police
- **Year 2** – Non Statutory partners – Schools / Colleges, Voluntary Sector and Third Sector and Faith Groups

2.1) **Section 11 Audits, Scrutiny Panel and Challenge Events**

- Completed Section 11 Audits will be subject to additional scrutiny. The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel is to assess the performance of the SSCB partner agencies against the Section 11 audit and identify areas that require improvement and would benefit from SSCB support. The scrutiny panel will provide a report to the SSCB on strategic themes and areas for actions.
- The Section 11 Scrutiny Panel is accountable to the SSCB through the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Group. The group will report the findings to the Board and the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Group will follow up any actions and recommendations.

BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES

3.0) SSCB aims to provide the leadership and support required to enable children to feel safe and protected within their communities. In addition to the delivery of its core business SSCB agrees additional areas of improvement which require greater scrutiny. These areas form the business priorities for the Board.

SUMMARY OF THE SSCB KEY AREAS OF SCRUTINY 2016 – 2017

The effectiveness of Early Help for children, young people and families who do not meet the thresholds for statutory intervention and support by Children’s Social Care.

The effectiveness of the current **Child Protection processes** in protecting those children identified as in need of protection and who are Looked After.
To include consideration of **‘neglect’**

The effectiveness of the response and impact of partners work to protect children and young people at risk of **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**.

The effectiveness and impact of the Surrey Services in reducing the incidences of Domestic Abuse and protecting children and young people from harm

SSCB WILL FOCUS ON.....

Strengthening accountability across partners	Training with impact and testing if learning is embedded	Auditing, scrutinising and challenging	Listening to children and families	Engaging with local communities
<p>Scrutinising how well partner agencies' safeguarding arrangements demonstrate improved processes and cultural change</p> <p>Ensuring that the SSCB's responsibility for strategic oversight of child protection arrangements is shared and understood by local agencies, across local partnerships and within Surrey's communities</p>	<p>Reviewing safeguarding training to ensure that it is well co-ordinated across the partnership and has an impact on practitioners in the safeguarding system</p> <p>Testing how well learning is embedded in front line practice across Surrey</p> <p>Testing how well learning from case reviews is embedded in to practice across Surrey</p>	<p>Maximising the use of performance data</p> <p>Reviewing SSCB Quality Assurance processes to ensure that it is well co-ordinated across the partnership and has an impact on practitioners.</p> <p>Testing how well learning from audit is embedded in front line practice in Surrey</p>	<p>Ensuring that children and young people's views are reflected within the partnership</p>	<p>Supporting the development of a co-ordinated and multi-agency response to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSE • Early Help • Neglect • Domestic Abuse <p>Ensure that local communities are better engaged in the work of the Board and within the partnership</p>

3.1) Business plan priority audits, scrutiny and challenge

- Business plan priority areas will be subject to appropriate scrutiny through the SSCB QA and Evaluation Group as 1.4 above.
- Bi annual priority area scrutiny panels, chaired by the Independent Chair, will meet to assess the performance of SSCB partner agencies against the business plan, performance data and audit. Challenge and scrutiny meetings will identify areas that require improvement and would benefit from SSCB support. The scrutiny panel will provide a report to the SSCB on strategic themes and areas for actions.
- The Section 11 Scrutiny Panel is accountable to the SSCB. The group will report the findings to the Board and the QA and Evaluation Group will follow up any actions and recommendations.

3.2) The SSCB Quality Assurance process is a key part of the SSCB Learning and Improvement Framework. The Learning and Improvement Framework published by the SSCB contains more detailed information of how partners' improvement activities inform future priorities and is a statutory responsibility in Working Together 2015. [SSCB Strategic Documents](#)